Emergency Public Health Order issued on this 9th day of April 2020 to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic in Wyandotte County, Kansas, pursuant to the authority provided in K.S.A. 65-119, K.S.A. 65-129b, K.S.A. 65-202 and other applicable laws or regulations.

WHEREAS, the Local Health Officer is authorized and required, pursuant to K.S.A. 65-119 and K.S.A. 65-129b to immediately exercise and maintain supervision over known or suspected cases of any infectious or contagious disease during its continuance, and to issue orders seeing that all such cases are properly handled and that the provisions of the Kansas public health laws as to isolation, quarantine and disinfection are duly enforced; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, has been confirmed in Kansas and in Wyandotte County, resulting in serious illness and at least 263 confirmed cases, 56 hospitalizations and 16 deaths to date in Wyandotte County alone; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the resulting epidemic in Kansas and Wyandotte County continue to threaten the life and health of our citizens and visitors as well as the economy and remains a public disaster affecting life, health, property and the public peace; and

WHEREAS on the 13th day of March 2020, the Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Kansas City/Wyandotte County, Kansas found that a disaster had occurred, or the threat thereof was imminent within Wyandotte County, Kansas as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) and the confirmed outbreak and person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in the United States, State of Kansas and Wyandotte County; and on the 19th day of March 2020, the Unified Government Commission adopted a Resolution extending the state of local health emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic from the March 13, 2020 declaration to May 18, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on the 16th day of March 2020, the Local Health Officer entered an Order prohibiting public gatherings of more than ten (10) people in the County and restricting the operation of certain businesses and activities; on March 20, 2020, such order was amended to expand its application to include religious and faith-based activities; and

WHEREAS, on the 21st day of March 2020, the Local Health Officer entered an Order for persons in Wyandotte County to shelter in place, effective March 24, 2020, and specifying essential activities, essential businesses, essential infrastructure, and essential government functions, such order to continue in effect until April 23, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on the 24th day of March 2020, the Governor of the State of Kansas signed Executive Order 20-14 which limited mass gatherings to no more than 10 people with 26 exemptions; and
WHEREAS, on the 28th day of March 2020, the Governor of Kansas signed Executive Order 20-16 which established a statewide “stay home” order, effective March 30, 2020, and is to remain in force until rescinded, until April 19, 2020, or until the statewide COVID-19 State of Disaster Emergency expires; and

WHEREAS, the statewide “stay home” order contained in Executive Order 20-16, while such order is in effect, supersedes all local “stay home” or similar orders, including the local order for Wyandotte County that took effect on March 24, 2020, and pre-empts any local jurisdiction from issuing or enforcing any local “stay home” or similar order that is more or less restrictive than the state order; and

WHEREAS, Wyandotte County has experienced a significant and notable transmission of COVID -19 through attendance at religious and faith-based services which required including such activities within the definition of a mass gathering. However certain practices as outlined below are a less restrictive means to prevent the spread of COVID – 19 and to allow residents to worship and participate in religious and faith-based activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the Local Health Officer, pursuant to the above authorities, that:

1. Religious and faith-based activities and services remain subject to the March 20, 2020 Order prohibiting any gathering with more than 10 people in attendance or anticipated to attend. The use of online, radio, and other telecommunication tools is encouraged whenever possible to conduct religious and faith-based activities and services. If a church is unable to use the tools mentioned, any in-person religious services of 10 or more people must adhere to the following requirements:

Parking lot services or drive-in services will be allowed under the following conditions:
   i. Attendees may arrive for the service no earlier than 15 minutes before the start of the service and must disperse immediately following the service;
   ii. Each vehicle should only have members of the same household in the vehicle. No vehicle should have members from different households together in a vehicle;
   iii. Attendees must remain in their cars for the entirety of the service. If a person gets out of his/her vehicle, he/she may be asked to leave the service;
   iv. Attendees may roll down the driver's side (left) window(s) only, and park in such a manner that adjacent vehicles do not have open windows between them;
   v. Attendees will not enter the church building during the service for any reason, including using restrooms. Celebrants may enter the building as needed to prepare and close the service:
   vi. There will be no distribution or sharing of materials, including written material or communion;
   vii. There will be no passing of objects such as collection plates/baskets etc.;
2. This Order may be supplemented or modified as required for the effective and efficient management and control of the Coronavirus epidemic in the County by further order or direction of the Wyandotte County Board of Public Health or by the Wyandotte County Local Health Officer.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 9th DAY OF April, 2020

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Dr. K. Allen Greiner
Local Health Officer
Wyandotte County, Kansas