



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 30, 2020**

## **WYCO Stay-At-Home Order Extended through May 10**

*ReStart WYCO Road to Recovery Guidance Document Released*

The Unified Government's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. K. Allen Greiner, has issued a local Stay-at-Home Order for Wyandotte County to begin at the conclusion of Governor Laura Kelly's statewide Order on May 3 at 11:59 PM.

"Because there is no vaccine for COVID-19 at this time, and efforts to expand testing and contact tracing continue, we have developed a longer-term phased approach with prolonged intermittent levels of social distancing and surveillance in order to protect public health in Wyandotte County," said Dr. Greiner. "The decision to extend the Stay-At-Home period by issuing a new order is based on what the virus is telling us. Wyandotte County has been hardest hit by COVID-19 in this region, so we must be especially cautious in order to protect the health and wellness of everyone in our community. We are making progress, but we are not in the clear yet."

The Wyandotte County Health Order will remain in effect until May 10 at 11:59 PM. Beginning May 11, Wyandotte County may, if the health data and metrics allow, enter the Red Zone of the ReStart WYCO Road to Recovery Document. A copy of the Road to Recovery Document was released today and is available online at [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19).

The Stay-At-Home Order issued by Dr. Greiner remains similar to the statewide order residents and businesses have been following since late March, to prevent confusion. Businesses deemed essential under the State of Kansas Stay-At-Home order will continue to be deemed essential throughout the Wyandotte County extended Stay-At-Home order and reopening process. To view a copy of Dr. Greiner's Order, visit [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19).

As with the previous Stay-At-Home Order, the Extended Order directs all residents to remain at their place of residence, except to conduct Essential Activities. People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are urged to stay in their residence except as necessary to seek medical care. Individuals who are sick may leave their residence only as necessary to seek or receive medical care in accordance with guidance from public health officials. All residents should practice social distancing while performing Essential Activities by maintaining at least 6 feet of distance from everyone other than household members. All businesses and operations in Wyandotte County, except Essential Businesses as defined in the Order, are required to cease all activities.



## **WYCO's Road to Recovery**

The Road to Recovery is a guidance document prepared by the ReStart WYCO Committee formed by Mayor David Alvey. The ReStart WYCO Road to Recovery Document can be viewed or downloaded by visiting [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19). The 25-member ReStart WYCO Committee is comprised of health professionals and business representatives from throughout Wyandotte County. The co-chairs of the Committee are Dr. Allen Greiner, Unified Government Public Health Department Chief Medical Officer (UGPHD), Dr. Erin Corriveau, UGPHD Deputy Medical Officer, and Dr. Brian McKiernan, Unified Government Commissioner.

“It’s imperative that we continue to let the data drive our decision-making during this reopening process,” explained Dr. Greiner. “As we enter into the reopening process, actions like social distancing and excellent personal hygiene will continue to be effective tools to help us manage that process. It’s important to understand that just as we can move toward fewer restrictions in our day-to-day activities, if the data shows it’s needed, we may have to return to more restrictions for limited periods of time. Our goal is to reopen our community step-by-step, while not compromising the health of any of our residents.”

The Road to Recovery Document provides guidance on a four-phased approach to reopening various public-facing businesses and organizational sectors of our community in a way that ensures a high degree of safety is maintained for everyone. Each phase provides a different level of guidance to help save lives and reduce transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

Following an extensive review of the latest public health data and collaboration with neighboring communities, the ReStart WYCO Committee has made their guidance available online at [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19). Feedback submitted by more than 400 community members via [wycokck.org/ReStart](http://wycokck.org/ReStart) has also been incorporated into the ReStart WYCO document.

“COVID-19 has caused enormous hardship on families and businesses in our community. But together, we have worked tirelessly to ‘flatten the curve’ in an effort to protect our most vulnerable,” said Mayor David Alvey of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, KS. “While this focus on health and prevention continues, we must also look to the future, preparing to gradually restore and reopen our economy at the appropriate time, and in the right way. This will not happen overnight, and it will take our entire community working together, but the guidelines provided today by the ReStart WYCO Committee will help us navigate as we move forward.”

## **Reducing exposure remains the best defense**

If businesses can continue to operate remotely, they are strongly encouraged to so. The novel coronavirus remains a threat, and minimizing exposure by working remotely continues to be a recommended strategy.

The ReStart WYCO guidance retains more restrictive recommendations for vulnerable populations, including those over 60 years old, immune-compromised, or with underlying medical conditions.

## Four Zones of ReStarting

**MOST RESTRICTIVE** ←————→ **LEAST RESTRICTIVE**

STAY AT HOME	RED ZONE	YELLOW ZONE	GREEN ZONE
<p>“Stay at Home” orders are quite stringent and ask that only essential businesses remain open. There is still a chance we may need to Stay at Home again in the future.</p>	<p>The Red Zone is slightly relaxed compared to Stay at Home but is far from “business as usual”. Red Zone still recommends the highest level of caution for vulnerable community members, while also offering guidance on how some businesses may open safely.</p>	<p>During Yellow Zone restrictions, more businesses may open, but caution is still required.</p>	<p>Green Zone is the least stringent phase and offers few staffing restrictions while still urging some cautions.</p>

### 1. Stay-at-Home

- a. This is the phase Wyandotte County is currently in, where residents are asked to only leave their homes to conduct essential business needed for their day-to-day existence, such as grocery shopping, visiting the pharmacy, or putting gas in vehicles. Wyandotte County remains under the statewide Stay-at-Home Order issued by Governor Laura Kelly on April 16 which expires on May 3 at 11:59 PM. Wyandotte County’s local Order will then come into effect and last through May 10.

### 2. Red Zone

- a. This phase relaxes the Stay-at-Home requirements but recommends the highest level of caution for vulnerable community members while providing guidance on how some businesses may open safely, but with certain restrictions.

### 3. Yellow Zone

- a. This zone relaxes Stay-at-Home requirements even further while allowing more businesses to open under caution.

### 4. Green Zone

- a. This is the least stringent zone and it retains very few restrictions in regards to staffing levels, event attendance, and in-person dining.

## Guidance for business sectors

The ReStart WYCO guidance includes sector-specific guidance for a range of businesses, including offices, retail, restaurants, and much more. The intent of the guidance is to provide practical steps that businesses can take to protect employees and customers, while reopening in a safe and controlled manner.

## Which zone are we in now?

Wyandotte County remains under Governor Laura Kelly’s Stay-At-Home Order until May 3 at 11:59 PM. On May 4 at 12:00 AM, Dr. Greiner’s local Stay-At-Home Order will become effective and remain active until at least May 10 at 11:59 PM. The Stay-At-Home Order issued by Dr. Greiner remains similar to the statewide order residents and businesses have been following since late March, and it is designed to mirror the Kansas Essential Functions Framework to prevent confusion. To view a copy of Dr. Greiner’s Order, visit [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19).

### **How do we know when it is time to change zones?**

Dr. Greiner has been clear from the beginning that COVID-19 data will dictate when it is safe for the community to advance from phase to phase. Moving from one phase to the next will involve carefully considering:

- The number of hospitalizations and deaths in Wyandotte County and surrounding area hospitals over a 14-day period, *and*
- the percentage of positive tests over a 14-day period.

If, after 14 days, there is a reduction in deaths, hospitalizations, and positive tests, the County will be able to relax guidance by moving on to the next phase. The recommendation to move to the next zone will be provided by Dr. Greiner before May 11. If there is not a reduction, or if these numbers have increased, Dr. Greiner may recommend staying at the current zone for a period of time, or possibly recommend returning to an earlier zone.

To download a copy of the ReStart WYCO Road to Recovery document, or to learn more about COVID-19 in Wyandotte County, including the latest data on case counts, visit [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19).

Public comments or suggestions for the document can be submitted online at [wycokck.org/ReStart](http://wycokck.org/ReStart). Residents and businesses should contact 3-1-1 with questions or visit [mywyco.wycokck.org](http://mywyco.wycokck.org).

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