Unified Government Forms “ReStart WYCO” Committee
Mayor Charges Group with Crafting the COVID-19 Recovery Plan for Wyandotte County

Mayor David Alvey has formed a “ReStart WYCO” Committee, which will develop practical guidance for businesses on how to safely re-open once the Stay-at-Home orders begin to lift in Wyandotte County.

The 25-member Committee is comprised of health professionals and business leaders from throughout Wyandotte County. The co-chairs of the Committee are Dr. Allen Greiner, Unified Government Public Health Department Chief Medical Officer (UGPHD), and Dr. Brian McKiernan, Unified Government Commissioner. The decision on when to re-open or relax existing protections will be made by the Chief Medical Officer and take into consideration both regional partner and state actions. The ReStart WYCO Committee is providing valuable guidance on how to safely re-open.

“We recognize the hardship this pandemic is placing on families and businesses across Wyandotte County, and I am heartened by our community’s commitment and sacrifice to protect its most vulnerable,” stated David Alvey, Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government (UG). “We need a strategy and a plan that focuses first on health, but also addresses the need to gradually restore and re-open our community at the appropriate time, and in a manner that doesn’t undo our previous efforts to combat COVID-19.”

“The mission of the ReStart WYCO Committee is to outline the steps we need to take as a community to slowly and carefully begin re-opening businesses and getting people back to work,” said Dr. Greiner. “We need people to continue strict social distancing and be vigilant. There are a number of practical details to work out in the implementation of a re-opening plan that protects our most vulnerable, requires many people to keep working from home, and protects the health of employees, customers, and families.”

“Mayor Alvey has given us a clear charge to bring together our health professionals and all of our community partners to develop the framework and the series of steps we can follow to emerge safely and gradually from the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic. I greatly appreciate the willingness of all our committee members to roll up their sleeves and put in the hard work it will take to create the sensible, practical guidelines that will help us ReStart WYCO,” said UG Commissioner Brian McKiernan, Co-Chair of the ReStart WYCO Committee.

The Committee is drawing upon best practices and recommendations from regional, state, national, and global sources. The framework for re-opening will likely take a tiered approach to re-opening businesses once the Stay-At-Home order is lifted. The Committee also recognized that it is likely that restrictions may be loosened and then re-tightened going forward as conditions warrant.

“Getting our economy back on its feet will be a community-wide effort – just as we worked together to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our region, it will take the same kind of unified effort to ensure our economic recovery,” said Daniel Silva, President of the KCK Chamber of Commerce.

“We need a measured, phased-in approach to re-opening our businesses and re-starting our regional economy,” said Greg Kindle, President of the Wyandotte Economic Development Council. “We look forward to working collaboratively with those from throughout the community to identify best practices that provide a
balance between creating a safe environment for our workforce and getting back to some level of business normalcy.”

Members of the Committee include Mayor/CEO David Alvey (UG), Commissioner Brian McKiernan (UG), Dr. Allen Greiner (KUMC), Dr. Erin Corriveau (KUMC), David Piece (American Family Insurance), Rev. Dr. LeAnne De Tar Newbert (Mercy & Truth Safety Net Clinics), Terrie Garrison (UGPHD), David Wild, (KUMC), Melissa Nead (The Dotte Spot Bar & Grill), Chonita Madison (Hair Stylist), Mike Benitez (Chips & Coins/Downtown Shareholders), Michael Talboy (Burns & McDonnell), Paul Norbega (Central Solutions/Fairfax Industrial Association), David Staker (Plastic Packaging Technologies), Byron Bowels (MVP Law), Dr. Ricky Turner (Oak Ridge Baptist Church), Dan Brungardt (USD 204), Randy Lopez (Wyandotte Health Foundation), Stacy Scheelk (Legacy Development), Alan Carr (KCK Convention & Visitors Bureau), Greg Kindle (Wyandotte Economic Development Council), Daniel Silva (KCK Chamber of Commerce), Doug Bach (UG), Alley Porter (UG), Ken Moore (UG), and Alan Howze (UG).

Public comments or suggestions for the Committee can be submitted online at wycokck.org/ReStart.

The Committee is scheduled to meet again on Friday, April 24. For more details on COVID-19 in Wyandotte County, including the latest data on case counts, visit wycokck.org/COVID-19.

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