FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2020

MAYOR DAVID ALVEY OF THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT SERVING WYANDOTTE COUNTY DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR KANSAS CITY, KANSAS AND WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS

Mayor David Alvey of the Unified Government Serving Wyandotte County declared a state of emergency for Kansas City, Kansas/Wyandotte County, Kansas today.

“This is the next logical step in our strategy to combat the spread of COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus,” said Alvey.

The Mayor made the following statement regarding his Declaration:

“Today I’ve been in consultation with Mayor John McTaggart of Edwardsville and Mayor Jeff Harrington from Bonner Springs, Kansas to discuss the status of the COVID-19 virus in the Unified Government region, and our next steps in controlling the spread of the virus in our communities.

“Based upon our discussions, and with the recommendation of Matt May, the Director of Emergency Management for the Unified Government, I have decided to declare a State of Emergency in our region.

“Declaring a State of Emergency will allow the leaders of the Unified Government to get the materials and resources we need to effectively control the spread of COVID-19 more easily. The Department of Health of the Unified Government already has the authority to combat the virus, but today’s Declaration allows us to obtain needed resources more readily.

“We are still strongly recommending that our residents avoid large gatherings that bring people into close proximity. In addition, I can’t emphasize enough how important it is for our residents to continue to follow the recommended safety procedures we’ve been communicating over the past several days.”

These measures to which the Mayor refers in his statement were first shared with the public during a Facebook Live session on Thursday, March 11. These measures include:

- Avoid large gatherings
- Practice social distancing
- If you’re sick, stay home
- Practice good hygiene, including washing hands frequently, and avoid touching your nose, eyes or mouth with unwashed hands at all times
- If you feel ill, call your healthcare provider and stay home until you receive additional instructions from his or her office
- Cover coughs with a tissue or your sleeve

“One example of social distancing is using online services to take care of tasks such as paying your bills or online banking,” said Ms. Terrie Garrison, the Interim Director of the Public Health Department serving Wyandotte County. “For example, the Unified Government offers residents a number of ways to conduct
normal daily tasks with us, without having to come into City Hall. We encourage our residents to take advantage of these online services and remain at home.”

Many common business services like renewing vehicle tags, paying municipal traffic and parking tickets, or appealing a property appraisal can be completed online at mywyco.wycokck.org or via the myWYCO app available on Google Play and Apple’s App Store.

In addition to these measures, the Unified Government is providing residents with a wealth of information on how to best protect themselves from COVID-19. Resources provided by the Unified Government include:

- **WYCOKCK.ORG/CORONAVIRUS**: This website contains information from the Centers from Disease Control (CDC) and KDHE.
- The Wyandotte County Help Line is available to residents at 3-1-1 for those with questions about COVID-19.
- In addition, the KDHE has also set up a hotline at 866-534-3463.

Another key step that residents should take is to formulate a Family Action Plan. “KDHE encourages all Kansans to work with their families to create a family action plan,” said Dr. Allen Greiner, Chief Medical Officer with the United Government. “This includes planning for medical and dietary needs, identifying a room in your home to separate those who are sick from the rest of the household, and other key decision-making.” To learn more about creating a Family Action Plan, visit KDHEKS.gov/coronavirus or click here.

“The residents of Wyandotte County are a resilient, resourceful community of people,” said Alvey. “We have faced public health challenges before, and we have persevered and overcome them, just as we will now. We want our residents to stay up to date on the latest developments on this issue through our website and social media.”

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