



Wyandotte County Stay-at-Home Order

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On Saturday, March 21, Mayor David Alvey announced that Dr. Allen Greiner, Chief Medical Officer of the Unified Government, issued a Public Health Order requiring residents to Stay At Home. The only exception to this Order is taking care of essential needs.

We understand that these measures are going to disrupt people's lives – but the number one priority right now is taking any steps necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our region. We know you will have questions about the Stay At Home order and how it affects you individually, and how it affects our community. Here are answers to some Frequently Answered Questions about the Stay At Home period. If you don't find the answer to your question here, please visit www.wycokck.org or contact 3-1-1.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STAY AT HOME ORDER

Why is the Unified Government doing this?

Issuing a Stay At Home order for Wyandotte County, in conjunction with KCMO, and Johnson and Jackson counties is necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our region. The order enforces intensified social distancing – which is the best way to slow the spread of the disease. The order requires residents to remain in place – people are only allowed to leave their place of residence in order to get the essential things they need like groceries and medications.

It's important to note that the Unified Government serving Wyandotte County acted in unison with the elected officials and public health leaders of the "Core 4" municipalities that make up the Kansas City metropolitan region – Kansas City, Missouri; Jackson County, Missouri and Johnson County, Kansas.

The reason we're doing this now is because there is emerging scientific evidence that COVID-19 can be transmitted among people who haven't yet exhibited the symptoms of the disease – so even if someone doesn't appear sick, they can still be carrying COVID-19 and infect others. Without such efforts, it's estimated that each COVID-19 positive patient could infect between 2.6 to 4 additional people.

That's why we had to implement the Stay At Home orders immediately. In order to be effective, social distancing strategies must be implemented early in an outbreak such as this – within two weeks of the first case. These measures are critically important to flatten the epidemic curve – which will prevent overwhelming our regional health care system's ability to care for residents who develop severe symptoms. Early implementation of this strategy is even more important in



the context of limited testing. With full community cooperation, this proactive public health order can minimize the impact of COVID-19 on our community.

What does the Stay At Home Order do?

The Order requires that most people stay at home unless they are engaged in “Essential Activities” (see below for details.) For most residents of Wyandotte County, that means that you and those you live with should remain at home. You are allowed to leave to make sure you have the necessities needed for day to day life, such as getting food and medical supplies.

You’re also allowed to get essential supplies for your pet or to exercise, as long as you don’t congregate in a group and you maintain at least six feet of distance between yourself and other people. If you’re sick, you should stay away from others – even those you live with. Self-quarantine in a separate room and if possible, use a different bathroom from other people with whom you live.

How long does this Order last?

This Order is in effect until April 23, 2020. At that time we’ll evaluate the status of COVID-19 in our community and either rescind or extend the Order as needed.

How big of an area does this Stay At Home order cover?

The Stay At Home Order issued by Dr. Allen Greiner, the Chief Medical Officer with the Unified Government serving Wyandotte County, covers Kansas City, Bonner Springs, and Edwardsville, Kansas. Similar orders were issued by public health officials in the “Core 4” communities that make up the Kansas City metropolitan area: Kansas City, Missouri; Jackson County, Missouri and Johnson County, Kansas.

Which businesses are open?

Only essential businesses will remain open. Essential businesses include:

- Hospitals
- Childcare facilities
- Government operations
- Pharmacies, health care supply stores, and health care facilities
- Grocery stores
- Farms
- Gas stations and auto repair facilities
- Banks
- Trash and Recycling collection
- Hardware stores, plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and other essential businesses



- Educational institutions, for the purposes of facilitating distance learning
- Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers
- Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, and goods directly to residences
- Childcare facilities providing services that enable essential employees to go to work
- Professional services such as legal or accounting service when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities
- Newspapers, radio, television, and other media resources
- Liquor stores

If you have a question about whether a particular business is remaining open during this period, contact that business directly.

What are Essential Activities?

Essential activities include:

- Obtaining medicine or seeing a doctor or other health care provider
- This includes taking a pet to the veterinarian or getting your pet medications from a vet
- Getting necessary services or supplies for themselves or their family or household members, such as food, pet food, and supplies necessary for staying at home
- Obtaining supplies necessary for maintaining a household
- Obtaining supplies necessary for working from home
- Engaging in outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking, or running provided that you maintain at least six feet of social distancing
 - Please note: Wyandotte County parks will remain open for the public, but playgrounds will be closed as a safety measure at this time
- Performing work providing essential services at an Essential Business or Essential Government function.
- Caring for a family member or pet in another household
- Working for or getting services from hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, home health care, mental health providers or related services
- Caring for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons

What do I do now?

For now, residents are urged to stay at home and follow the instructions outlined in the Order. That means staying at home – only leave your home to perform an essential activity as defined in the Order.

Can I go to a bar, nightclub or theater?

No. Entertainment venues are closed during the Stay At Home period.



Are restaurants open for business?

Some restaurants may be open, but only for pick-up or delivery of food. Call the restaurant to see if they are offering these services.

What's the difference between this Stay At Home Order and social distancing?

The Stay At Home order is a more rigorous, mandatory form of social distancing. The Stay at Home Order means that individuals must:

- Stay at home.
- Only leave your home for “essential activities” or to work for an “essential business.”
- Don't host or attend **any** gatherings. Gatherings of 10 or more people are strictly prohibited.

People must also maintain at least six feet of distance between themselves and other people as much as possible. Also, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, several times a day – especially after using the restroom and before handling or preparing food. If soap and water isn't readily available, use hand sanitizer. Frequently disinfect high-touch areas of your home, and stay home if you're sick.

Will I still get my mail and deliveries?

Yes – you will still be able to get your mail and other deliveries at your home.

Will cemeteries remain open?

Yes. Cemeteries can remain open but are subject to the prohibition of groups of 10 or more persons and the requirements of Social Distancing. This also applies to burial services.

Will Nebraska Furniture Mart remain open?

Nebraska Furniture Mart provides some essential products, such as computers and other business equipment and supplies that people would need to work from home. Stores that provide essential products are also required to enforce social distancing.

Will liquor stores remain open?

Liquor stores have been labeled as an essential business, so they can remain open. However, they must enforce social distancing.

Will mortuaries remain open?

Yes. Mortuaries may remain open because of their impact on public health. But funeral services are subject to the prohibition or groups of 10 or more persons and the requirements of social distancing.



TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS DURING THE STAY-AT-HOME PERIOD

Should I stock up on food items and prescriptions?

The purpose of the Stay At Home Order is to prevent people from congregating in groups, in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. We want everyone to limit the amount of times they need to leave their homes to conduct essential activities. So plan ahead and make a list of the essential activities you need to do, and complete those tasks in as few trips outside of your home as possible.

Having said that, we all need to remember to be a good neighbor. Only purchase what you (and those you live with) need for the Stay At Home period. Don't over-buy products you won't need – others in your community have the same needs. In order for the Stay At Home Order to be successful, we will all have to do our part.

What if I need to go to a scheduled healthcare appointment?

Check with your healthcare provider before scheduled appointments. If your provider deems your appointment non-essential, they may want to reschedule. If they feel the appointment is essential to your health, they'll instruct you on what to do. But it's important to call first.

Some services, such as elective services, may be postponed or canceled. Do not go to an emergency room unless you are having an actual emergency.

Can I still get non-essential medical care like an eye exam, teeth cleaning, elective procedures, etc.?

Generally speaking, you should postpone non-essential medical and dental care if possible. If it can wait, please postpone. Check with your provider for specific guidance. You should not expose yourself or others by pursuing health care or maintenance care that can wait a few weeks.

What if I need to get other healthcare services?

If you feel you need essential healthcare services, consult your primary healthcare provider.

Can I leave home to get prescriptions for myself or family members?

Yes – pharmacies are an Essential Business. You may leave home to get essential prescriptions for yourself or family members, or your pet. If possible, arrange to have prescriptions delivered to your home, or setup your prescriptions to be delivered through the mail with services such as OptumRX or similar. You can check with your primary care physician or your pharmacist for their recommendations.



Can I visit family and friends who are in a nursing home, hospital, or residential care facility?

For your safety as well as their safety, non-essential visiting to these facilities is not encouraged. We need to help each other fight the spread of COVID-19. Please stay at home and consult with the facility to determine if your visit is essential

What do I do if I get sick and need to see a doctor?

If you feel sick, consult with your primary healthcare provider. In addition to calling your healthcare provider, if you have symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath, you can also report your symptoms online: www.wycokck.org/COVID-19. If follow-up is needed, someone from the Unified Government's Public Health Department will contact you. Your information will not be shared, but will be used to track the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

What if I think I have COVID-19?

The symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A fever in excess of 100° F
- A dry, unproductive cough
- Difficulty breathing

If you feel you have the symptoms of COVID-19, consult your primary physician. Residents of Wyandotte County can also self-report suspected cases of COVID-19 using the self-reporting tool you can find at www.wycokck.org/COVID-19. If follow-up is needed, someone from the Unified Government's Public Health Department will contact you. Your information will not be shared, but will be used to track the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Is it okay to make sure elderly family members are okay?

If you are the primary caregiver for elderly family members and you need to assist them in meeting their essential needs, you can drive to another state to take care of them. Non-essential visitation is prohibited. To check on the welfare of an elderly family member or friend, call, text or email them. This is a good time to teach family members in other areas how to communicate via virtual meeting platforms like Skype or Zoom or Facetime.

Can I leave home to visit elderly family members and take care of them?

If you are not performing an essential activity or providing essential care for elderly family members, you are asked to stay home. If you want to check on their wellbeing, call, email or text them.

COVID-19 has proven particularly lethal to older adults above 60 years of age. Take extreme caution when providing care to vulnerable people and ensure that you protect them and



yourself by following social distancing guidelines such as washing hands before and after, using hand sanitizer, maintaining at least six feet of distance when possible and coughing or sneezing into a tissue.

Is it okay to leave my house and go for a walk?

Yes – it's okay to take a walk, walk your dog, go hiking and other popular forms of exercise, as long as you maintain at least six feet of distance between yourself and others (this is what we call social distancing). Avoid shared exercise equipment (e.g. playgrounds, outdoor gym facilities, etc.), and do not go to a gym or any place where you might be exposed to crowds of other people.

What if my pet gets sick and needs a veterinarian?

Call and consult with your veterinarian first. They can help you determine if it's essential to take your pet in for veterinary care.

I'm homebound. How can I get the food and medicine that I need?

Businesses that deliver goods or services directly to residences are "essential businesses" that can continue to operate. Call the businesses whose products or services you need to arrange delivery to your home. Also, you can contact family or friends to see if they can assist you by picking up what you need and dropping it at your home. If you think you might be eligible for Meals on Wheels, call (913) 573-8531.

I'm nervous/anxious and need to talk to someone about my fears about this situation. What do I do?

This is a stressful time. United Healthcare has created an emotional support line that is available 24/7 at no cost, to all members of the community. This 24/7 Help Line is staffed by professionally trained mental health experts. It is free of charge and open to anyone. The number is **866-342-6892**.

Additionally, Wyandot Behavioral Health Network continues to provide many mental health services at this time, with modifications for safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. For general questions on services, call the main number at **913-328-4600**. If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, please call our **24/7 Crisis Line at 913-788-4200**.

For medical emergencies, please call 911.

Can I still go to my regularly scheduled mental health treatment?

Call and consult with your mental health provider first. If they feel your treatment is essential to your wellbeing, they'll make arrangements for treatment with you directly. They may also offer some services by phone or video chat.



What happens to people experiencing homelessness in our community? They can't Stay at Home. Where will they go?

Efforts are being made to coordinate care for vulnerable people, including those experiencing homelessness. There are no easy solutions, but the Unified Government is seeking to provide compassionate care.

If you work at a homeless shelter or other organization that provides services for people experiencing homelessness, we encourage you to look at the CDC's recommendations for homeless shelters during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/community/homeless-shelters/index.html>.

I'm an Uber/Lyft driver. Am I allowed to work, and is it safe for me to work?

Rideshare drivers are allowed to continue working. However, you need to be taking extra measures to keep your vehicle as clean as possible. Wipe down seats, door handles, window handles and any other control buttons that you and your passengers will touch with a disinfectant wipe (ie., Clorox wipes or similar, not baby wipes) after each passenger. In addition, wipe down seats and your steering wheel after each passenger.

My child is returning from spring break in Florida. What does he/she need to do when they arrive back home?

Anyone returning from travel should self-quarantine in their residence and be alert for signs of the COVID-19 virus. These symptoms include a fever in excess of 100° F, shortness of breath and a dry, unproductive cough. In addition, anyone who has traveled within the past 10 days should follow these guidelines:

- Self-quarantine at home. Ideally, stay in a room separate from other members of the household, and use a different bathroom than other residents in the house.
- Do not leave the house – ask other residents of the house to get things you need to meet your essential needs.
- Practice social distancing by maintaining a distance of at least six feet from other people.
- Anyone who feels they have the symptoms of COVID-19 should consult with their primary care physician. In Wyandotte County, residents can self-report suspected cases of COVID-19 online at www.wycokck.org/COVID-19.

My child is away at college. Can I travel to go get them and bring them home?

Yes – you can go get your child and bring them home. However, once you arrive at home, follow the Stay At Home Order and don't leave your home except to attend to essential activities.



I don't have a washer and dryer in my home/apartment. Is it okay to leave my house to do laundry?

Yes – laundry is an essential service. Remember to practice social distancing when you're out.

I work at a food bank that also serves lunch and dinner to the homeless. Can we still serve food? Can we remain open?

A food bank operation must follow the same rules as a restaurant: no dining facilities and food must be carried out or delivered. All people inside the facility should observe social distancing. You can also consider offering sack or box meals that people can pick up.

You must enforce all guidelines of social distancing – no more than 10 people at a time picking up meals, and both workers and those picking up meals must be six feet away from each other at all times.

Also, follow the CDC's guidelines for homeless shelters: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/index.html>.

What happens to people who are out of work because of this? Can they get some kind of financial relief?

There are efforts underway at the local, state and federal level to help people whose livelihoods are affected by COVID-19. Please visit www.wycokck.org/COVID-19 for more information. And expect to hear more about this topic in the coming days and weeks.

Also, please note that BPU has announced that during the COVID-19 pandemic, they will not do any utility shut-offs due to non-payment.

I share custody of my children. Can I travel to visit or drop off/pick up my children?

Yes – if you share custody of your children, you can travel to pick them up and drop them off, pursuant to your legal custody agreement. The Order exempts travel by court order or law enforcement.

WHERE CAN I GO DURING THE STAY AT HOME PERIOD?

Is public transit still operating?

Yes – public transit is still operating in Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County. Take the same precautions and social distancing measures you would in other places.

Is it okay to take an Uber or other rideshare service if I need something?

Yes – but travel should be limited, and you should only leave your house to attend to essential business like getting food or medications. After using a rideshare service, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



Can I leave home to go get prepared meals from my child’s school or other organization?

Yes, you can. Remember to practice social distancing (6 feet between people), and to follow any additional guidance provided by your child’s school district or the organization providing the meals.

I still have to go to work. Is it safe to send my child to their normal child care provider?

Child care is considered an essential business. Child care providers can operate as long as they take certain precautions, such as limiting the number of children in the same child care space. You will need to check with your regular child care provider to see if their operations have changed or been suspended in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since typical event venues are closed, my friends are holding an event at their house. Can I go?

Please stay at home. You must avoid gatherings of 10 or more people. By moving forward with this event, your friends are endangering those who attend, and every member of their community and the communities of the attendees.

Can I still go to church, or the synagogue, the mosque or other places of worship?

Places of worship may remain open as long as they observe the social distancing requirements. Only ten people may be present inside the facility at one time and people must remain six feet apart from each other. Alternatively, you can also ask if your place of worship offers remote services such as emails, video streaming or teleconferencing, to allow you to worship from home.

Do I have to report for jury duty?

District Court and District Court proceedings are canceled until further notice.

- All jury trials, criminal and civil, scheduled through April 19, 2020, are “continued” (postponed or adjourned) – court will not be held. Jurors who received a summons for jury trials do NOT need to report for jury duty on the assigned dates.
- Jury trials scheduled to commence on or after April 20, 2020, will be evaluated on a weekly basis.
- All other scheduled hearings, dockets, and court appearances will proceed as scheduled.
- People who have symptoms of COVID-19, or who have been exposed to COVID-19 should not report to the courthouse. Instead, contact Court Administration at (913) 573-2940.
- The public may call (913) 573-2946 or email khill@wycokck.org for assistance.



I have to pay court costs (or for a parking ticket, etc.) – how can I do that if everything is shut down?

Visit mywyco.wycokck.org to pay online. If you need additional assistance, contact 311.

I have tickets for an upcoming event. If that gets canceled, how do I get my money back?

If the event gets canceled, you would have to work with the company from which you purchased tickets to try and get a refund.

What are the rules for funerals, wakes, and burials?

Funeral services may be conducted as long as they observe the social distancing requirements: no more than ten people are present and they are six feet apart from each other. A wake in which people come and go may be held as long as social distancing requirements are observed. An outdoor burial may be attended by guests as long as they are in groups of no more than ten and maintain a distance of six feet from one another.

What are the rules for weddings?

Weddings may be held as long as social distancing requirements are observed. There may be no more than ten people present and they must all be six feet apart.

What if I work in a county where this Stay At Home order isn't in effect? Is it okay to go to work?

Yes – but remember to practice good hygiene and social distancing while you're at work, and when you return home. Preventing the spread of COVID-19 takes a community of individuals working together. Learn more about how to protect yourself, your family, your co-workers, and your community online at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html).

ENFORCEMENT

Is this just another guideline, or is this mandatory?

The Stay At Home order is a mandatory order designed to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities and protect our families, friends and neighbors, and those at higher risk for serious complications from the disease. First and foremost, we hope that our citizens and business community will self-police and comply with the order because they understand the extremely serious situation we are facing with the spread of COVID-19.

What happens to people who don't comply?

People who don't comply with the Order can be cited for a misdemeanor violation. The Order is a legal requirement that individuals must stay at home, and that non-essential businesses reduce their operations.



Our community needs to come together to fight the spread of COVID-19. In the rare cases of non-compliance, the Unified Government can cite non-compliant businesses and people. However, we don't expect to need that authority since it is in everyone's best interest that we swiftly and effectively deal with this pandemic.

The intention of this order isn't to punish anyone – it's a necessary step in slowing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities and protecting our healthcare system and personnel.

How do I report an individual, group or business that is willfully refusing to comply with the Order?

Call the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department's non-emergency line at (913) 596-3000.