COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update for the Immigrant, Hispanic, Documented and Undocumented Community of Wyandotte County

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS- I have received numerous reports of fear regarding undocumented individuals afraid to seek medical assistance. This is to dispel those concerns. In consultation with law enforcement officials in Wyandotte County, this office would like to provide clarity from a public safety standpoint as it relates to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

Individuals will not be arrested or detained while seeking medical help or for being outside of your home, because of one's immigration status. We are in this thing together. Law enforcement encourages all to comply with the “Stay at Home” order issued recently throughout the metro. Health officials believe this will be one of the best ways to “flatten the curve” in the spread of the virus.

If you do have to go out, you will not be pulled over and questioned. We simply ask for compliance with the ordinance. Additionally, if you are home and undocumented, police are not looking to arrest any group of people en masse.

To that end, as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic response, on its website at https://www.ice.gov/covid19 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) says it has temporarily adjusted its enforcement posture beginning March 18, 2020. ICE will not carry out enforcement operations at or near health care facilities, such as hospitals, doctors' offices, accredited health clinics, and emergent or urgent care facilities, except in the most extraordinary of circumstances. Individuals should not avoid seeking medical care because they fear civil immigration enforcement.

If you find yourself with the now well-documented list of COVID-19 symptoms, please contact your health care provider. They will direct you to any further steps that need to be taken. If you are a Spanish-speaking individual seeking assistance or resources, please contact El Centro at 913-677-0100.

Mark A. Dupree, Sr.
Wyandotte County District Attorney