

THE CITIZEN

SPECIAL COVID-19 EDITION

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Your official source of information about the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas



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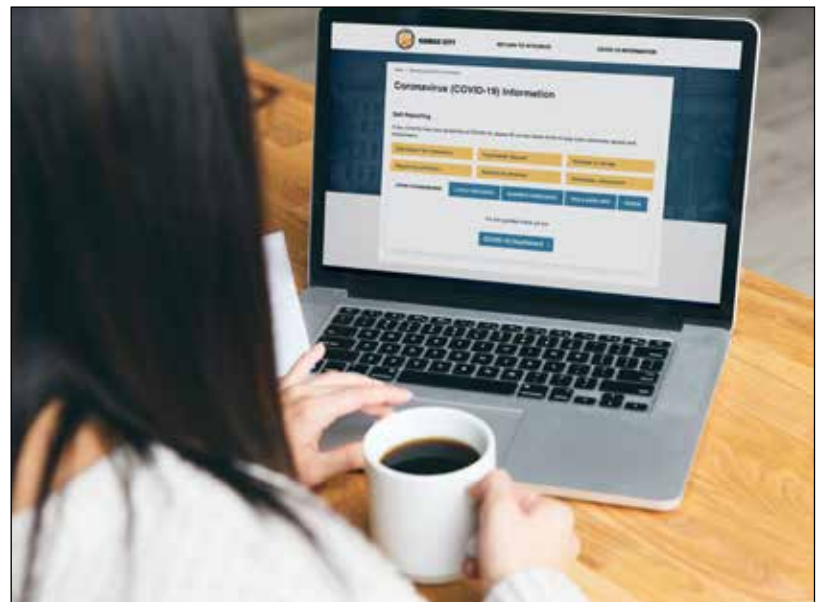
COVID-19 Cases Continue Rapid Rise in Wyandotte County

Get Info on Important Resources in This Special Issue!

While cases of COVID-19 continue to escalate in Wyandotte County, the Unified Government is working with residents, businesses and other organizations to slow the spread of the virus. This special edition of **The Citizen** contains pages of vital information that you can use to understand how to comply with the Stay At Home Order issued by Governor Kelly and keep you and your family safe during this time.

Recently the Unified Government (UG) unveiled new interactive tools that will help you see the latest data on cases of COVID-19, request food, volunteer or donate vital goods to help the community. All of these tools are available on the Unified Government's website wycokck.org/COVID-19. These tools include:

- A **self-reporting form** that allows residents, regardless of income or insurance, to submit their COVID-19 symptoms and get a call back from the Health Department.
- A **dashboard updated daily** that displays the number of confirmed cases, how many COVID-19 patients have been hospitalized, and other relevant data.
- A **food needs request** form that allows residents to request food if they're in need, such as residents who are in quarantine or isolation and cannot leave their homes to get food.
- Sign up to **volunteer** to help during the COVID-19 pandemic or donate items through the site.
- **THIS JUST IN...** The Unified Government and the United Way of Wyandotte County compiled a list of local health care resources, food pantries



and more serving WYCO residents. Download at wycokck.org/COVID-19.

- Find **resources for small businesses** to help weather the economic downturn.

"We're helping residents and businesses cope with the COVID-19 pandemic," said UG Mayor and CEO David Alvey. "Whether people want information, need food, or want to contribute to relief efforts by volunteering or donating, we're giving them tools to do that. This is a community-wide crisis and it will take all of us doing our part to provide a community-wide response."

While these new tools serve a variety of needs within the community during the COVID-19 outbreak, it's still important to comply with the Stay At Home Executive Order issued by Governor Laura Kelly.

"One of the most effective ways we can slow the spread of COVID-19 is to practice social distancing and comply with the Stay At Home Order, which instructs citizens to only leave their homes to conduct

the business they need for their essential, day-to-day existence," said Alvey. "It's vitally important that our citizens understand what an important role they play in slowing the spread of COVID-19, to avoid overwhelming our healthcare system."

**No internet?
No problem.
Just call us!**

- If you need food assistance, call 3-1-1 or 2-1-1 to make your request.
- Questions about the Stay At Home Order? Call 3-1-1.

Get a list of resources for health care, food pantries, assistance and employment services. It's available at wycokck.org/COVID-19, in English and Spanish.



David Alvey

Mayor/CEO of the
Unified Government

Dear Neighbor:

These are extraordinary times and I hope and pray that you and your loved ones are healthy and safe. The coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on our nation, and on Wyandotte County, disrupting the day-to-day world we once took for granted, and taking its toll on human life, physical and mental health, and economic security.

In spite of this, I've seen first-hand the best our community can be – from first responders and health care providers on the front lines, to school districts, businesses and church leaders all working together to protect our students, workers and neighbors. It's what makes Wyandotte County so unique, and how I know together we will get through this.

From the outset, the UG has partnered with local school districts, the cities of Edwardsville and Bonner Springs, KCKCC, Donnelly College, area businesses, KU Med and Providence hospitals, social agencies, our federal delegation, and more to help identify needs, issues and required actions – with daily conference calls to ensure a coordinated response.

While we don't know how far and wide this disease will progress, I know the preventative measures adopted early on to reduce the spread will save lives tomorrow. However, we must be prepared to stay the course and "follow through" to the end!

Our way of life has changed temporarily, but we are adapting. From parents and teachers working together to educate our children online, to supporting local restaurants by ordering "take out" – with sacrifice and patience we can and will overcome whatever challenges arise. We also know that certain populations are being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, and we must work to protect and assist every individual in our community.

To keep our community informed, the UG has created a variety of unique resources and tools to inform, guide and assist residents, workers and businesses, all which can be found at wycokck.org/COVID-19 or by calling 3-1-1. In addition to identifying assistance and tools for those workers and businesses impacted today, we are also looking to the future and preparing for how our community best moves forward.

We find ourselves in trying times. I urge you, for the sake of your own health and your loved ones to Stay At Home. With a little patience, a commitment to "follow through", and personal responsibility – we will defeat this threat to our community and stop the spread of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

David Alvey

Mayor and CEO of the Unified Government



Dr. Allen Greiner

Chief Medical Officer;
Unified Government Public
Health Department

Dear Residents:

If we want to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Wyandotte County, it is absolutely critical that community organizations like churches, businesses and all of our community members stay home as much as possible, avoid gatherings of more than 10 people and maintain a 6 foot distance between people. We know this is disruptive to daily life, but it is necessary to protect our community.

When you hear someone talk about "flattening the curve," they're talking about the number of people who have the virus at any point in time. We need to keep that number low so we don't overwhelm our health care system. Without efforts to intensify social distancing, like the Stay At Home Order, COVID-19 can spread very easily, and sometimes people who have the virus don't know it. It is estimated that each COVID-19 positive patient could infect between 2.6 to 4 additional people. If you are close to someone like this, they can infect you and many others very quickly.

The best way to keep yourself, your family, your friends and your community safe is to practice social distancing and great personal hygiene. Social distancing means avoiding close contact with other people to the fullest extent possible by staying at least 6 feet away. Great personal hygiene means doing things like covering your coughs and sneezes, washing your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces with disinfectant daily.

*This special edition of **The Citizen** newsletter contains a wealth of helpful information on the COVID-19 pandemic, and I encourage you to read it carefully. If you have questions that are not answered in this newsletter, please reach out to the Public Health Department by calling 3-1-1 or visiting wycokck.org/health. We are here to help you!*

Sincerely,

Dr. Allen Greiner

Chief Medical Officer

Unified Government Public Health Department

First Responders Adapt to the COVID-19 Era



This is one of the “remounted” ambulances purchased in 2019, using funds from the Public Safety and Neighborhood Infrastructure Sales Tax that KCK voters reauthorized in 2018. In a remounted unit, the “box” or upper part of the truck is removed from the old chassis and remounted onto a new chassis, saving thousands of taxpayer dollars.

You may be wondering how our first responders are continuing to serve the residents of Wyandotte County during the COVID-19 crisis. We spoke with Assistant Chief Mark Heath with the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department to find out.

How has the COVID-19 situation impacted how you and your crews interact with the public?

The KCK Fire Department continues to provide the fast, high-quality response that residents and businesses expect from first responders. We are taking additional measures to protect the public and protect Fire personnel, which does change how we interact with the public. When we respond to a call about a possible case of COVID-19, we’ll ask that the patient be brought as close to the outside door as possible, so we can assess them without going too far into the residence. We will send fewer team members to assess the situation and pre-check the patient for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, before sending other team members into the house. This minimizes contact between the patient’s household and our crews, for the safety of both. It also helps us determine how much gear is required to give the patient the care they need, without bringing nonessential equipment or bags into a potentially contaminated area.

How have you changed the way your vehicles are cleaned to minimize exposure to COVID-19 for your crews and patients?


We have taken additional steps to reduce the risk of exposure by adding a misting system as part of our ambulance cleaning routine. After a call, we always clean the inside of those units, wiping down surfaces where there might be bodily fluids or other contaminants. Now, after this step, our crews use the misting system to disinfect the inside of the entire unit with a wet hydrogen peroxide product. Ten minutes later, the vehicle is ready to go back into use. The product we’re using is a simple water-based chemical, so it’s not flammable. We’ve leveraged a process that takes

place every day in food production plants, dairy farms and breweries, and adapted it to keep our ambulances safe for both personnel and patients.

What other day-to-day changes have happened as a result of COVID-19?

We’re cleaning more than ever before. Firefighting is a dirty business, so we’re used to cleaning as part of our daily routine. We’ve just taken it to the next level. Our people are taking extra time to clean things out, put things away, sanitize and clean and wipe things down, both in the stations and on the trucks. I think that’s going to be our new normal.

We’re hearing a lot about first responders in other areas needing equipment and other materials to help them do their jobs during the COVID-19 outbreak. What’s the status of your equipment and supplies?

With the new budget year beginning on January 1, we assessed our stores of “mission critical” equipment and materials in January and began to stock up on necessary items like gloves, masks and sheets – those types of disposable items. We did the same thing with our cleaning supplies. I’m glad we did that, because now many of those items are in short supply. We’re also looking down the road at where we’ll be in six or eight or even 10 weeks. We’re putting a strategy in place to proactively keep restocking our stores when we’re able to source available items so that we don’t run short. I sleep better at night knowing that our crews are well-equipped. 




Stay Connected with the UG

Website Learn more about COVID-19 in our region and how you can help slow the spread of the virus in our community at wycokck.org/COVID-19.

UG ENews Source Sign up for this weekly e-newsletter that’s packed with the latest information on COVID-19 updates, operational updates from UG agencies and more. Just visit wycokck.org and click on the “I WANT TO” tab at the top of the page.

UGTV Get COVID-19 updates in English or Spanish and view Commission meetings, Standing Committee meetings, and additional information about what’s going on in our community. Tune to Channel 2 on Spectrum Cable and Channel 141 on Google TV.

 **Facebook** Like @CityofKCK to see Facebook Live events with Unified Government officials giving updates on the COVID-19 situation in our community, learn about new services and programs, and more! Search for the Kansas City, Kansas Unified Government page, and click on the “Like” icon.

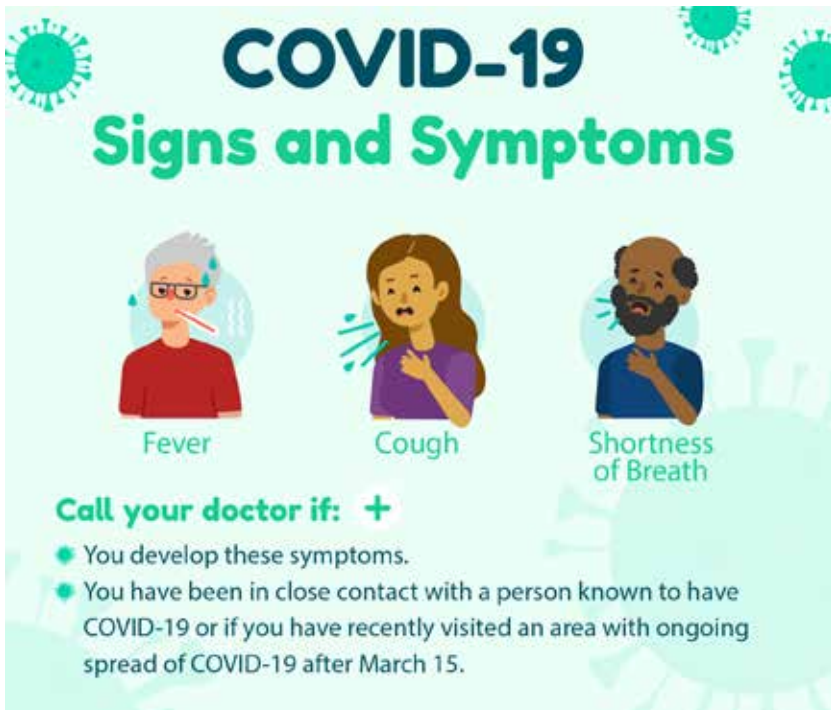
 **Twitter** Go to @CityofKCK and follow us for the latest updates.

 **Social Media** Sign up at www.nextdoor.com/join to get neighborhood updates and more information from the Unified Government.

The Citizen Newsletter is published by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas. It is mailed to every residential address in Wyandotte County. An electronic version is posted on the official Unified Government website at wycokck.org. Comments or questions can be sent to Dave Reno, Interim Public Information Officer at dreno@wycokck.org.

In accordance with the Department of Justice regulations, the Unified Government’s Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (EEOP) is available on the Unified Government website at wycokck.org.

Health Department Provides Resources for Residents



The UG Public Health Department provides resources to help you understand how to best protect yourself and your family, what you can and can't do during the Stay At Home period, and how you can play a key role in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Health Department COVID-19 Testing

The UG's Public Health Department offers COVID-19 testing by medical referral at 619 Ann Avenue next to City Hall in Kansas City, Kansas. Eligible Wyandotte County residents will be able to schedule a time to drive or walk through for testing. Testing priority will be given to individuals currently experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, which include a fever, shortness of breath and a dry, unproductive cough. To see if you are eligible to make an appointment for testing, report your symptoms from home using our online self-reporting tool at wycokck.org/COVID-19, by calling 3-1-1, or by calling your healthcare provider. No unscheduled "walk-ups" or "drive-ups" will be accepted for testing. Testing is offered for Wyandotte County residents only at this time. Testing is also available

at Sharon Lee Family Health Care (formerly Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care). Call their hotline at (913) 396-7070 to find out more.

New Self-Reporting Tool

Now you can self-report suspected cases of COVID-19. This tool is available in English and Spanish-language versions. Online at wycokck.org/COVID-19



or report symptoms by phone at 3-1-1. Information from the self-reporting tool is confidential, and is sent to the UG Public Health Department. The Health Department will contact those who need follow-up with further guidance and, if eligible, to schedule testing.

Following the Stay At Home Order to Protect Yourself and Your Family

The Health Department offers other tips to help you minimize exposure to COVID-19 for you and your family during the Stay At Home period, which runs through at least April 19. The Order allows you and those you live with to leave your home only for essential activities, such as:

- Getting groceries or meals
- Picking up essential medical care or picking up prescriptions
- Getting pet supplies and pet food
- Getting supplies you need to maintain your household

- Visiting a laundromat or dry cleaner
- Gassing up your car or getting it repaired
- Getting the supplies you need to work from home
- Caring for the elderly, children, dependents, people with disabilities or other vulnerable people
- Working at an Essential Business
- Engaging in outdoor activities like walking, hiking or running

Limiting how much you leave your home for essential activities is crucial, according to Dr. Greiner, Chief Medical Officer with the Unified Government. "We want people to practice social distancing to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community," he said. "That means avoiding gatherings of 10 or more people, and maintaining at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others at all times."

Clinical Services at the Health Department

Essential clinical services are available at the Health Department by appointment only. Hours of service are subject to change as the COVID-19 situation evolves. Call (913) 573-8855 to make your appointment. Essential clinical services include

Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing and treatment, birth control refills, pregnancy tests and laboratory services. Immunizations have been canceled until April 24.

WIC Waives "In-Person" Requirement, Service Continues

All WIC services are now offered by phone! Normally some WIC services must be completed in person, but a waiver was issued at the national level allowing all WIC benefits to be offered remotely through May 31 to protect our residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our staff can issue WIC benefits, complete WIC certifications, provide nutrition education, and provide guidance on getting WIC-approved products with grocery store shortages – all over the phone! Call us at (913) 573-6720.

Contact Investigations Helping Track COVID-19 Spread in Wyandotte County

The Public Health Department is also conducting contact investigations on confirmed cases. This involves:

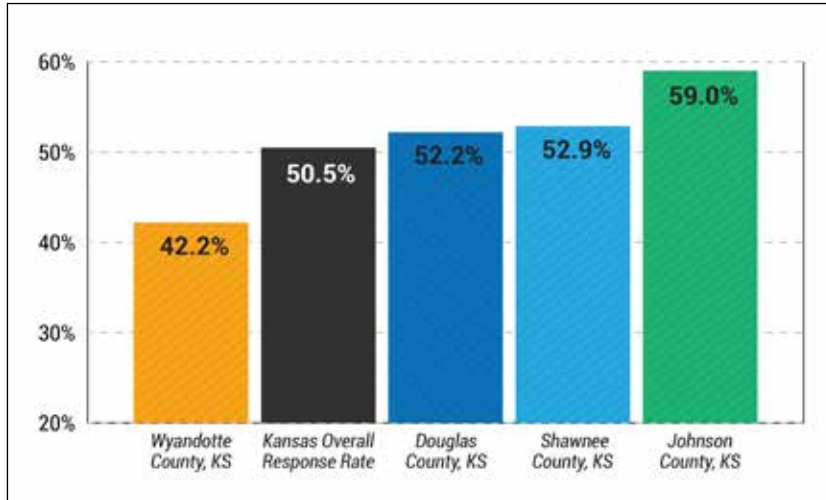
- Identifying when and how the patient was exposed to COVID-19.
- Identifying people who have had contact with the patient and providing guidance on what they should do to prevent further spread of COVID-19.
- Testing people who came in contact with confirmed COVID-19 patients and who are now having symptoms.
- Gathering data to help determine where and how COVID-19 is spreading.

"These contact investigations and the self-reporting tool on our website are critically important to helping us understand how COVID-19 is spreading in our community," explains Dr. Greiner. "The more data we have, the better we understand how and why the virus spreads. More knowledge gives us more power to be able to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and well-being of our residents."

It's up to all of us to follow the Stay At Home Order to protect our community. If you see businesses or individuals not complying with the Stay At Home Order, you can report violations by calling 3-1-1 or KCKPD at (913) 225-4788 or (913) 596-3000. Violators may be subject to a \$500 fine.

Take the 2020 Census NOW! Help The Unified Government Continue Much-Needed Public Services

Calling all Wyandotte County residents! Have you taken the 2020 Census yet? Time is running out, and Wyandotte County residents lag behind our neighbors in adjacent counties in response rates. Go to my2020census.gov to take the Census now!



Data current as of 4/10/2020

Why Do I Need to Take the Census?

The data from the 2020 Census will determine Congressional representation, influence hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding each year and provide data that will impact our communities for the next 10 years. Don't worry – your personal information is confidential and protected by law. It's never released to any other local, state or federal agencies.

Every person who completes their 2020 Census helps our community receive \$20,000 in government funding toward Wyandotte County programs over the next 10 years. Visit www.my2020census.gov today to fill out your Census!



We have to make sure Wyandotte County is properly represented in the Census to ensure we get our fair share of federal dollars to help improve our community!

Influence in Our Nation's Capital

The results of the Census determine how many seats the state gets in the House of Representatives. In addition, data from the Census is used to redraw electoral districts, based upon where populations have increased or decreased.

What Do I Need to Do?

Responding to the Census is easy. You can respond over the phone in 13 different languages, go online at www.my2020census.gov or wait for the paper form to be delivered to you. Get counted, Wyandotte County – so the Unified Government can continue to get the federal funds it needs to continue providing the services and programs you need! 🗳️

WE PLEDGE TO BE COUNTED!

#WECOUNT

Funding for Much-Needed Programs

If only 1% of the population of Kansas is underreported in the 2020 Census, our state could miss out on approximately \$4.7 million in much-needed federal funding every year for the next 10 years.

Those dollars go to fund more than 100 programs, including Medicaid, Head Start, block grants for community mental health services, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also called SNAP. These federal dollars also go to help build hospitals, fire stations, and other local and regional infrastructure, and fund school lunch programs and other critical programs and services.

UG Announces New Remote Ways to Conduct Business

Just because you're practicing social distancing – that doesn't mean you can't get things done! You can conduct your business with the Unified Government from the comfort of your own home, using the myWyco app – available online at mywyco.wycokck.org.

Enjoying WYCO Parks During the Stay At Home Period



It's important to maintain a healthy lifestyle, both mentally and physically, during the Stay At Home period. Wyandotte County parks offer many great places to get outdoors and get some exercise during this stressful time.

Outdoor activities such as hiking or walking are encouraged – while maintaining social distancing of at least 6 feet away from other people and avoiding congregating in groups of more than 10 people. Additionally, there have been some other changes made at our parks to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Here's what you need to know:

- While parks remain open, shelters and playgrounds are

closed. Do not enter or congregate in these areas.

- Spring sports, programs and special events have been canceled through April.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after going out.
- Do not use parks or trails if you have symptoms of COVID-19. Stay home and report your symptoms to your healthcare provider or using our online reporting tool.
- Share the trail and alert other trail users of your presence and as you pass.
- Help keep the parks clean so our community can continue

to enjoy them! Pick up your trash and dispose of it properly, and don't dump trash at our parks.

- Fishing is still allowed, but you must have a fishing license. Visit the Parks & Recreations website on wycokck.org for more details.

If you have questions or need more information about County parks during the Stay At Home period, visit the Wyandotte County/Kansas City Kansas Parks and Rec Facebook page (@WYCO Parks and Rec) or email parksinfo@wycokck.org.



Assistance for Businesses and Individuals

While the Stay At Home Order was a necessary step to help slow the spread of COVID-19, complying with the Order is causing economic hardship for many businesses and individuals. There are resources to help at wycokck.org/COVID-19. Here's what you'll find:

Resources for Individuals:

- Local employment opportunities
- How to file for unemployment
- VisitKCK travel updates and resources
- Community resources for health care, food pantries, assistance and employment services in partnership with United Way of Wyandotte County
- KCK restaurants offering delivery, take-out and curbside pickup
- The Board of Public Utilities (BPU) announced they will not do any utility shut-offs due to nonpayment during the COVID-19 crisis - visit bpu.com

Resources for Businesses:

- Hospitality Industry Relief Emergency (HIRE) fund
- SBA Disaster Assistance (English and Spanish)
- UG Small Business Incentive Program
- UG Small Business Grant Program
- Kansas City Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund
- KC Sourcelink COVID-19 Business Resources
- AltCap Crisis Response Loan



Right-of-Way Mowing Changes




Thanks to everyone who mowed and trimmed in the right-of-way on their property last year! In the past, Public Works mowed or trimmed the right-of-way in many areas, but the most recent Citizen Survey showed that

76% of residents support the policy of property owners maintaining their right-of-way. This change allows Public Works to focus on street maintenance, something the three most recent surveys show is residents' top priority.

Street maintenance programs require a committed and disciplined approach to ensure costly roadways last as long as possible. To meet the expectations of residents, the Board of Commissioners worked with staff to phase out right-of-way mowing in 2018. Public Works will only mow and trim publicly owned property in the right-of-way. "This change will allow Public Works to focus resources on curb replacement, alleyway improvements and increased pothole patching," said Dave Reno, the Unified Government's Interim Public Information Officer.

As of Spring 2019, property owners are responsible for mowing or trimming the right-of-way on their property. Roadside ditches should also be maintained, but vegetation may not be entirely removed or killed without approval from the Unified Government. For undeveloped or agricultural land, property owners only need to maintain the first 25 feet from the road or curb edge.

To learn more about right-of-way mowing or trimming, visit wycokck.org/Street/Mowing. Call 3-1-1 with questions or concerns. 

Don't Trash Your Neighborhood (or Anyone Else's)!



The SOAR Initiative (Stabilization, Occupation, and Revitalization) is working hard to make our neighborhoods safer and more beautiful. Proper disposal of trash is the first way to keep your property and your neighborhood looking good. Here are some tips to help with trash.

- Put your trash and recycling out no earlier than 4:00 pm on the day before your trash day and bring your cans back in by 7:00 am the day after.
- Subscribe to the Unified Government's ENews or follow us on social media to keep up on schedule changes due to extreme weather or holidays.
- If there is an issue with your trash pickup, report it to 3-1-1, online at mywyco.wycokck.org or using the myWyco mobile app (search myWyco wherever you download apps).



- Put your trash in bags and put those bags in containers with tightly fitting lids.
- Do not keep your trash cans in front of your house when not at the curb. Put your trash cans where they can't be seen or tampered with.
- Place trash cans next to the curb and make sure they are visible between cars parked on the street. Do not place them behind vehicles where the cans can't be seen by Waste Management from their vehicle.
- The Recycling and Yard Waste Center is located at 3241 Park Drive, Kansas City, Kan.
- The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site is located at 2443 S. 88th Street, Kansas City, Kan.
- Call 3-1-1 or visit wycokck.org/Waste to learn more.



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THE CITIZEN

SPECIAL COVID-19 EDITION

This is a Special Edition of The Citizen! It's full of information you need to know about the COVID-19 Outbreak. Look inside for more information about available resources such as health services, food pantries and more!



Get the Latest COVID-19 News and Updates!

- wycokck.org/COVID-19 contains tips and information in both English and Español!
- Call the Unified Government Help Line at 3-1-1 with questions about COVID-19.



Website: wycokck.org

2020 Unified Government Commission



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