

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Health Officials Urge Mask Wearing and Other Safety Precautions to Prevent Further Restrictive Actions

Mask mandates are the best way to prevent lockdown measures, preserve economy

COVID-19 spread is increasing at an alarming rate in the Kansas City metro area. In a letter to the Kansas City metro community, Health Officers and Health Department Directors from the “Core 4” – Jackson County, Johnson County, Kansas City, Missouri, and Wyandotte County – are urging residents to take seriously safety precautions to prevent additional steps to stop the spread of the disease.

The letter outlines several key points about the seriousness of COVID-19 in the Kansas City metro area, and what community members can do:

- COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have increased dramatically around the metro, impacting the health of our residents and putting strain on front-line workers and our health system
- It is crucial for communities in the metro to work together to reduce the spread of COVID-19
- Mask-wearing mandates are extremely important to help us reduce our COVID-19 numbers. Recent data from Goldman Sachs show mask mandates can slow the rate of new COVID-19 infections and are better for the economy than more restrictive steps like lockdown measures
- It will also be important to limit interactions in settings like bars, restaurants, and other places where people will have their masks off. Businesses are encouraged to use creative strategies like serving patrons in different outdoor settings whenever possible.
- We need everyone’s help now by wearing masks when in public, along with other measures like social distancing, and limiting interactions with those outside of our own households. This is our best chance at avoiding additional restrictions, which we all want to avoid if we can.
- Health officials will continue to closely monitor the data and use that to make collaborative decisions on how to protect our community

See the latest COVID-19 data for the metro area on the [KC Region COVID-19 Resource Hub](http://marc-gis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/1c93961075454558b3bf0dfad014feae):
<http://marc-gis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/1c93961075454558b3bf0dfad014feae>

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