

**LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER
SCHOOL ORDER
LHO 3/11/21**

This Emergency Public Health Order is issued to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic in Wyandotte County, Kansas, pursuant to the authority provided in K.S.A. 65-119, K.S.A. 65-129b, K.S.A. 65-202 and other applicable laws or regulations.

WHEREAS, the Local Health Officer is authorized and required, pursuant to K.S.A. 65-119 and K.S.A. 65-129b to immediately exercise and maintain supervision over known or suspected cases of any infectious or contagious disease during its continuance, and to issue orders seeing that all such cases are properly handled and that the provisions of the Kansas public health laws as to isolation, quarantine and disinfection are duly enforced; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the resulting epidemic in Kansas and Wyandotte County continue to threaten the life and health of our citizens and visitors as well as the economy and remains a public disaster affecting life, health, property and the public peace; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government, the State of Kansas and the Unified Government of Kansas City/Wyandotte County, Kansas have all entered declarations that a disaster had occurred, acknowledging the threat within Wyandotte County, Kansas as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) and the confirmed outbreak and person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in the United States, State of Kansas and Wyandotte County; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, has been confirmed in Kansas and that in Wyandotte County the number of confirmed cases, related deaths and positivity rates exceed that of other counties in the State as well as the metro area, and the steps necessary to prevent its spread vary based upon the locality thereby requiring a specific, measured and phased approach determined by data applicable to Wyandotte County, Kansas; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the Local Health Officer, pursuant to the above that:

1. LHO 1/4/21 is hereby rescinded which previously regulated the opening of schools to in-person education. This Order is intended to replace LHO 1/4/21 and encompass all current requirements of the healthy operation of schools.

2. All school children and educators must wear masks at all times while inside and outdoors. New information exists on best practices for mask use. It is strongly encouraged that school personnel review the latest CDC guidelines on mask use to ensure children, educators and staff all wear masks that fit snugly over the nose and mouth and that masks are chosen with layers

to keep the wearers respiratory droplets in, while keeping others out. The CDC guidelines can be found at the following web address: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html>

(a) The use of N95 or KN95 masks for educators and school staff is highly encouraged, especially if interacting with or providing in person instruction to multiple groups of students in the same day. These masks are highly recommended because they are more likely to prevent transmission from an infectious student to a teacher. The Unified Government Public Health Department epidemiologist, in some cases, may exempt teachers from quarantine after exposure to an infectious student if there is evidence they were wearing an N95 or KN95 mask at all times while in the vicinity of such a student.

(b) Students and staff may wear surgical masks made of paper or at least 2 ply cloth. No bandanas or single layer gaiters are allowed.

3. All school children and educators must maintain social distancing at all times per the following guidelines by grade level:

(a) Elementary school – students in a classroom cohort may divide into small “pods” of 4-5 students each. These students may sit together at the same table (closer than 6ft) throughout the day. Each pod/table must stay at least 6 feet away from other pods within the same classroom at any given time and more distance is recommended when possible. Each child must still wear a mask at all times and social distance from all other students;

(b) Middle/High school – students in any given classroom must remain socially distanced at least 3 feet from other students at all times. Masks with a snug fit over the nose and mouth or double masking per CDC guidelines must be worn at all times;

(c) Students at all grade levels must remain 3 feet away from other students while in hallways and outside the building before and after school except for incidental or passing closer contact. Physical touching of any kind should be prohibited;

(d) The use of outdoor space is encouraged as much as possible for coursework learning and physical education; and

(e) Social distancing of 3 feet or more between each student must be maintained when outdoors.

4. We recommend all children, teachers and staff be tested for COVID-19 at least once a month. This testing may be done via PCR saliva testing at the school or other county testing

locations. Testing will be required for certain high school students who play sports or participate in band or choir consistent with LHO 2/26/21. Schools must review LHO 2/26/21 to ensure compliance.

5. Students must be cohorted to limit the number of staff and students they are in an enclosed space together with the following considerations:

(a) Elementary school – the cohort model will remain in place – a child must stay within the same classroom each day all day. Teachers may move from classroom to classroom, but this should be avoided as much as possible;

(b) Middle/High school – cohorting of middle and high school students should continue but students may make up to 4 classroom changes in any given day. These students will now have 4 different cohorts instead of one. It is recommended that students involved in athletics maintain a single cohort with their teammates; and

(c) The quarantine of specific students is required when there are positive cases who have been present in school while infectious. For all grade levels, it is not necessary to send an entire cohort or classroom of students home to quarantine if there is 1 positive case in the classroom. Rather, an “airplane” or “close proximity” method will be used to determine who should quarantine. Only those students sitting directly next to the student who is positive (side-to-side and front-to-back) will be required to quarantine.

6. This Order becomes effective at 12:01pm March 11, 2021 and remains in effect until conditions in Wyandotte County are such to warrant a change or modification.

7. This Order may be supplemented or modified as required for the effective and efficient management and control of the Coronavirus epidemic in the County by further order or direction of the Wyandotte County Board of Public Health or by the Wyandotte County Local Health Officer, as applicable.

8. Pursuant to K.S.A. 65-129b, any health inspector, sheriff, deputy sheriff or other law enforcement officer of any political subdivision within Wyandotte County, Kansas is hereby ordered to assist in the execution or enforcement of this Order, as amended or modified, as well as all other orders of the Local Health Officer not otherwise rescinded or superseded.

9. Violation of this Order is a violation of Ordinance 17-7 and is a Class C Misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of \$500 and a 30-day jail sentence.

10. This Order shall be known and referred to as LHO 3/11/21.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 11th DAY OF MARCH 2021.

K. Allen Greiner M.D.

Dr. K. Allen Greiner M.D.
Local Health Officer
Wyandotte County, Kansas