

EMERGENCY ORDER OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER

Emergency Public Health Order issued on the 23rd day of March 2020 to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Jefferson County, Kansas, pursuant to the authority provided in K.S.A. 65-119 and K.S.A. 65-129b 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 a 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 Local Health Officer is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and is authorized to prohibit public gatherings when necessary for the control of any and all infectious or contagious diseases, pursuant to K.S.A. 65-119; and

WHEREAS, on the 12th day of March 2020, the Governor of the State of Kansas, Laura Kelly, found that a disaster had occurred, or the threat thereof was imminent as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) and the confirmed outbreak and person-to-person spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in a serious illness or death, has been confirmed in Kansas, resulting in serious illness and at least two deaths to date in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, such conditions endanger health, safety and welfare of persons and property within the border of Jefferson County, Kansas; and

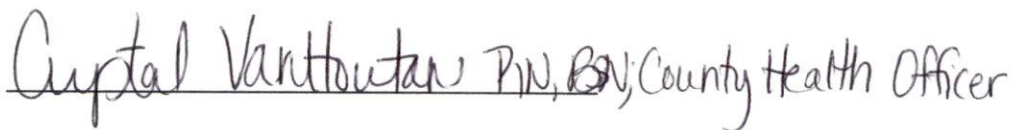
WHEREAS, to reduce spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Jefferson County Local Health Officer, all recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus, including cancellation of large gatherings and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the resulting epidemic in the United States and in Kansas 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.

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

1. All large public gatherings of people in the County are prohibited. Large public gatherings are those with more than ten (10) people in attendance or anticipated to attend, both indoor and outdoor, except for governmental and judicial functions, healthcare facilities, private business operations, religious and faith-based activities, weddings and funerals. A "gathering" does not include normal operations at spaces where persons may be in transit or coming and going individually or in groups of less than ten (10) persons. For all gatherings of people, the health officer requires everyone to follow the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), federal, state and local public health officials.
2. All restaurants, dining facilities, bars, taverns or any other facility that serves food or beverages for onsite consumption in Jefferson County, Kansas are hereby ordered closed to the public effective at 12:01 a.m. on March 24, 2020 until further notice, except that any such establishment may continue to provide carryout, drive-through and delivery food and beverage services. In all areas, establishments must follow the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), federal, state, and local public health officials for social distancing and infection control measures.


Crystal VanHoutan RN, BSN, County Health Officer

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