



**Geary County
Health Department**
1212 West Ash Street
P. O. Box 282
Junction City, Kansas 66441

March 20th, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Geary County Emergency Public Health Order 20200320 FAQ's

REFERENCE: Geary County Emergency Public Health Order 20200320

GENERAL:

1. Is this a violation of the 1st amendment?

The First Amendment does not provide the right to conduct an assembly at which there is a clear and present danger of riot, disorder, or interference with traffic on public streets or other immediate threat to public safety or order. Statutes that prohibit people from assembling and using force or violence

Cole v. Arkansas, 338 U.S. 345 (1949), available at <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/338/345/case.html>.

2. Who can stay open?

Anyone who has been designated as an Essential Industry by U.S Homeland Security and food services that can provide their service by drive-through or carry out is authorized to stay open. Examples: government, grocery stores, gas stations, communication agencies, medical establishments, newsagents

This list is not all-inclusive. Check the U.S Homeland Security website for a complete list.

3. Who needs to close?

Any food services that are not able to conduct business by drive-through or carry out only or any business that is not classified as an essential industry that requires more than ten (10) people in the building at one time must close.

Example: Gyms, Movie theaters, bars

4. When will these restrictions end?

This order expires on April 2nd, 2020. The Health Officer will review the situation at that time and decide if an extension is necessary.

5. If I can stay open, how can I prevent the spread of the disease in my business?

Maintain the 6-foot social distance between everyone in the building, sanitize as much as possible. Do not allow people who are sick to come to work. More information is available on the resources below.

6. Can my Church stay open?

Yes. Religious services can continue. Each set of people from a single household must maintain the 6-foot separation from other sets of people from a single household. Church meetings are not classified as religious services. These meetings must stay below ten (10) people or be conducted by another method.

7. Are we overreacting?

No, COVID-19 is dangerous. Look at what happened in Italy.

8. The flu is more dangerous than COVID-19; why are we concerned?

COVID-19 is at least ten times more dangerous and more contagious. We are concerned because this virus has the potential to kill many people in our County.

9. Why is the County not taking this virus seriously?

Geary County is taking appropriate actions for the situation using evidence-based methods and recommendations by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Geary County has taken the following actions: Geary County has declared a state of emergency to assist with obtaining medical supplies, The Emergency Operations Center meets five days a week for planning and information updates. Geary County Emergency Public Health Order 20200320 institutes a policy of social isolation. Geary County Hospital and Konza Community Health Center are screening all patients for COVID-19. All governmental employees are tested before the start of each shift. For more details on interventions by Geary County, please visit the county webpage. (link below)

10. Where can I go to find more information?

<http://www.kdheks.gov/> <https://www.gearycounty.org/>
<https://www.cdc.gov/> <https://www.who.int/>

11. The point of contact for this memorandum is Charles Martinez at (785) 762-5788

Charles Martinez
Deputy Director GCPHD