Geary County
Health Department
1212 West Ash Street
Junction City, Kansas 66441

Geary County Public Health Order 20200702

"COVID-19 ACCORDS"

To mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Geary County, Kansas, and 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 and regulations, this Order is issued. In my capacity as the Local Health Officer, I am authorized and required to immediately exercise and maintain supervision over known or suspected cases of any infectious or contagious disease and to issue orders seeing that all such cases are properly handled and that the provisions of the Kansas public health laws regarding isolation, quarantine, and disinfection are duly enforced.

As the Local Health Officer appointed by the Board of Health, I am duly authorized to prohibit public gatherings and take other measures necessary for the control of any and all infectious or contagious diseases.

In my capacity as the Geary County Local Health Officer, I have determined this Order is necessary to control the potential spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) within Geary County, Kansas, and to supplement all valid orders of the Governor regarding.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED the following actions shall be taken immediately, and Order 20200702 supersedes my Orders previously issued, with the exception of any continued prohibitions or restrictions ordered herein, and this Order supplements all valid orders of the Governor.

The Governor’s Statewide Stay at Home order was lifted. Actions taken so far have been successful in flattening the epidemic curve to prevent overwhelming our local health care system’s ability to care for the number of residents who might develop severe symptoms.

With full community cooperation, this proactive public health Order may minimize the impact of COVID-19 on our Geary County community.
Section One: Definitions

For purposes of this Order, Social Distancing is defined as follows: maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from every other person present at a location, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible (or using hand sanitizer), covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not into the hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.

A. For the purposes of this Order the phrase "public or mass gathering" is defined as any planned or spontaneous, public or private event or convening in which individuals are in one location and are unable to maintain a 6-foot distance between individuals (not including individuals who reside together or are family) with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity.

B. For the purpose of this Order, the phrase "special event" is defined as any event that intends to draw a crowd greater than 100 people and occurs less than 12 times a year.

Section Two: Restricted Activities

For purposes of this Order, individuals are ordered to restrict activities based upon my authority as the Local Health Officer. People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and people who are sick are urged to stay in their residence except as necessary to seek medical care.

A. MASS GATHERINGS

1. Mass gatherings of greater than 50 individuals that cannot properly social distance are prohibited.
B. BUSINESS RESTRICTIONS
Businesses and other locations that are open shall comply with the following additional restrictions:

1. Restaurants and bars shall exercise proper social distancing.

2. Any businesses or other locations found in non-compliance with this Order, or a source of significant disease outbreak, or as determined and notified by the Local Public Health Officer shall close.

C. BUSINESSES AND LOCATIONS
For purposes of this Order, all businesses and locations are required to take proactive measures to ensure compliance with Recommended Business Practices as published by the Centers for Disease Control and industry-specific guidance by trade groups. Nothing in this Order shall be interpreted to require that any business or location open if they choose not to.

D. SPECIAL EVENTS
Special Events shall comply with the following additional restrictions

1. The event organizer shall submit a Special Event Notification Form to the Geary County Public Health Department (GCPHD) no later than seven days prior to the start of the event.
   a. To receive a copy of this form, contact charles.martinez@gearycounty.org.

2. The event organizer shall develop an infection control plan with assistance from GCPHD to be approved by the Local Health Officer.
3. Any event found in non-compliance with this Order, or a source of significant
disease outbreak, or as determined and notified by the Local Public Health
Officer, shall close.

E. MASKS

After consideration of the conditions currently existing in Geary County, Kansas and consultation
with Medical Advisor the following recommendations are strongly encouraged:

1. All employees in or at any place of indoor public accommodation wear face coverings
in an area or while performing an activity which will necessarily involve close contact
or proximity to co-workers or the public where six (6) feet of separation is not feasible.

2. Customers utilizing barbershops, beauty salons or tattoo parlors are recommended to
wear a mask while receiving services.

3. Indoor public accommodation means workplace, any business, public facility, or public
transportation.

4. The following individuals are exempt from the recommendation to wear a face
covering:
   a. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing;
   b. Children younger than five (5) years old; and
   c. Children who are younger than two (2) years old should never wear face
      coverings due to the risk of suffocation.

5. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents
wearing a face covering. This includes, but is not limited to, persons with a medical
condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are
unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without
assistance.
6. These recommendations have been reviewed and endorsed by the Geary County Board of Health.

Section Three:
This Order is effective at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 3rd, 2020, and shall remain in effect for 14 days, or until amended, superseded, or rescinded.

This Order shall become effective July 3rd, 2020, and shall remain in effect for 14 days, or until amended, superseded, or rescinded in writing by the Geary County Local Health Officer or the Board of Geary County Commissioners, sitting as the Board of Health.

SO ORDERED, 2nd day of July 2020.

TAMMY A. VON BUSCH DVM, MPH
Geary County Health Officer