Hodgeman County Public Health Announcement

Released May 29, 2020

On May 26, 2020 the Governor vetoed House Bill 2054 and signed a new state disaster declaration. With the new declaration several executive orders have been made. These orders will not restrict businesses or movement of the population. This declaration will be in effect for the next two weeks with a special legislative session scheduled for June 3, 2020.

Due to the previous emergency order expiring, the Governor has declared that the health decisions for the county residents be ordered by the local authorities. Counties are encouraged to use the Ad Astra plan as a guidance to safely and effectively reopen the county while being aware of the health metrics not only in the local county but also in neighboring counties.

Hodgeman County **will not be ordering any restrictions at this time;** however, Dr. Kristie Clark, Hodgeman County Health Officer and the Health Department ask that you be mindful of the following **recommendations**:

1. Avoid socializing in person with groups of more than 45 individuals, especially in circumstances that do not allow for a physical distance of 6 feet or more between individuals or groups (note: this is not an occupancy limit for a particular building where social distancing can be practiced)
2. Wear masks while in public settings and maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet
3. Follow trade specific guidelines for their business which can be found at [www.covid.ks.gov](http://www.covid.ks.gov/)
4. Follow KDHE travel and quarantine guidelines when entering high risk areas.

At this time plans are being made to have the Hodgeman County Pool open the week of June 8th, Hodgeman County Recreation is making plans for summer sports, and Hodgeman County High School is working to schedule Graduation, and conditioning programs that would adhere to KSHSAA guidelines.

As our county reopens, please be mindful of the continual spread of this disease in our county and region. Large gatherings increase risk of exposure.

If you think you may have symptoms of Coronavirus or may have been exposed, please call your primary care provider or the local health department. Symptoms of COVID-19 can include any of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever, body aches, fatigue, headache, sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting as well as new smell and taste disorders.

Please check in with your family and friends who are isolated via phone, text, email or letter. Vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and those with chronic disease conditions should continue to stay at home. As always, please stay home if you are sick, diligently clean high contact surfaces, and continue to wash your hands frequently.

Thank you for all you do to keep us #HodgemanStrong

Jenette Schuette, RN, Adm. Hodgeman Co. Health Department

Dr. Kristie Clarke, Hodgeman County Health Officer