



# Kearny County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2020

To our Kearny County Community:

Thank you to everyone who has supported and encouraged our healthcare workers. It is so very much appreciated. I am proud to be a part of this community. We are at a crucial moment in the health of our community. Our cases continue to rise quickly, and we are seeing exponential increase in COVID19 cases throughout our region and state. The numbers included just confirm these 2 facts:

1. COVID-19 viral spread is at an all-time high in our county
2. Local and regional hospital resources are at or above capacity.

Please limit large gatherings. Please wear a mask. Please wash your hands. Please stay home when you are sick. Our actions as a community over the next few weeks will affect the course of the next month or even months. Because of the significant viral activity in our community, following these recommendations can have a major impact in lessening the spread of the virus. A vaccine is on the horizon, and early results in trials are encouraging. However, the vaccine is not available yet and will not be available soon enough to make a significant impact on our community during the fall and winter.

We can mitigate the spread of this virus, but we have to work together as a community to accomplish this. Please continue to show respect and preference to your family, friends, and neighbors.

Thanks and stay healthy.

Drew Miller, MD, FAAFP  
Kearny County Health Officer


Additionally, the Kearny County Commission passed a resolution in their meeting on Monday requiring masks to be worn in public. There is overwhelming evidence that wearing of masks reduces the risk of viral transmission and we are hopeful that by masks being required throughout the county we can decrease the rate of transmission and reduce the strain that the recent weeks have placed on the healthcare system.


The entire resolution can be found on the county website at [www.kearnycountykansas.com](http://www.kearnycountykansas.com) as well as in today's paper. Some of the key points in the resolution are:


- Masks are required in the following situations:
  - o Inside any indoor public space where structural barriers are not present
  - o In line and waiting to enter an indoor public place
  - o Obtaining services in a healthcare setting
  - o While outdoors in public spaces and unable to maintain a six-foot distance from non-household members
  - o Employees working in any space visited by customers, visitors, members of the public or co-workers
  - o Employees working in any space where food is prepared or packaged
  - o Customers, visitors or members of the public in a business

- Employees in any room or enclosed area where other people are present, excluding household members
- Civil penalties for violation include:
  - \$10 fine for first offense
  - \$25 fine for second offense
  - \$50 fine for third and subsequent offenses

This resolution officially goes into effect on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and will remain in effect until it is rescinded by the commission. It will be reviewed bi-weekly at the regular commission meetings to determine if the necessity for such an order remains.

 Drew Miller, MD  
Health Officer

 Amanda Peterson, RN  
Health Nurse

 Jerrad Webb, EMT-P  
Emergency Manager