

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2020

JOINT STATEMENT TO CITIZENS OF PRATT COUNTY REGARDING GOVERNOR'S AD ASTRA: A PLAN TO REOPEN KANSAS

Pratt County and the City of Pratt fully endorse Governor Laura Kelly's Executive Order 20-29 and encourage all business and industry partners to review the framework and follow their industry standards. The Pratt County Health Officer does not plan on adding any additional restrictions above and beyond the new requirements set forth in the Executive Order 20-29, which takes effect at 12:00 a.m. Monday, May 4, 2020. The Governor's framework, industry standards, and other guidance documents can be found at www.covid.ks.gov.

The Pratt County Health Department and Health Officer will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation. Our progress will be measured by monitoring our County's testing rates, area health care resources, COVID-19 hospitalizations, ability to contact trace, and availability of personal protective equipment. If we are successful with maintaining and/or decreasing positive cases, we will likely move on to the next phase. If we are unsuccessful with abiding by the framework set forth, we will be required to remain in our current phase and possibly have to go stricter with regulations.

Everyone has a responsibility to do their part in protecting the residents of Pratt County. At this time we strongly encourage everyone to wear a cloth mask when in public, telework when possible, maintain 6 feet of distance from others with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity, avoid socializing in person with groups of 10 or more, perform frequent hand hygiene, and minimize or eliminate non-essential travel. High risk individuals are advised to continue to stay home except when conducting essential functions. We also strongly discourage the use of self-serve beverage and food stations, such as buffets and fountain drinks. Playground equipment will remain closed during phase 1. The Governor's framework allows us to open Pratt County slowly and safely.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to the citizens of Pratt County for playing your part to protect the health and safety of our community during these trying times. Thank you.