



**Pratt County Health Department**  
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**NEWS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 2, 2020

**JOINT STATEMENT TO CITIZENS OF PRATT COUNTY  
REGARDING GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-52  
Requiring masks or other face coverings in public**

Pratt County under the advice of the Pratt County Health Officer encourage all citizens of Pratt County to follow, to the best of their ability, Governor Laura Kelly's 'Mask Order', Executive Order 20-52 released on Thursday July, 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Governor's executive orders and other guidance documents can be found at: <https://governor.kansas.gov/newsroom/executive-orders/>.

Executive Order No. 20-52 states; Effective at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 3, 2020, any person in Kansas shall cover their mouth and nose with a mask or other face covering when they are in the following situations:.

- a. Inside, or in line to enter, any indoor public space;
- b. Obtaining services from the healthcare sector in settings, including but not limited to, a hospital, pharmacy, medical clinic, laboratory, physician or dental office, veterinary clinic, or blood bank;
- c. Waiting for or riding on public transportation or while in a taxi, private car service, or ride-sharing vehicle;
- d. While outdoors in public spaces and unable to maintain a 6-foot distance between individuals (not including individuals who reside together) with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity.

All businesses or organizations in Kansas must require all employees, customers, visitors, members, or members of the public to wear a mask or other face covering when unable to maintain 6-foot of social distance. Please refer to the executive order document for a list of individuals who are considered exempt from wearing a mask or other face covering.

Violation of the Mask Order is a civil violation and not a crime. The criminal penalties previously attached to violations of an emergency order have been replaced with civil penalties that may be ordered by a court in a lawsuit filed by the county attorney. Enforcement policies, procedures and priorities lie with the county attorney, not with law enforcement agencies.

With an increase of positive cases throughout Kansas and an increase in events occurring within our county, we urge everyone to continue to proceed with caution. While attending events or gatherings, please follow recommendations put forth by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including social distancing, hand hygiene, and wearing masks in public when appropriate.

The Pratt County Health Department and Health Officer will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation. Our progress will be measured by monitoring Pratt County's testing rates, area health care resources, COVID-19 hospitalizations, ability to contact trace, and availability of personal protective equipment.

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. We're all in this together.

Thank you.