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**ORDER OF THE SEDGWICK COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH
OFFICER PROHIBITING PUBLIC GATHERINGS
(Issued under the Authority Granted by K.S.A. 65-119(a)
and Sedgwick County Charter Resolution No. 58)**

March 16, 2020

Applicable within the entirety of Sedgwick County, Kansas

The Sedgwick County Local Health Officer hereby issues the following prohibition or restriction regarding public gatherings in Sedgwick County:

All public gatherings in excess of fifty (50) attendees shall be prohibited or restricted within Sedgwick County.

For purposes of this order, the term “public gathering” includes any indoor or outdoor event that is likely to bring together 50 or more people at the same time in a single room or other confined or enclosed space, such as an auditorium, theater, stadium, arena, event center, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, restaurant, nightclub or bar, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.

“Public gatherings” would generally not include office space or residential buildings (apartments or people in separate hotel rooms), transit systems, grocery stores, shopping malls, hospitals and medical offices, as such situations generally involve a separation of people and interactions that are more transitory in nature.

The basis for this order is:

Novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious and contagious disease which has become a global pandemic that has resulted in severe health problems and death for thousands of individuals worldwide. While COVID-19 is not currently prevalent within Sedgwick County, such disease is prevalent and spreading in other parts of the United States and within other countries. Because of the nature of the aforementioned disease and the risks of such disease spreading during large public gatherings, such public gatherings would pose a risk to the public health, safety, and welfare of individuals within Sedgwick County. Therefore, this order is necessary to control the further introduction and spread of COVID-19 within Sedgwick County.

COVID-19 is typically spread in two ways: (1) between people who are in “close contact” with a person with a COVID-19 infection (the CDC has determined

“close contact” as being within about six feet for a prolonged period of time of 10 minutes or longer; and (2) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Large public gatherings with concentrated populations lead to a significant increase of close contact between attendees and also present heightened opportunities for coughs and sneezes to land upon and potentially infect many people within a single setting. Therefore, prohibiting and restricting public gatherings can reduce, slow, and in some cases even prevent the spread of COVID-19.

This order is consistent with the latest guidelines and best practices for public gatherings issued by the CDC.

Prohibiting and restricting public gatherings as indicated within this order will also help to reduce the possibility that the medical facilities within the region exceed their capacity to respond to both further spread of COVID-19 and ensure that such facilities attend to the regular medical needs of the region.

This order shall be effective as of 12:00 P.M., Monday, March 16, 2020. This order vacates and replaces the order from March 13, 2020. This order shall remain in effect until vacated by the Sedgwick County Local Health Officer.

Garold Minns
Sedgwick County Local Health Officer, M.D.

A copy of this order shall be published once in the official county newspaper and once in the Wichita Eagle.