

**1 July 2020**

**Montgomery County, KS Health Department and the Office of Emergency Management continue to recommend following the Governor's guidelines**

The Montgomery County, KS Health Dept. and Office of Emergency Management will continue to respect the governor's guidelines, including her orders relating to the wearing of masks. Montgomery County requests that all citizens abide by the governor's protocols.

- In addition, we continue to ask residents to exercise caution, including social distancing and avoiding mass gatherings when possible.
- Use personal hygiene strategies including handwashing, and avoid touching your face.
- If you feel ill, remain at home and speak to your medical provider as soon as possible.

This decision was in response to Kansas Governor L. Kelly announcing the following on Monday afternoon:

**Governor Laura Kelly Announces Masks Must be Worn Statewide**

**TOPEKA** –Governor Laura Kelly today announced that she will sign an Executive Order requiring that most Kansans in a public space must wear a mask, beginning 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 3.

“This is a simple, proactive step we can take to keep Kansans at work, get our kids back to school, and keep ourselves and our neighbors healthy,” Governor Kelly said. “Wearing a mask is not only safe – but it is necessary to avoid another shut down.

“Remember – my mask protects you, and your mask protects me,” Governor Kelly said. “We’re all in this together.”

Under the order, most Kansans must wear masks in stores and shops, restaurants, and in any situation in which social distancing of 6 feet cannot be maintained, including outside. The EO will be released on Thursday, and will provide specific guidance regarding under what circumstances masks must be worn.

“I know Kansans will have many questions about this order – and we will answer them when it is released later this week,” Governor Kelly said. “But by announcing the requirement today, people in our state will have the appropriate time to acquire the masks.”

The Kansas Attorney General's Office will work closely with officials in Governor Kelly's administration to ensure that the order complies with Kansas law.

The Montgomery County Health Dept. and Office of Emergency Management recommend that everyone living, working, and travelling in our County continue to follow the Governor's guidelines as a precaution. Persons or organizations that decline to encourage adherence to these guidelines assumes the risks and responsibility associated with that decision.

Montgomery County Health Dept and Office of Emergency Management request citizens to please not call 911 dispatch, law enforcement, the Health Dept or Emergency Management to report non-compliance. Law enforcement does not have the authority to enforce this Executive Order.

As Kansans, we must collectively continue to take precautions. State guidance continues to change in response to the overall pandemic situation. The County must also adapt as necessary to the changing environment and attempt to slow the spread of the COVID virus and its effects in these challenging times.

Please continue to watch the **Montgomery County Health Department and Emergency Management Facebook pages & the Montgomery County, KS - Government webpage** at : [facebook.com/MGCHD/](https://www.facebook.com/MGCHD/) , <https://www.facebook.com/> and [MGCountyKS.org](https://www.mgcountyks.org) for further updates.