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Johnson County WIC Services Now Available Without Physical Presence

Physical presence requirement waived effective Monday, March 23, 2020

JOHNSON COUNTY, KAN. (March 25, 2020) – During the COVID-19 pandemic, the WIC clinics in Johnson County continue to operate. Current participants will continue to receive WIC benefits and new applicants will be assessed, certified and issued benefits.

Clinic operating hours and staff availability will be subject to local and state orders related to the pandemic. Currently, the Johnson County WIC clinics are operating on the following days and times: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m-4:30 p.m.

Normally, participants and applicants of the program must be physically present to receive services. Effective Monday, March 23, 2020, the USDA and the Kansas State Agency waived the physical presence requirement. This waiver applies to areas in which WIC clinics have been closed to the public or in areas that are under a current stay at home order. The physical presence waiver will also be used for those persons who are under quarantine, whether voluntary or involuntary.

WIC appointments may now be conducted using telephone, computer and other technology. Clinic staff will assess and certify applicants for eligibility and will issue food benefits remotely to those determined eligible. Applicants and current participants should contact the WIC clinic to find out what options are available. In Johnson County call 913-826-1302.

Food benefits are purchased at approved grocery stores using an e-WIC card. Cards and program information may be issued to participants through a controlled physical pick up, such as a curbside pick-up process or cards and information may be mailed directly to participants.

WIC services include providing supplemental food benefits, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to health and social services. Currently, each woman and child receive healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables with a retail value of about \$37 per month and about \$41 per month respectively. Infants who are not breastfed

and receive infant formula receive infant formula with a retail value of approximately \$152 per month.

Additional details about the Kansas WIC Program can be found here: <http://www.kansaswic.org/families/>

Additional details about COVID-19 can be found here: www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus, www.jocogov.org/coronavirus

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