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Johnson County clarification on public health closures

JOHNSON COUNTY, KAN. (March 17, 2020) – The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment’s (JCDHE) on-going investigation has confirmed six out of 11 Johnson County COVID-19 cases were acquired locally and not through travel. This indicates that coronavirus is circulating in our community and not only coming in from other regions.

Johnson County Government has implemented a number of mitigation strategies to lessen the spread of the virus. Dr. Joseph LeMaster, JCDHE health officer, ordered the closing of all Johnson County schools. In a separate order, he closed restaurants, bars, taverns, clubs and movie theaters for 15 days, with the exception of carry-out, delivery and drive-throughs. Dr. LeMaster also limited the number of people at public gatherings to ten. These orders will be modified as necessary to enhance our mitigation strategies.

“When governors issue executive orders, they have to think about a state’s health and public safety as a whole,” said Dr. LeMaster. “Local public health officers in Kansas have statutory authority to implement mitigation strategies to protect the health of their communities, even when those strategies are more restrictive than those put in place by the Governor.”

Stay informed. Information changes frequently. For more information visit

www.cdc.gov/COVID19 or www.jocogov.org/coronavirus or

<http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/index.htm>

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