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April 8, 2021

Cowley County amends numbers for mass gatherings:

On May 26, 2020 Public Health protective measures were issued in Cowley County that restricted the size of activities in Cowley County in order to prevent the spread of disease and to respond to public health matters connected with the SARS-CoV2 virus: (COVID-19).

During the months that have passed we have been continually dealing with the ongoing pandemic within our local population. The viral outbreak which peaked in the months of November and December 2020 has begun to subside due to the use of effective public health measures and the vaccination of people to prevent the spread of the virus. In less that 180 days we have seen a reversal in the spread of the illness. During March 2021 we have witnessed the illness rate in Cowley County drop to levels below 5% of people being tested. Hopefully we can sustain this trend.

Warmer weather is again upon us and as such activities outdoors will increase during the weeks and months ahead. Public gatherings will be scheduled and barring any unforeseen events will occur.

ALL LOCAL, ORGANIZATIONAL OR BUSINESS RESTRICTIONS WHICH MAY BE MORE STRINGENT MUST BE FOLLOWED:

Effective Monday April 12, 2021, the numbers for the following activities in Cowley County outlined in the framework below are amended as follows:

In all situations it is recommended that individuals who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 use their discretion and personal risk tolerance to determine when the wearing of a mask or face covering is appropriate in public settings. Individuals who have not been vaccinated should continue to follow the more restrictive measures to protect themselves and others, by remaining home if ill, maintaining social distance in public, and wearing masks at all times while in public settings.

Mass Gatherings (outdoor events, i.e. concerts, park gatherings, open markets, etc.) the size limits will revert to the maximums allowed by the facility license or local regulations. Individuals are encouraged to continue to space appropriately and follow hygiene precautions.

Social Gatherings (indoors where appropriate space is available) to 60% of rated maximum occupancy rate of the building.

On-Site Operations (indoors) limited by the maximum occupancy for room size for normal operations.

It is extremely important that everyone understands that we are not risk free nor will we be for the foreseeable future. The effects of the expansion of activities in Cowley County will continue to be monitored closely. In the event that illness rates will again surge the Public Health Officer and the Health Department may need to take future actions to protect public health.

Thank you all for helping make Cowley County a safe place to live, work and raise a family.

Stay well,

Thomas Langer, MPA Public Health Officer

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