

Governor Limits Mass Gatherings to 10 Persons

Governor Laura Kelly today issued an Executive Order limiting public gatherings to 10 persons. She stated the order was based on updated information from the CDC and projections from KDHE that projected that COVID -19 cases would sharply rise in Kansas by the end of the month. The order contains an exclusion for funeral or memorial services or ceremonies as long as attendees can engage in appropriate social distancing. It should be noted that this is a state order limiting gatherings. Local units of Government can further restrict gatherings so we encourage you to check with your local counties or health departments to determine whether stricter requirements have been put in place in your communities.

The Governor did not go as far as to issue a statewide stay-at-home order but left it up to local governments since 89 counties are without any confirmed cases as of yesterday. Many counties have already issued stay-at-home orders. Check with your local county government to see if any such order has been issued that applies to you. Remember that your local government can institute restrictions that are more stringent than the Governor's directive and you must follow those rules.

Although it is up to each funeral home to determine how they will respond, the KFDA would recommend that you continue to keep attendance at a minimum and as close to 10 as possible. This is to protect your staff, families and the public. Limit attendance to immediate family if possible and keep attendance small enough to allow for social distancing. You can have a public service at a later date.

As you know, PPE is in big demand and supplies are limited. We have been informed that if you need PPE and are unable to obtain any, inform your local Department of Emergency Management. Make sure you have an order for the equipment. Tell them you have an order in and can't get any for the foreseeable future. Any distributions of PPE will start at that level.

Again the NFDA website, www.nfda.org/covid-19 is a great source of information on COVID-19 on transfers and embalming, visitations and funerals, as well as other topics. They also have many informative videos.

Stay safe and do not hesitate to contact the KFDA should you have any questions.