

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED AT [advisorygroup@plattehealth.com](mailto:advisorygroup@plattehealth.com)**

Sun 4/26/2020 4:50 PM

Why is there no small business representation in your new group?

Why aren't we following Clay County? They have more population than us?

If my voice even holds any weight, I am hoping you start opening up in a safe way. If you open your eyes, people are starting to congregate in parking lots, subdivisions, etc....all your doing is killing our economy. For those that are vulnerable stay isolated, for the rest, let's get back to business in a safe way.

Mark Piercey, Kansas City

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Sun 4/26/2020 7:33 PM

Are any of the members of the group mental health professionals? If not, the input of a mental health professional would be extremely important at this time.

Robert Williams, Parkville MO

Military Outreach Coordinator

Greater Kansas Chapter (Includes 11 Counties in Northwest Missouri); American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

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Mon 4/27/2020 9:35 AM

The Platte County Covid-19 Advisory Group is VERY poorly structured. It is heavily weighted towards Health Professionals and Government employees - all people who are currently still being paid by the way. This is unacceptable. There are 7 Health Department Employees or Board Members, 3 from School Districts, and at least one Riverside City employee. Why do you need 7 from the Health Department? Why 2 from Park Hill School District (and not 1), why 2 from area churches (and not 1), why 2 from Truman Medical Center and no one from St Luke's? What's missing from the Board? No City Mayors, No Chamber of Commerce, no Restaurateurs, no one from Walmart or Target or Home Depot or any large stores. Argosy Casino is there but that is the only representative at all for any hotels or restaurateurs (what is Pool & Pub - I can't find a business with that name anywhere), Argosy Casino is the ONLY representative from any of the top 10 non-government employers in the County. I have nothing against the Argosy, but would Platte County restaurant & hotel owners and the largest non-governmental employers like Adient, Yanfeng, Johnson Controls and KC Manufacturing pick the Argosy to be their only representative in front of this Advisory Group? I really doubt it. There is no one from the Aviation Department, and I can't find a single representative from any small business that has from 1 to 5 employees. There is no service industry representation (even though nearly all of them are out of work), and as best as I can tell no one who is newly unemployed as a result of the shutdown. How can this group exist without a representative from Kansas City Government? We don't know the ages of the representatives, either. This is a very important

piece of the Covid-19 puzzle because the data is showing that very few young people have serious problems with it. The CDC data as of 4/24/20 is showing that only 698 people under age 45 have died from Covid-19 nationwide (out of 3.27 million people). The Advisory Group should have very strong representation from the under 45 age group because it appears that they can safely return to work. A group that is heavily weighted towards the over 45 group will obviously (and properly) have a different point of view, but may not have the perspective to provide a proper balance. This Advisory Group does not properly represent the workforce of Platte County.

**Error in my email, please correct.**

I used the number 3.27 million, but the period should be removed. It is 327 million.

Please correct before posting the email in your records, or post this correction with it so that the wrong number is not promoted.

Steven Dillman, Parkville

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Mon 4/27/2020 10:22 AM

I am pleading with you to follow Clay County and the State of Missouri in ending the stay at home order! The Platte County cases do NOT justify prolonging the order and opening back up on May 3rd may very well save many small businesses. I also fear that the longer this closure continues the more people will die from stress related issues (heart failure, suicide, substance abuse, etc) and domestic & child abuse also goes up as unemployment numbers go up. If this continues the solution may have a higher mortality rate than the problem! The intent of the original shutdown was to flatten the curve, it has been flattened, it's time to get back to work!

The doctors & nurses I've spoken to here locally say they are NOT seeing the coronavirus cases they were expecting & the hospitals are a ghost town. I am stressed as I still have to do the same job I was doing before AND now I have to try to do it from home with 4 kids here who are now doing school from home & I'm worried about my husband & I losing our engineering jobs in the future when tax money for infrastructure projects disappear. We have been inundated with the dangers of the corona virus, while the media has not reported much about the devastation of an economic depression & how the continued closures may end up destroying more lives than they are saving. The intent of the original shutdown was to flatten the curve, it has been flattened, it's time to get back to work in my opinion!

Thank you,

Amy Owens, Parkville

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Mon 4/27/2020 10:22 AM

I would respectfully request that the Platte County Health Department put first and foremost the public health and safety. While I understand the economic toll, money can be replaced but human lives cannot. Also to be considered is that the economic toll will be much much higher if we fail to keep this virus contained and have a second wave before adequate safeguards can be put in place.

Siobhann Kathleen Williams, Parkville

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Mon 4/27/2020 12:07 PM

There is no verification of whether it is recommended for the public to wear masks during the reopening phase and for how long. Also continuing hand washing and/or wearing gloves. What are your recommendations. Thanks

Pat Dixon, Parkville Mini Golf

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Mon 4/27/2020 12:23 PM

I am concerned about the real human toll from this isolation. There are people in the community who are suffering from abuse or who are struggling with suicidal thoughts. We can see from the current statistics that these are on the rise.

Additionally, there are statistics that show that high unemployment causes the death rate to rise by about 10,000 per percent of unemployment nationally. with the current unemployment rate nearing 20 percent, that would be 200,000 people who will die from heart attack, stroke or the like from the stress of this situation.

One other concern I have is that I have been seeing that the more people isolate, the less our immune systems will be able to fight all diseases as the way a person's immunity is built is through fighting infections. As we isolate we are reducing our immunities and setting ourselves up for more illness in our communities.

Life is full of risks. I choose not to skydive because I believe the risk to be too high. I choose to drive and accept the risk of leaving my house because I need to work to help support my family. I believe the benefits outweigh the risks.

In my view, continuing to isolate is more risky than the alternative of going out in the world and allowing people to begin to try to get their lives back.

It's time to lift the stay at home orders.

Sandra Thomas, Kansas City

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Mon 4/27/2020 1:07 PM

I am writing to you today to ask for your consideration to reopen Platte County on May 4th, similar to Clay County and a few neighboring cities.

I own and operate a very small fitness center called 9Round Parkville. I have used my entire life savings to purchase and keep this small business operating. We have followed all guidance before the mandatory temporary closure, during the mandatory closure, as well as after we are allowed to reopen.

First and foremost, we had a company **Pure Air KC** come in and treat our facility. US Army Corps of Engineers has tested their process. **Pure Air KC** completely sanitized every surface of the entire facility including the ceiling, walls, floors, all equipment, inside the cabinet drawers, everything inside the cabinet drawers, and even the very bottom of shelves that no one touches using a dry fog. They followed the sanitation with another process that provides a 90-day protection from microbial growth on all surfaces. Here is the web address to the company <https://pureairkc.com/> and their response to treating COVID19 <https://pureairkc.com/corona/>.

I invested in this additional treatment because our members are like family to me. I know each and every one of our members and their fitness/health goals.

We are not like a big box gym like Planet Fitness or the Y. We only have 9 stations (or what we call rounds), limited equipment, and our members have their own gloves and hand wraps. I have a very detailed plan for when we reopen.

**Attached is our 31 page reopening plan.** If you do not trust attachments or have time to open, here some highlights.

- Signage outside facility outlining member requirements.
- No more than 10 people in facility which includes a trainer. Can be easily modified to limit the number of people to 4 or 5 or whatever number is deemed acceptable.
- Trainers must wear masks and gloves which will be provided by me. Trainers not allowed to work if any signs of illness.
- Mark off where members stand (6 feet apart) while working out with blue tape (can be easily seen because the floor is either black or red)
- Tape off items members not allowed to use
- Both front and back doors will be open for fresh air whenever possible
- Trainers required to sanitize any surfaces touched by member after they complete working out at the station. This is easily completed with the limited number of members and designated areas
- Additional cleaning during mid break closing times as well as end of day.

Please, please consider all impacts of the stay at home order. I have done my absolute best to maintain contact with my members while my small fitness center has been closed. I am in contact with some of my members every single day (yes, 7 days a week) since we temporary closed because I am concerned with not only their physical health but their **mental health**. When you have a member crying in front of you the day before we closed because as a single mother struggling with obesity and have been her only constant support over the past several months, I heart just aches that I am limited to helping. Over the past two years, we have developed a relationship with our members and they trust us.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Connie Revers, Parkville

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Mon 4/27/2020 4:00 PM

After following the data and evaluating the studies coming out of California indicating the covid-19 infection rate is far more expansive (meaning asymptomatic and mild cases are more prevalent) than current testing would indicate, putting the actual case fatality rate at 0.1-0.3, it is the plea of our household to re-open Platte County in accordance with state guidelines, rather than following the KC extension. I do not deny that the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions should continue to self-isolate (just as they should during peak flu season), but quarantining those who are healthy is detrimental, economically, psychologically, and physically. I hope decisions are made for our county based on the thorough examination of data and research, rather than fear and pressure. Those who are ready for life to resume should be given the freedom to do so.

Jessica Morgan, Riverside

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Mon 4/27/2020 11:07 PM

1. I would suggest that all postings of public information be made during business hours. It seems that some, if not all, information about this group was posted on a Saturday, April 25, 2020. Perhaps this was a re-post, and if so, when was this meeting date, and information about the attendees originally posted?
2. What is the predominant age group of this advisory council?
3. It appears that this group is weighted heavily toward the Retired, Governmental entities, and the "Essential" as opposed to the "Non-essential," which means that they are still bringing in an income. What are the income brackets of those making decisions? Is there a fair representation of our working youth (under 30)?
4. Finally, when providing "links.....that may be useful to Platte County (MO) Residents, Businesses...." etc., we should not be comparing Apples to Oranges. In other words, we should Not follow the guidance of the referenced New York City/State, North Carolina, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Illinois, nor California. Last I looked, we are doing better than they. Platte County data suggests that we should be following the MO State guidance.

Tamera Klausman, RN, BSN, Unincorporated Platte County

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Tue 4/28/2020 9:35 AM

Our county (Platte County) needs to open up for business! We have had only 7 Corona virus cases in the last 14 days. This stay home order was not to stop the spread, it was to slow it down and we have done that in Platte County. Mental health is also important and we need to get back to some for of "normalcy."

Thomas G. Becker, Platte County

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Tue 4/28/2020 1:45 PM

The long-term effects of panic, anxiety, and isolation FAR OUTWEIGH any virus infection. We have had ZERO deaths. It is time to re-open Platte County. This should NOT be a decision by the health department. This should be a decision made by all small businesses and citizens in Platte County. This is a FREE country. Government should NOT be allowed this type of over-reach for something like this. I implore you to open this County today. It should NEVER have been closed in the first place, but I realize we do what we do with the information we have at the time. This is not New York where there are 9 million people living within one square mile. If you care, and I mean truly care about the health and well being of the citizens of this County, you will open our beloved Platte County post haste! Why is this virus more important than the mental health of our citizens? The suicide rate, and the domestic violence incidents are climbing. You can't exchange our freedom by choosing one over the other. The government does not need to save my life. I will do that myself. I should be able to go to a restaurant if I so choose. I know the risks, and it is my constitutional right to do so. You know it, and so does every other red blooded American.

Please do the right thing, the only thing and open Platte County immediately.

Karen Rothermich

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Tue 4/28/2020 3:21 PM

I am writing to urge you to reopen our schools, businesses and public spaces before May 15

I'm sure that you're aware that your constituents are suffering immensely:

- Many are without employment and have no way to provide for themselves and their families. They live each day in constant worry.
- Some have had to close businesses that they poured their hearts and souls into building and sustaining. Their hopes and dreams have been shattered.
- Some have relatives who are elderly or fatally ill whom they can't visit and who will ultimately end up dying alone. This can lead to overwhelming grief and trauma.
- Some are not getting needed medical care, and others are being refused life-saving medical treatments by hospitals that are reserving medical supplies for COVID patients.
- Many are crippled with fear and anxiety over constant news reports about coronavirus, the possibility of death, and a shortage of hospital beds, supplies and treatments for those who fall ill.

Despair, depression and devastation are widespread — be it from job losses, isolation, a lack of support systems, the erosion of fundamental freedoms of healthy, law-abiding citizens, and uncertainty over what the future holds. Staggering unemployment statistics and the loss in GDP alone cannot measure the degree of mass human suffering and the devastating impact stay-at-home orders have had on the human spirit.

Projections by the Imperial College London — which were later retracted because they were vastly exaggerated — were used to justify the shutdown of our country, affecting the lives of hundreds of millions of healthy Americans. The model's authors went on to acknowledge that two-thirds of the people projected to die from COVID-19 would have died with or without the infection due to the vast prevalence of chronic disease and related co-morbidities. Citizens now know that the real numbers and risks from COVID-19 are dramatically different. As such, the proportionate government response must also be dramatically different.

It's extremely troubling that data upon which life-and-death decisions are being made is inaccurate and methodologically flawed. Both the US health statistics agency and the World Health Organization have announced that the certification of "deaths by COVID-19" requires zero proof that the virus is the cause of death. As a result, the official death statistics attributed to COVID-19 do not require cases to be positively confirmed through virus testing. Merely "suspected" cases of COVID-19 are being included in the official numbers.

I understand that your office holds very broad police powers during times of emergency. It is your responsibility to implement safety measures to protect all citizens during a declared emergency. In the best interest of our families and your voters, those powers must be used wisely. Public health policies are not intended to, nor will they ever be able to, provide individual or collective health. Public health policies have a proper role in society to shape a landscape conducive to achieving health: clean air; clean water; properly functioning sanitation systems; solid infrastructure; and education and resources on hygiene, nutrition and food preservation standards. It's not the government's role to guarantee health or to privilege certain lives over others. It is the government's role to protect voters' fundamental freedoms, including the freedom to worship and to provide for their families, without state interference.

Closing all schools and public spaces; closing all "non-essential" businesses; mandating that healthy, law-abiding citizens stay at home; and imposing other extreme measures has created widespread devastation. The more than 17 million people who have filed for unemployment over the past few weeks far surpasses anything we saw during the Great Recession of 2008 when 6.6 million people lost their jobs. The shutdown must end by May 1, when more than 26 million individuals are projected to be unemployed.

The constant perpetuation of the fear of grave sickness and death must be lifted to return communities back to a state of functioning.

I urge you to re-open our state's schools and businesses by May 4. Please implement commonsense policies to protect the vulnerable while restoring people's livelihoods and mitigating the real costs associated with shutting down schools and businesses. I implore you to allow healthy individuals to return to work so that our jobs, our economy and the well-being of men and women are not destroyed.

Thank you in advance for taking these bold steps and putting measures in place that serve the best interests of the people.

Dr. Brianna Murray  
Fountain City Family Chiropractic

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Tue 4/28/2020 3:39 PM  
Advisory Board:

I implore you to do the right thing for the county, our citizens, and our economy and amend the order back to May 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are no statistics to show the need for continuing this to May 15<sup>th</sup>. There have never been any metrics published by which the Health Dept. has made their decision. We have had minimal cases, more than half have recovered, and zero deaths. If the elderly/immune compromised want to shelter at home, then they can. Let the rest of us get back to work and open the economy back up!

This is decimating the Platte County economy, and also the mental health of its citizens. Why are there no mental health professionals on this advisory board? That's a significant factor here! People want to provide for their families, NOT be dependent on the government!

Why hasn't there been any discussion of the proven herd immunity factors for COVID? By keeping everyone locked in their houses, it all but guarantees a longer, protracted outbreak. We have flattened the curve, the hospitals are NOT nearly overwhelmed – in fact Children's Mercy and Truman have laid off a significant number of employees. Those were the 2 criteria for "staying home".

End this stay home order now!

Sharon Chambers, Parkville, MO

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Tue 4/28/2020 6:20 PM

I strongly urge this Committee to follow the well thought out recommendations of those who have already argued for the opening of Platte County including Steven Dillman, Amy Owens, Sandra Thomas, Connie Revers (good grief—put her in charge—she is obviously way ahead of most of the country in how to safely re-open a business) , Jessica Morgan and Tamera Klausman—and I am sure many others who will respond with ideas for opening up our County. Rather than repeat their excellent thoughts, I would add one more reason to re-open our County: this extreme lockdown and curtailing of nearly all personal freedoms is, and will continue to, long after this health scare is behind us widen the gap between the "haves" and "have nots". The children I encounter in my neighborhood have computers and parents to help them with their online school work, no worries about their next meal and have enjoyed much of their time off. Not a single one has told me he/she was sad they were having to stay home. While not ideal from anyone's standpoint, these children will highly likely suffer no long-term damage from this lockdown. Their counterparts in homes with no computers or internet, no parents who can help, food and other basic needs scarcities are just going to be further behind, once everyone gets back to school. I do not have to call our police department to know that domestic violence has increased—not a big surprise with the stresses imposed on already stressful lives by the lockdown. Sure, our vulnerable citizens may have to stay home longer, but the healthy ones—which are the vast majority in Platte County—should be allowed to begin opening up our businesses, schools and churches. Respectfully submitted,

Gwen Royle; Parkville, MO

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Wed 4/29/2020 9:14 AM

The revised stay-at-home order released yesterday by the Platte County Health Department doesn't go far enough towards reopening our economy and allowing people to start returning to normal life. Further, the facts regarding actual mortality and hospitalization rates among different age groups don't support any further restrictions for those under 65 without health issues and it's not clear why this order treats everyone the same when that's clearly not necessary. More specifically:

- Retail businesses are addressed, but what about office, industrial, services (salons, etc) and other types of businesses? Your order goes into detail about the definition of an "essential" business, but it doesn't specify in the order what different restrictions are placed on the non-essential businesses.
- Why are Target, Walmart, and other large retail stores allowed to operate without the 10% occupancy limit but other retail stores are not? These large stores have been full of shoppers throughout this entire situation and it has NOT lead to an increased outbreak.
- The mass gathering restrictions should differentiate between indoor and outdoor activities, like the Kansas guidelines that limit groups of 10 or more in confined and enclosed spaces (which, by the way, are set to completely expire on the 1st and Platte County's situation is much less severe than many KS counties).

Thank you for your efforts in this difficult time, but our way of life has been severely affected and it's time to reopen in a much bigger way.

Scott Fricker, Unincorporated Platte County

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Wed 4/29/2020 10:48 AM

I have read and re-read the new active order. I have a couple of comments/concerns:

Paragraph 6:

Why not adopt the policy that the state of Kansas has, which restricts mass gatherings only in confined areas. Outdoor events should not be restricted. Have you been to English Landing Park lately? There are always significantly more than 10 people gathered there and interaction is possible, whether spontaneous or scheduled. Have you been to any stores lately? There are ALWAYS more than 10 people assembled with the chance that interaction is possible.

Please re-think this.

Paragraph 9.3:

I don't even know what to say about this one. This, along with the new relaxed laws allowing restaurants to serve take-out drinks is a pretty big public health risk, if you ask me.

Thank you,

Kelly Fricker , Platte County

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Wed 4/29/2020 9:18 PM

The following two facts clearly show how wrong you are to force healthy working age to stay home.

1. ***Hospitalization rates by age group as reported by the CDC***. Only 10% of all those below the age of 65 that catch the virus are hospitalized, and this includes those with health issues. So what's the rate for healthy people below 65??? Here's the source. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e3.htm>

2. ***Total deaths by age*** in NYC as of April 14 as reported by the New York City Health Department. If you add up the total deaths for everyone under 65 w/out underlying conditions and those where the underlying condition isn't known, you get 303. That's 4% of the total deaths. At that point, there were about 200,000 cases in NY, so  $303/200,000 = .0015$ . That's just over 1/10th of 1% of healthy people under 65 that get the virus die. 1/10th of 1%! And that's only those that show enough symptoms to get tested. What about all those millions that are apparently asymptomatic? <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/coronavirus-age-sex-demographics/>

To summarize, 10% of healthy working age people that contract the virus are hospitalized, and only 1/10th of 1% of them actually die. So explain again why healthy people under the age of 65 have to stay home.

Scott Fricker

Resident, Unincorporated Platte County

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Sat 5/2/2020 9:29 AM

How disappointing to read the amendment to the already pusillanimous mini-lifting of restrictions on May 4, so that even less is allowed, and so it is "more in line with Kansas City's". Seriously??? What in Kansas City has any of us ever wanted to emulate? Kansas City is in a very different position than Platte County; obviously, this group bent to pressure from a vociferous minority bent on taking away everyone's liberties. What is worse, this board did not even have a reason to do so. We need some strong, pro-business, pro-rationality voices on this board, and a hearty dose of common sense.

Gwen Royle  
Parkville

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Tue 5/5/2020 9:46 AM

In regards to the phases and steps themselves, I recommend you take another look at making outdoor youth sports (including related outdoor sport camps) it's own category - based on the fact they are outdoors where I understand the spread of the virus is reduced. These activities are a key part of the social and recreational Summer-experiences for many of the children of our County. As written the best-case date for anything involving youth sports resuming appears to be mid-June (phase 2, step 3). Moving this date back just two weeks to June 1 would give the children a chance to have a semblance of a "season" of the sports they enjoy - this especially important after losing their collective fourth quarter (and related activities) at school. Restrict the spectators as you see fit, but let the children have their outdoor sports this Summer.

Jay Felton, Parkville

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Tue 5/5/2020 5:19 PM

I am extremely disappointed in all of the restrictions we are continuing to live under in Platte County. The numbers do NOT justify this. This is killing the Platte County economy as well as the mental health of our citizens! It is ridiculous that we still have to live with these restrictions when we've had NO deaths in Platte County. The Covid-19 numbers do not justify these continued closures. Please also let us open up the pools & let the kids get back to playing sports this summer. If people aren't comfortable going to the pool or out in public then they don't have to go, but it makes no sense to quarantine those of us who are healthy & it is having significant negative impacts on us psychologically, physically & economically! The intent of the original shutdown was to flatten the curve & it's been flattened, so please let us get back to work (& play). Continuing all of these restrictions is causing so much more harm (health & economic) than allowing us to get our lives back to 'normal'.

Thanks for listening!

Amy Owens, Parkville

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Tue 5/5/2020 5:31 PM

I don't think there is any appreciation by the advisory group of the reality of what these restrictions are having on the lives of the residents on Platte County and the country at large.

The purpose of these restrictions were to "flatten the curve" so that hospitals would not be overrun. It seems that we have now moved the goalposts and are now trying to "prevent anyone from getting sick."

The curve has been flattened. The hospitals have not been overrun. Allowing kids to start playing baseball, soccer and having their summer swim teams will have absolutely no effect on that.

The question you should be asking for every single restriction is "Do we really need to do this to the people of Platte County to protect the hospitals?" If the answer is no, then the restriction should be lifted immediately. If the answer is yes, then I would ask you to further consider how you came to that conclusion. Are these decisions based on the models that have been wrong by orders of magnitude? You should also ask do these restrictions even work? As scientists and medical professionals, look at Sweden, Germany, Georgia, Florida, South Dakota and ask yourselves honestly "Will the restriction we are forcing on the people of Platte County actually work?"

What purpose does robbing a year of summer sports from all of the children in the county serve? You do understand that is what will happen if you don't allow team sports practices to start soon (before June)?

Summer sports are for the most part outdoor sports whose participants are not in an at risk group and are easily avoid by those that are. Why are you punishing the kids? And, make no mistake you are.

I would also like you to rethink the swimming pool policy especially outdoor pools. What is the probability of transmitting this virus while in a sunny environment surrounded by chlorinated water?

It is time to give Platte County citizens the respect of managing our own affairs and making our own decisions.

I believe we should get back to "normal" immediately, but I am willing to continue to accept some restrictions provided they are reasonable and there is a reasonable timeline to lifting those restrictions. Currently, what is banned and for how long is unreasonable. I am sure it sounded good on paper, but in the real world with kids who are losing a year of their childhood to this. It is unacceptable.

Please rethink this plan.

Douglas Beatty, Kansas City

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Wed 5/6/2020 10:34 AM

First and foremost I would like to say that the safety of our participants are of utmost importance to us and we understand regulations.

We get the first notice that May 4<sup>th</sup> we could open, so we restructure and plan for that and then on May 5<sup>th</sup>, we get notice that we cannot open at all. Our organization takes a lot of planning and organizing and things do NOT happen overnight. So, we reorganize and try to accommodate meeting all specifications (I have attached the letter) except that we are a youth sports organization?

As a small business running youth sports and trying to survive, I think the fact that we cannot open, but

1. Restaurants can serve inside and you have people cooking their food?
2. Retail stores can open and everyone is touching everything?

3. Mass gatherings in indoor environments, whether spontaneous or scheduled, are limited to ten (10) people or ten percent (10%) of the facility's authorized fire or building code occupancy as set by local authorities, whichever is greater. In outdoor environments, mass gatherings of up to 50 people are allowed as long as Physical Distancing Requirements described in Paragraph 1. of this Order are met. Mass gatherings to which these restrictions apply continue to include religious and faith-based activities, services and gatherings; and non-faith based activities and gatherings, including all school graduations, weddings, wakes, funerals, and related receptions and are otherwise not exempted from this Order.

**Why can't we be under this order?**

4. Liquor stores?
5. Nail salons, hair salons?
6. Gyms and fitness facilities that no one knows who touches what, yet not youth sports.

We own our own facilities and have plans to totally monitor the buildings without the parents being inside. We were even planning on virtual games. So you can go out to eat, get your nails done, get your hair done, go to the liquor store and yet the youth cannot return to the sports that keep them active. Idle minds and bodies are not good for the youth of today.

I definitely think this needs to be reviewed. I would appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Thanks, Patty

Patty Reynolds, Platte County

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Thu 5/7/2020 8:57 AM

I agree with previous email concerning the lack of diversity on your advisory board. It is our small local businesses that are suffering so much I wonder how they will be able to withstand all the time frames set forth. I don't think the average person on the board can relate to the running of a small business. Why can't there be small business owners represented and for that matter just regular citizens. People who might have a better feel for the pulse of the community. People with children whose lives have been drastically altered! Their friends and school taken away from them. Now their sporting activities and access to a swimming pool taken away until at least mid June.

People are suffering. There's a lot of anger and depression out there. The longer we are closed the longer it will be before we begin to heal. Covid must be a consideration but people should be able to make their own decisions about their own safety.

On another matter it needs to be made VERY clear to our citizens that they are not required to wear a mask.

It is suggested. It doesn't work for everyone. Also, there is contradicting evidence on the usage of cloth masks. I found an article from NIH published in 2015 about medical issues arising from re-using cloth masks.

Concerns about them being sanitized properly and often enough. I wore one for a nail appt on Monday and not only could I not see because my glasses were constantly fogging up but it was difficult for me to breathe. When I got home I had a red bump close to my eye that lasted a few days. I wore a disposable that was given to me by the salon.

I do not plan to wear one again. I question the efficacy of wearing them anyway. Dr. Fauci said publicly that masks did not make a difference only to change his stance weeks later.

Please allow our community to open up sooner and let the citizens make their own decisions about their own health. I am sixty years old and I have never seen anything like the over reach we are seeing here.

All this for a death rate of approximately .03 percent of the people that actually get Covid! The math just doesn't justify what's happening to our economy and to the mental and physical health of our community.

Sincerely,

Kathy Place, Kansas City

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Sat 5/9/2020 8:00 AM

Could you explain to me in easy to understand language what changes were made in the 0.4 version? I can't find them without looking at the old copy word for word and looking at the new copy word for word. This is not an easy process and it should be. People are confused.

Making everything so difficult to understand is not encouraging businesses or community members to move forward. Getting back to making our own choices for ourselves are our businesses is the ONLY way we will survive this economically.

Those who work for the gov or have political connections don't have the same concerns as the rest of us. If you work for the government you're gonna get paid in perpetuity cause the gov always has money. They print it! Those with political connections will be able to help create a system they can navigate. It is the middle and middle lower income classes that will pay the price when inflation hits and those jobs don't come back!

Please give the people a fighting chance. OPEN up our county. It won't matter if we save a few lives if we lose many through depression, drug abuse, suicide, etc. Costs aren't just measured in physical death. So far our county has had 39 cases and zero deaths! No matter how long we keep our state shut down people will die when we open up. Approx 50,000 people die every single year from the flu. We hardly hear anything about that. Viruses will ALWAYS be with us. We can't close everything down and die a slow death every time a new virus hits. We are setting dangerous precedents right now. Every day we stay closed it will take us longer and longer to come back.

Kathy Place, Kansas City

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Mon 5/11/2020 3:22 PM

Tomorrow 5/12 is a week since the last update. When is the next meeting? When will those of us asking about youth sports going to get a response?

Per the Kansas City plan, youth activities may resume May 15th and it mentions no prohibition on youth sports.

You may be interested to know that there was a baseball tournament this past weekend near St. Louis in Missouri. [Watch Now: Area teams play baseball with social distancing guidelines](#)



**Watch Now: Area teams play baseball with social distancing guidelines**

Youth sports have been on hold since COVID-19 swept across Missouri and the nation, causing limits on social gat...

So, other areas of the state already have had leagues setup, practices completed and games played, but here in Platte County and Kansas City we aren't even allowed to practice?

Also, I just listened to the exchange between Commissioner Wood and Director Vernon during the last meeting on the topic of "what is the goal".

Director Vernon's response was very troubling. It is troubling because the person in charge of the response in Platte County does not even know what the goal of the operation was.

The goal was very clear. It was to "flatten the curve" so that hospitals would not be overrun. Can Director Vernon say with intellectual honesty and a clear conscience that we are in any danger at all of the happening here in Platte County or in the entire Kansas City Metro area of that matter?

I was also troubled at the inaccuracies and false statements that were made in her response.

At the next advisory group meeting (if there is one), can someone ask Director Vernon exactly which country it was that opened to soon and had to relock down as she claimed? Can she also go over the data

from Sweden which never locked down and from Georgia which began opening two weeks ago and explain based on actual numbers and science?

She also claimed that Platte County is doing what the entire country is doing. Can she explain how the radically different approaches of Florida, Georgia, Iowa, South Dakota, New York and California are actually the same? Also, how is it that Kansas and other parts of Missouri can allow youth sports teams to be practicing already and others starting next week? Can Director Vernon explain how it is my daughter's indoor competitive cheer team will be practicing next week in Kansas, but her outdoor swim team can't practice until mid-June at the earliest in this part Missouri? We are an island in a sea of areas "in the region" that are allowing youth sports. Can she explain that?

One last question, if Director Vernon is following the state guidelines more than the Kansas City guidelines, as someone stated, and youth sports teams in other parts of the state are already playing games, how is that our kids aren't allowed to even practice until Mid-June at the earliest?

It is time for these arbitrary policies to end. Platte County doesn't need to "go rogue". We can simply align with other parts of this state and our neighboring state rather than guidelines designed for someplace like New York or Washington state and give us back our lives and our freedom.

Thank you for your consideration (let them play)

Douglas Beatty, Kansas City

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Fri 5/15/2020 9:51 AM

Good morning,

As a Platte County resident, I am writing in support for easing the restrictions on outdoor activities and youth activities. It doesn't make sense to restrict outdoor activities when studies show the risk of transmission outdoors is very low, and in some studies they couldn't find any reported cases of transmission in the outdoor. The risk for healthy younger people is negligible and that is generally the targeted population by these restrictions. Those that are not comfortable going back in public are not forced to, but it should not be restricted for the general population. We have all been flattening the curve for months now - stay at home orders were meant to flatten the curve, not eradicate the disease and as you all know, those goal posts have been moved wildly over the past 2 months. There are inherent risks everyday and we have done our part to lessen its impact and thankfully it has not had a major impact in our immediate area. Please do not let what COULD happen & fear be the deciding factor in these guidelines and restrictions. Let the data be the guide - not just the # of cases, but also consider the mortality rate and rate of hospitalization in our area - we are NOT a NYC, thankfully, and we shouldn't be treated as such. People are at a breaking point and the "treatment" is more painful than the disease at this point - reduce these draconian & arbitrary restrictions, and let adults make decisions that are best for their families.

Thanks for listening to one concerned citizen's opinion!

Doni Edwards

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Tue 5/19/2020 9:54 AM

We will achieve herd immunity. The new number from the CDC death rate for those who get covid has dropped from WHO's 3.4 percent to .3! I believe it will continue to drop. This is the USA! We don't need gov officials knocking on doors and quarantining people. Isolating them. That's what was done in Germany. I am baffled that people think this is ok. It's not and never will be. It's ultimately I suppose the Health Dept.'s decision.... for now. People need to know that The Trustees as well Health Dept officials are elected! This whole thing represents government over reach like I have not seen in my lifetime.

Kathy Place