

Press Release

For Release: Immediately

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RENO COUNTY CHALLENGED TO "CUT-OFF COVID"

Reno County, Kansas - November 2, 2020 - COVID-19 cases continue to increase in Reno County, leading to stretched resources for county health facilities. Meanwhile, Reno County continues to have increased community contact due to holidays, business, and social gatherings. In response, the Reno County Health Department, along with city and area healthcare leaders, have created a 10-day challenge to bring awareness and jump start behaviors that curb the spread as we enter "respiratory illness" season.

"We have too many ill patients in our hospitals and not enough staff to take care of the critical care cases, something has to be done," states Interim Reno County Health Officer Karen Hammersmith. *"We want to keep businesses and schools open, so all citizens need to be intentional about their behaviors to get these numbers down."*

The **COVID Cut-Off Challenge** is set to run from November 4th through the 13th. This extended buffer week aims to limit in-person contact for 10 days. The challenge asks participants to:

- Wear a mask and distance themselves 6 feet at all times while in indoor spaces that aren't your home, plus maintain at least 6 feet outdoors.
- Wash and sanitize hands frequently.
- Work from home, if possible, and hold meetings online rather than in person.
- Continue to support local restaurants by getting take-out rather than dining in.
- Support local businesses by wearing a mask, social distancing when in person, and if possible, ordering online or by phone with curbside delivery.
- Continue to maintain healthy behaviors by keeping up with routine physician, dental and eye appointments.
- Maintain a balanced diet and routine exercise.

Each day of the challenge will feature an at-home activity such as DIY crafts, with some being sponsored by local businesses. Events planned for the COVID Cut-Off Challenge include a Lunchtime Lowdown with the Hutchinson Chamber on Wednesday, November 4th at 12:30 pm, and a live virtual town hall with area health professionals on Thursday, November 5th at 7:00 pm. The town hall will be shown on the Reno County Emergency Management Facebook page and the Reno County YouTube page.

Information on these events can be found at <http://www.covidcut-off.com>.

<https://www.facebook.com/RENOEMA>
<https://youtube.com/user/TheRenoCounty>

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