

RELIEF & RECOVERY

AGENDA

GET KANSANS BACK TO WORK

Kansas needs to quickly move from having criteria for “**essential businesses**” to a plan for “**safe businesses**” that allows all businesses to perform their functions in a manner completely safe for their employees, customers and society. The health status of geographic regions should be taken into consideration. There also should be specific protections for those most vulnerable based on age and/or health status.

Set Health Metrics The Kansas Department of Health Environment should set health metrics to ensure the state and our health care system are prepared and properly equipped. These metrics could include:

- ▶ Kansas hospitals can safely treat all patients requiring hospitalization, without resorting to crisis standards of care.
- ▶ Kansas can at least test everyone who has symptoms.
- ▶ Kansas can conduct monitoring of confirmed cases and contacts.
- ▶ Kansas experiences sustained reduction in cases for at least 14 days.

Get employees back to work safely Kansas should explore a program to safely certify people to return to work and to protect lives while not crippling our economy. One possibility is to allow employers and employees to be tested for COVID-19 antibodies. If a person tests positive for the antibody and is not in the middle

of an ongoing infection, the person is possibly immune and thus could return to work safely.

Allow “Non-Essential” Businesses to Open

Kansas businesses who meet “Safe Workplace Guidelines” should be allowed to reopen if they are able to operate safely. These guidelines could include asking businesses to:

- ▶ **Develop a response plan** Businesses with draft response plans will be prepared to react to changing federal and state recommendations, to educate employees and to respond if there is a positive test at the workplace.
- ▶ **Establish optional workplace protocols** Businesses with optional workplace protocols will be prepared to have employees work remotely if possible, to provide flexible shifts for onsite employees and to revise existing policies for the comfort and safety of employees.
- ▶ **Implement work zones** Businesses with work zones will be prepared to reduce an employee’s footprint when onsite and to keep teams separate to minimize possible spread of virus.
- ▶ **Establish Health Safety Protocols** Businesses with health safety protocols will be prepared to ensure common and workplace areas are cleaned and set up properly, to provide sick employees time off flexibility, to set up employee self-temperature monitoring and to communicate with employees about social distancing and health safety.