



Media Statement

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Kansas Hospitals Agree: It's Time to Reopen Responsibly

(April 30, 2020) – The Kansas Hospital Association welcomes Governor Laura Kelly's plan for a phased-in approach to the reopening of Kansas when the statewide stay-at-home order expires on Monday, May 4. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on our state's physical, mental and economic health. We agree that it is time to move responsibly and deliberately forward.

Gov. Kelly's plan recognizes that this health threat is not over, and it relies on guidance from public health experts. We agree with CMS Administrator Seema Verma that a responsible reopening will not be like flipping a light switch, but more like a gradual sunrise. Gov. Kelly's plan takes that path.

Importantly, with regard to hospitals and health care, Gov. Kelly's plan understands that decisions about increasing medically necessary but non-emergent care are best made by health care providers on a local basis. The reopening plan establishes a baseline for Kansas, but it depends on local providers to determine what is appropriate for their respective communities in providing safe, timely care to all patients.

We appreciate the collaborative process the Governor and her administration have taken in the development of the state reopening plan. Kansas hospitals stand ready to help as we begin its implementation.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 216 member facilities, of which 123 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA's vision is: "Optimal Health for Kansans."

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