Coronavirus Update
updated 3/23/2020

**SUMMARY:** Update regarding the current impact of Kansas City’s Stay-At-Home Order on Uplift Organization’s mobile outreach efforts to the homeless.

- Uplift will continue its operations with some additional new protocols
- Protocols from 3.13 update also remain in effect (see [www.uplift.org](http://www.uplift.org) to view)

Uplift Organization remains committed to our mission to take food and supplies to the homeless of Kansas City. The hearts and energy of you - our committed volunteers - continues to be a source of hope and love to many.

**STAY AT HOME ORDER**

As you know, the entire Kansas City metro area will be under a “stay at home order” effective at 12:01am Tuesday, March 24. Residents are required to stay home except for “essential activities” and “essential businesses”. Reference: [kcmo.gov coronavirus](http://kcmo.gov coronavirus)

Uplift Organization provides essential basic food service necessary for the economically disadvantaged and homeless community; so we are excluded from this order.

The homeless have been deeply impacted by this crisis. Many of the agencies that help these individuals have reduced their offerings or been forced to discontinue their services. This means the homeless have fewer places to receive food and essential supplies. Uplift is more essential now than ever before.
ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL CHANGES, EFFECTIVE MARCH 24, 2020

In these unprecedented times for Uplift, our primary goal is to serve the homeless and support our volunteers in a safe manner. To that end:

- We are reducing the number of volunteers (from five to three) on our trucks to minimize close proximity and risk.
- We have created and utilized social distancing procedures in our warehouse and at our stop locations that will remain intact for the foreseeable future.
- We are reducing the number of items we are serving on the trucks in order to reduce risk and human contact. We will focus simply on food, water, basic medical & hygiene items.
- We are currently not accepting clothing donations.
- We are only accepting large plastic bottles, candles, blankets, sleeping bags.
- Donation hours are listed on our website. Donors are asked to drop off items and not remain at the warehouse, in keeping with the stay at home order.

All of the above are in effort to minimize the handling of goods and minimize contact and risk to volunteers and the homeless.

VOLUNTEERS & DRIVERS

Our volunteers, cooks, and drivers should exercise their own judgment and discretion to remove themselves from the schedule and cancel their Uplift commitments if they have reason to do so.

- Many people have existing medical conditions or have someone in their care or household that is at higher risk.
- Some volunteers have critical workplace commitments that might preclude them from volunteering with Uplift.
- Others may be experiencing illness or symptoms and need to exercise caution by staying home.

As we navigate these unprecedented times, please keep in mind the tremendous network and kindness we have in one another. Thank you for your commitment to Uplift and those we serve, as well as for your patience and understanding.

Please feel free to reach out to Ross or Dan with any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

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