



Advocating for evidence-based policies and practices  
to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms.

**OMAHA COALITION MEETING**  
*Wednesday, May 13, 2020*  
*9 a.m.*

**A G E N D A**

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Review of the March 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes  
*(please contact PEM staff with corrections)*
- III. COVID-19 & Alcohol
  - a. Coalition Updates
  - b. Governor's Executive Orders 20-06 and 20-09
    - i. DUIs
    - ii. Detox services
    - iii. Treatment services
    - iv. Domestic violence
  - c. International response
  - d. UNL
    - i. Memorial Stadium
    - ii. ASUN
  - e. U.S. Alcohol Policy Alliance Webinar
- IV. Focus Area Updates
  - a. Policy
    - i. Legislative Update
    - ii. Legislative Tracking Sheet is available at [www.projectextramile.org](http://www.projectextramile.org)
    - iii. Op-Ed in the Sheridan County Journal Star
  - b. Enforcement
    - i. Alcohol retail compliance checks
    - ii. Douglas County DUI Task Force
  - c. Youth
    - i. Youth Leadership Council meetings
    - ii. Youth Leadership Training postponed
  - d. Awareness
    - i. May 2020 Research Summary available at [www.projectextramile.org](http://www.projectextramile.org)
- V. Additional Discussion/Announcements
- VI. Next Meeting Date: **June 10<sup>th</sup>, 9 am via Zoom**

## PROJECT EXTRA MILE

### OMAHA METRO AREA COALITION MEETING MINUTES March 11, 2020

- I. Call to Order: Project Extra Mile Executive Director Chris Wagner called the meeting to order at the National Safety Council, Nebraska at 9 a.m.
- II. Welcome and Introductions: Welcome and introductions took place around the room. Coalition members in attendance: Carey Pomykata, Lindsey Hankn, Russ Zeeb, Mandy Peth, Matt Kuhse, Rob Jones, Jim Timm, Clint Zost, Jason Thompson, Sharona Crittenden, Taylor Moore, Palistene Gray-Moore, and Mindy Anderson-Knott. Staff Members in attendance: Chris Wagner, Liene Topko, and Katy Kitrell.
- III. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the February 12, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved. No additions or corrections were made.
- IV. Review of SPF-PFS Year 1 Grant: Mindy Anderson-Knott of Schmeckle Research presented Project Extra Mile's first year progress of the SPF-PFS Grant.
  - a. Baseline data from 2018 showed youth in the area where more likely to use alcohol and marijuana than youth from across Nebraska. In the first year of the grant, PEM met many of their goals including checking 889 businesses with compliance checks (goal was 300), hosting a Law Enforcement Training, and hosting a Youth Leadership Training for the first time since 2015. Chris Wagner noted that an upcoming coalition meeting would discuss the results of the coalition capacity survey and ways to more effectively engage key partners in the community.
- V. Focus Area Updates:
  - a. Policy
    - i. Chris Wagner and Katy Kitrell informed the group about student council elections at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where the student group Progress have expressed a desire to make UNL a wet campus. Kitrell wrote the student council a letter stating the harms surrounding excessive drinking and how this decision affects the entire community, not just the students living on campus.
    - ii. Liene Topko updated the group on multiple liquor licenses that have raised community concerns, including All Nations Grocery, Family Dollar, and Reign Ultra Lounge. PEM will keep the group updated on these applications.
    - iii. Topko reminded the group that PEM Legislative Tracking Sheet is available at [www.projectextramile.org](http://www.projectextramile.org) and is updated daily.
  - b. Enforcement
    - i. The Omaha Law Enforcement Training was a success with 32 participants from Eastern Nebraska. PEM will host a second training in Kearney on Thursday, March 12 where 35 participants have registered.

- ii. Washington County compliance check were conducted on March 6th and all businesses checked passed. The PEM press released was provided in the coalition packet.

c. Youth

- i. Katy Kitrell gave a brief update on the Youth Leadership Council and the progress seen at the new East location, with 13 youth in attendance in February. The Westside Boys & Girls club partnership will continue through the remainder of the school year. Meetings will be held on April 14th and 16th.
- ii. Kitrell updated the coalition that the Youth Leadership Retreat dates have been set for July 14th-16th. National speaker Nigel Wrangham will be leading the training, aiding PEM in empowering students from across Nebraska to be leaders in their communities.

d. Awareness

- i. The March Research Summary 2020 was provided in the meeting packets.

VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date: The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 8th at 9 a.m. at the National Safety Council, Nebraska.

## Nebraska governor loosens liquor laws to help restaurants, bars during coronavirus concerns

Written by WOWT Staff

**LINCOLN, Neb. (WOWT)** -- The state of Nebraska is doing what it can to provide relief to restaurants and bars working to serve customers while adhering to social distancing mandates, particularly those that have been forced to close their dining areas.

Hours after the state ordered restrictions imposed on Douglas County on Wednesday be applied to three other Nebraska counties, Gov. Pete Ricketts on Thursday night signed an executive order giving restaurants and bars statewide more flexibility to serve alcohol to their patrons during the coronavirus health crisis.

The allowances include:

- **Liquor Licensing** -- Establishments such as pizza parlors (Class A license holders) will be able to sell beer to customers on take-out or delivery orders. Restaurants (Class I license holders) will be able to sell beer, wine, and spirits to customers placing take-out or delivery orders.
- **Sale of Alcohol** --To encourage social distancing, restaurants and bars will be permitted to sell alcohol on drive-thru or curbside orders without customers having to exit their motor vehicles.
- **Temporary Operating Permits** -- Temporary operating permits will be extended from 90 to 180 days.
- **Waiver of Excise Tax Penalties** -- Excise tax payees still have the duty to file and pay the excise tax according to statute. However, the executive order will waive penalties for late payments.
- **Payment of beer, wine, and spirit deliveries** -- Under normal circumstances, beer must be paid for upon delivery and wine and spirit deliveries must be paid within 30 days. The executive order will give restaurants and bars 90 days to pay for beer, wine, and spirit deliveries for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

## **Omaha Police see rise in domestic violence calls in March**

Written by WOWT Staff

**OMAHA, Neb. (WOWT)** -- Disturbances and domestic violence calls are up slightly over the last two weeks, according to the Omaha Police Department on Monday.

Crime data shows domestic violence calls in March were comparable to previous years.

2018 - 1,167 calls

2019 - 1,059 calls

2020 - 1,160 calls

Child abuse calls have gone down about 25 percent. This is due in part to schools being out, as they are the main source of reporting, according to authorities.

On March 20, the department announced officers would not respond to movable property damage accidents -- as a result, accident investigations are down.

Police are seeing fewer cars on the road and a decrease in driving under the influence arrests as bars are also closed.

There is an increase in aggravated assault reports compared to 2019.

Both officers and civilian staff with the department have begun wearing masks to slow the spread of the virus.

## Coronavirus is causing a rise in drug and alcohol relapses

Written by Alexandria Hein

As the nation gets more stringent about non-essential travel and bans on group gatherings to slow the spread of coronavirus, one expert says the pandemic may result in an unintended rise in drug and alcohol relapses among those who are in recovery.

“Yes, we are already starting to see an increase in relapses,” Dayry Hulkow, M.S., a primary therapist at Arete Recovery, a Delphi Behavioral Health Group facility, told Fox News.

Hulkow did not indicate how many relapses she had seen among clients, but according to the American Addiction Center, over 19.7 million Americans aged 12 and older battled a substance use disorder in 2017. About 74 percent of those individuals reported an alcohol use disorder, while 38 percent reported an illicit drug use disorder. Of those individuals, 8.5 million reported a mental health disorder in addition to a substance use disorder.

Mental health professionals have recently been speaking out about different ways to cope with isolation and anxiety regarding COVID-19, which can also act as triggers for those in recovery, especially when coupled with canceled Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings.

“Social support and active involvement in the program both play a huge role in recovery,” Hulkow said. “In the absence of these, ‘isolation’ and ‘emotional distress’ can be significant ‘triggers’ to relapse. Feelings of depression, anxiety, fear, uncertainty, loneliness and boredom can easily escalate particularly during this time.”

But, Hulkow said, there are still ways to lessen the risk, even in the days of social distancing and quarantine.

“Recovering individuals can utilize different ‘tools’ to cope during this time such as: staying virtually engaged in the program, reading recovery-oriented literature, practicing prayer and meditation, engaging in healthy hobbies when possible, journaling thoughts and feelings, completing arts and crafts projects, being creative and staying present,” she said.

And for those who have limited access to smartphones or other technology, Hulkow pointed out that there are still helplines and hotlines available to offer support, as well as workbooks available that support recovery and are still used by AA and NA. Hulkow also advised turning to resources offered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the National Institute on Drug Abuse for support.

She also added that those who are living with a person in recovery can help play a big role in supporting them.

“Supporters can contribute by creating a safe and healthy environment around the home; creating opportunities for open and honest communication and actively listening,” she said, adding that setting and maintaining clear boundaries as well as staying alert to notice warning signs of a potential relapse can also help.

Potential signs can be different for every individual, cautioned Hulkow, but she added that it’s often close friends and family who are the first to notice subtle changes in behavior that could signal oncoming trouble. Typical signs can include a change in attitude, loss of daily structure,

poor self-care, elevated stress, emotional reactivity, impulsive behavior, social isolation and physical symptoms of either intoxication or withdrawal.

“The person in recovery can benefit from maintaining a structured routine as ‘normal’ as possible,” Hulkow advised, adding that staying virtually connective to support friends, family, sponsors or others in recovery can also play an important role in staying on track.

Maintaining a healthy diet and practicing self-care like getting regular exercise and adequate sleep can also help, as well as finding a healthy outlet to relieve stress.

“This is a significant challenge for individuals recovering from alcohol and drug addiction,” Hulkow said, of social distancing and isolation. “It is important to find alternative ways to receive ongoing support during this time. AA/NA and other support groups have ‘virtual meetings’ available online. There are also other options to stay connected via social media as well as by telephone or email.”

## With economic concerns growing, Moos ramps up consideration of alcohol at Memorial Stadium

Written by Steven M. Sipple

Nebraska athletic director Bill Moos says he's an optimist by nature.

But his optimism surely is being tested at the moment.

As the coronavirus pandemic presents a range of challenges for leaders of various enterprises around the globe, Moos tries to meet those challenges head-on and even had a message recently for his senior staff in that regard.

"There's an opportunity here to implement things you ordinarily wouldn't implement, or would have trouble implementing, that could make us better," he told the Journal Star on Friday.

Asked what he had in mind, Moos said, "Maybe we need to trim our staff. Or maybe we need to start the conversation of — and I know I have to be careful with this one — alcohol in venues."

Yes, that includes Memorial Stadium as one possibility. He's been giving it increased thought, he said.

"You're going to start seeing multi-million dollar reductions in revenue streams, so dream up some new ones," he said.

His line of thinking makes sense, as the potential for a deep recession has athletic departments all over the country mulling budget alterations. Those departments have to consider the possibility of a very different-looking football season, which could mean anything from a shortened season with loss of home-game revenue to a delayed season to games played without fans.

As Moos noted, each Nebraska home game produces \$12 million in revenue, and that's without factoring in TV money.

"I challenged my staff to come to the table with four or five ideas of things we could implement that could make us better," he said. "You look at the last big recession, Nike cut its workforce, and its stock rose. They just didn't put their tail between their legs and walk around mopey-dopey; they looked for ways to improve.

"Look at Hy-Vee. They're advertising family meals for five bucks per person. What can we do? Maybe this is a time to start exploring pregame functions for football that are more family-oriented, or trying to make sure more younger families are coming to Memorial Stadium.

"Let's think of new things."

Moos understands that plenty of folks would be opposed to alcohol sales in Memorial Stadium. It's never been sold there for games. But introducing alcohol at the venue has been an ongoing conversation among leaders at the school in recent years.

"I know I'll get phone calls (from those opposed to it)," Moos said. "But if we're looking at losing the amount of money we could be losing, how can we work to make that up without cutting costs by dropping programs or eliminating positions in the department?"

"We can bring everything to the table and sort through it."

Although the vast majority of his staff is working from home, Moos was in his office Friday afternoon. The days are full, he said, because of the nature of the challenges his department potentially faces in coming months. We're essentially talking about unprecedented conversations.

For instance, ESPN college football analyst Kirk Herbstreit told ESPN Radio this week that he'll be "shocked" if college and professional football are played in 2020. Herbstreit said he thinks risk-averse college athletic directors will work to avoid the chance of a coronavirus breakout in the locker room — and campus in general.

Moos, though, keeps an open mind.

"Personally, as an optimist by nature, I think we will hit our peak and the virus will decline — and we can get back on track and back on schedule," he said. "I'm hopeful that will happen by mid-June, maybe late June at the latest. If that's the timeline, we'd probably have to do something to make up those lost spring practices — maybe in no pads or something."

Nebraska practiced twice earlier this month before the Big Ten shut down all organized team activities. Football teams are allotted 15 spring practices.

Meanwhile, Moos pushes forward mindful of new economic challenges. To wit: canceling March Madness will cost the NCAA about \$375 million that it would have distributed to 350 schools across the nation. There'll be other challenges for NU, Moos said.

Asked if his staff is working on contingency plans financially for a modified or canceled football season, Moos said, "We are with caution — and with no need to panic — communicating to our various department heads to start thinking about reduced budgets and what it would look like in each area. We want to be prepared in the event it would be something we need to look at.

"Any smart manager would do that regardless of what business you're in."

Asked if he thinks the pandemic will affect fundraising for the \$155 million training facility to be built near Memorial Stadium, Moos said, "We're cautious of that as well. We haven't heard that from donors. Our development people's charge during this time is to be communicating with our donors, especially our high-end donors, that we're in design and full-speed ahead.

"If we're going to pause at all, it'll be after design is complete."

Bottom line, Moos said, "We will have a plan for whatever happens and, of course, we're hoping that, first of all, life will get back to normal."

## Local View: Alcohol isn't a silver bullet

Written by Chris Wagner

Nebraska is the fifth-worst binge drinking state in the country according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – a statistic supported by the United Health Foundation's annual America's Health Rankings.

The CDC also identifies the city of Lincoln as the fourth-worst binge drinking city in the country. As a result, our state has some of the highest alcohol-related harms, including being the second-worst state for self-reported drinking and driving with 955 episodes per 1,000 population, a figure nearly twice the national average of 505.

Despite this, discussions are occurring to allow alcohol sales at Memorial Stadium, a move that will surely cement these rankings for many years to come.

COVID-19 has complicated our lives over the last month, and, based on Gov. Pete Ricketts' recent comments, that will continue for at least another month. These are difficult times that have negatively impacted a growing number of individuals, businesses and organizations, forcing Americans to face uncertain futures, including the University of Nebraska.

Shortly after his hiring as the UNL athletic director in 2017, Bill Moos was on record saying that Nebraska had no need for alcohol sales at Memorial Stadium, mostly due to our consecutive sellout streak – currently at 375 games.

The idea of adding alcohol sales resurfaced last week in response to the coronavirus and its economic impacts. In a column by Steven Sipple headlined "With economic concerns growing, Moos ramps up consideration of alcohol at Memorial Stadium," Moos suggests alcohol is one option that ought to be considered to make up for potential lost revenue.

On its face, it sounds like it could work. However, once one digs deeper into the substantial scientific research out there about how excessive alcohol consumption leads to increased rape, violence, impaired driving and cancer among other things, it begins to look like a very short-sighted view that completely ignores the harms that will be created in the community and paid for by taxpayers.

In its Sunday editorial on the topic, the Journal Star seemed only to be concerned with the University of Nebraska's lost revenue stream should the coronavirus epidemic not be resolved in time for football season.

The editorial board was eager to dismiss any harms as "perceived" unless those harms are measured in terms of lost alcohol sales at local restaurants and bars around the stadium. The arguments in favor of adding alcohol sales haven't changed, but now proponents are claiming the need is urgent due to the virus, despite no indication as to how it will impact college sports next fall.

On the contrary, the harms of alcohol in our state are real and measurable. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services noted in its 2017 epidemiological survey that alcohol was the sixth-most common cause of death in 2015 due to an estimated 703 alcohol-related deaths, 83 of which occurred on our roads according to NDOT Highway Safety Office statistics.

In addition, research shows that Nebraska has approximately \$1.2 billion in annual economic costs due to excessive alcohol consumption – \$491 million of which are paid for by Nebraska taxpayers.

So what does this have to do with alcohol sales to adults in Memorial Stadium and other venues that host college sports? Access matters. The best way to prevent underage and binge drinking and the harms that follow is to limit the availability of alcohol.

Right now, we have the best policy on this: Alcohol sales are not allowed. This policy needs to continue according to a 2007 report by U.S. Surgeon General and a 2012 report by the Task Force of the National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Both reports recommend restricting the sale of alcohol on campus and at facilities such as stadiums and arenas.

The University of Nebraska should be particularly interested in preventing alcohol-related harms given college drinking data collected by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

According to NIAAA, about 1,825 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die each year from alcohol-related unintentional injuries that include motor-vehicle crashes. Furthermore, 696,000 of college students are assaulted by a student who had been drinking, while 97,000 students experienced alcohol-related sexual assaults or date rape. Based on all the evidence, we urge the university to keep alcohol out of sports venues and off campus.

Let's do everything we can to ensure the health and safety of our students and communities.

## ASUN hosts Student Code of Conduct town hall, discusses new suggestions

Written by Becca Holladay

Jake Johnson, vice chancellor for student affairs, shared revisions made to the Student Code of Conduct at a public town hall-style meeting over Zoom Wednesday.

Led by President Roni Miller, the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska hosted the meeting, which took place at 6:30 p.m. Johnson presented a slideshow of changes made to the document since he discussed the code with the 2019-20 ASUN senate. Some of the changes included suggestions made by that previous senate, especially regarding alcohol and substance violations.

The 2019-20 senate body originally came up with a list of 13 changes they wanted to see made to the code, and, according to Miller, the working group made three of the suggested changes.

One change that Johnson said he knew students felt strongly about was the control the university has over off-campus activities, specifically illicit substance use. However, he said the working group was not comfortable removing the policies allowing for off-campus regulation.

According to Johnson, if that language were to be changed to only allow university regulation within the campus's geographical footprint, the university would be overlooking some students. It would not be able to hold students accountable for what happens in fraternity or sorority houses that the university doesn't own, he said, citing sexual misconduct as an example.

"We apply off-campus jurisdiction to sexual misconduct that occurs off-campus," he said. "And, for consistency's sake, it would be good for the regular code of conduct to still enable some off-campus jurisdiction."

The working team did change the language regarding students in the presence of alcohol. In the original draft, the policy stated that it was against the code for a student to knowingly be in the presence of alcohol while on campus or representing the university.

The group changed the policy to "when unauthorized alcohol is present," as Johnson explained there may be times when alcohol has been authorized while on campus or representing the university.

Graduate Student Assembly President Eric Rodene asked Johnson about whether students could get in trouble for violating the code of conduct if they were at a party and there was an illegal substance there but they did not use it. Johnson replied that while it is technically possible for a conduct officer to prosecute for that under the code, it was unlikely because the conduct officers have other behavior that they are more concerned with.

"Could it technically happen? Yes," Johnson said. "Do we have the time to invest in that effort? Probably not."

Johnson also said he views the university's handling of substance related circumstances as more of an issue of training university staff correctly rather than adding more policy. He said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department and the University Housing staff should be aware of what constitutes a violation.

Another change to the document is in regard to how students can handle an administrative disposition if they receive one. In the first draft, students had three days to either accept or deny the sanctions suggested by the conduct officer. If a student denied, their case went to the University Conduct Board.

In the newer version, students will have five days to accept or decline, and they may ask for an extended deadline.

Johnson said that while he had received feedback encouraging the university to not accept evidence that would not be accepted by a court of the law, he and his team did not feel comfortable equating a conduct hearing to the criminal justice system.

Johnson also said that while there is a university website that lists policies, procedures and information links consolidated into one place, he and his office will be working on pulling all the policies that address student conduct and posting them on a supplemental site.

ASUN will discuss these changes at a working meeting on Friday over Zoom, before voting to either pass the revised Student Code of Conduct or pass a list of suggestions on Wednesday, April 29, at 6:30 p.m. also over Zoom.

## Family Dollar's alcohol plans running into roadblocks in Nebraska

Written by Matt Olberding

Family Dollar's plan to add liquor to several stores in Nebraska has hit some major bumps in the road.

The discount retailer late last month withdrew liquor license applications for two stores in Omaha after community opposition led the Omaha City Council to recommend that the licenses be rejected.

A week earlier, the company withdrew its application for alcohol sales at its store at the Belmont Plaza shopping center near 11th Street and Cornhusker Highway in Lincoln. The Lincoln City Council had yet to vote on the application, so it's unclear why Family Dollar withdrew it.

However, during a public hearing on the application on Feb. 10, there were questions raised about the store's proximity to both a child care facility and a church, and there also was testimony from Cody Schmick, whose family owns Schmick's Market, about how Family Dollar's expansion into grocery items, including its pursuit of a liquor license, violated the terms of Schmick's lease.

Schmick's Market filed a lawsuit last month against the owner of Belmont Plaza over Family Dollar selling groceries, although alcohol sales were not specifically addressed in the suit.

Family Dollar has applied for roughly a dozen liquor licenses in cities large and small across the state, but it has yet to be issued a single one, said Hobert Rupe, executive director of the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission.

Rupe said he will be doing an administrative review of several of the license requests because of "issues" that he declined to specify. He did say, however, that administrative reviews are not unusual.

The Liquor Control Commission has the ultimate say over whether a license is granted, taking into account whether the requests get support at the local level.

The Columbus City Council approved a liquor license request for a Family Dollar store there on Feb. 17. According to the minutes of the meeting, there was no public testimony and the vote was unanimous.

It appears that city councils in Madison and Schuyler also approved license requests for Family Dollar stores in those towns.

But other cities have not been as welcoming. The city council in David City held a hearing Feb. 12 on a liquor license request for the Family Dollar store there, but it decided not to take a position on the application, Mayor Alan Zavodny said.

In Omaha, a groundswell of community opposition led the council to recommend against granting both liquor licenses applications, which were for stores that are in lower-income areas.

Many of the nearly 20 people who testified against the licenses said the areas already were saturated with businesses selling both on-sale and off-sale liquor.

According to media reports, Family Dollar also has faced strong opposition to selling liquor at its stores in Dayton, Ohio, and Louisville, Kentucky.

The company's effort to get liquor licenses in Nebraska is part of a strategy it announced last May to expand alcohol offerings to around 1,000 stores nationwide.

Family Dollar did not respond to a request for comment.

## Game and Parks approves plan to ban drinking at lakes McConaughy, Ogallala

Written by Associated Press

**HASTINGS** — The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has banned both alcohol possession and consumption at Lake McConaughy and neighboring Lake Ogallala in western Nebraska.

The commission voted Friday at its meeting in Hastings for the proposal, which affects only state-controlled areas. It's among several agreements the state worked out with local leaders to avert drastic cuts in access.

The commission had been considering access restrictions following complaints about overcrowding and rowdy behavior last Fourth of July. The proposed changes were meant to address the overcrowding on the lake's beaches.

But the commission delayed action in January after hundreds of people showed up for a hearing on the proposed rules. Most said they wanted more law enforcement and greater attention to checkpoints, not a crackdown to limit access.

The agreements call for local and state law enforcement to beef up their holiday presence. Local leaders will arrange more garbage pickups to relieve one burden on overwhelmed game and parks staffers.

Officials have said game and parks and a local advisory council will meet again after Labor Day to review the summer and consider whether more changes are needed before summer 2021.

## Alcohol sales banned in Greenland capital during lockdown

Written by Associated Press

The sale of alcohol has been banned in the Greenland capital, Nuuk, in an attempt to reduce violence against children during the period of confinement caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

“In such a situation, we have to take numerous measures to avoid infection,” the prime minister, Kim Kielsen, said on Saturday.

“But at the heart of my decision is the protection of children; they have to have a safe home.”

Nearly one in three people living in the autonomous Danish Arctic territory suffered sexual abuse during childhood. Experts link the abuse to alcohol, drugs and ignorance of children’s rights.

After Greenland closed down schools on Monday with 10 cases of coronavirus diagnosed, a rise in violence followed.

“Unfortunately, in Nuuk, domestic violence has been on the rise in recent weeks,” the health minister, Martha Abelsen, told local media. Excessive drinking by parents exposed children to dangers in the home, Greenlanders were warned.

The alcohol ban came into force on Saturday and is scheduled to last until 15 April.

Gatherings of more than 10 people have also been banned and air traffic halted to help fight the virus.

The restriction on alcohol also targets the slowing down of contamination rates. “People are less aware of the dangers of contamination when they drink alcohol,” the statement added.

The government says it is committed to eliminating the sexual abuse of minors by 2022.