

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 Local Briefing Notes

Non COVID-19 Related, but point of personal privilege:

Overland Park Police Officer Mike Mosher, who was killed while serving his community on Sunday, May 3rd, was laid to rest today. He leaves behind a wife, 12-year-old daughter, and many friends and colleagues. Please consider keeping all those grieving Officer Mosher's death, in your thoughts and prayers.

Locally

Cherokee County remains at 0 active positive cases. Since tracking started, Cherokee County has recorded 8 positive cases, but all have since recovered and are no longer considered contagious.

Betha and I have met with the Chief District Judge to discuss working to ensure compliance with Kansas Supreme Court Administrative Order 2020-PR-048, which is required prior to the public access to court proceedings resumes.

Statewide

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is reporting 7,468 total positive cases since tracking began. Included in that number are 704 hospitalizations and 164 deaths.

Brian Caskey from the Kansas Secretary of State's Office reported the release of 2.6 million in federal funds released to counties for securing PPE and other equipment needed to carry out upcoming elections.

KDHE updated their quarantine travel list. I am attaching a copy to this email.

There have been 88 outbreaks currently identified in Kansas. Long-Term Care Facilities comprised 26 of those (an increase in 4), group living has 3 outbreaks, church gatherings / meetings and conferences have 9 outbreaks, correctional facilities have 3 outbreaks and private industry has 44 identified outbreaks.

National Weather Service – Storms may develop in Oklahoma and try to get into SW Kansas later this afternoon, but the risk is small and should die off after sunset. Northern Kansas may see storms overnight tonight with the potential for hail. Tomorrow there may be traditional thunderstorms from a line spanning from KC to Wichita, but the primary concern at this time is flooding.

The state is unsure when the Governor will determine when to move onto Phase 2, but her Chief of Staff will be on the call tomorrow.

There was a question as to whether or not new inmate intakes have stopped at Kansas Department of Correction Facilities. They have not stopped, but slowed. In addition, mechanisms have been implemented to ensure quarantine.

Counties are not required to get an extension for their Local Disaster Declaration at this time, although it may be necessary in the future as mutual aid continues from state and federal partners. Counties could consider going ahead and having them extended for a period of 60 days.

Governor Kelly, in her press conference, spoke about the life and service of 61-year-old George “Bernie” Robare, who recently died as a result of contracting Coronavirus. Another Correctional Officer from Lansing has also passed away, although the officers’ identity is not being released publicly at this time.

The Kansas Department of Labor is working to implement safeguards for healthcare workers and first responders, who contract COVID, during the course of their duties.

The DOL continues to work on making retroactive payments as they also accept 150,000-250,000 calls per day. As a result of the high call volume, they continue to try to hire and train additional staff, along with encouraging claimants to use their website and file using the pre-described gating system.

Dr. Norman, in speaking about moving into Phase 2, said he couldn’t speak directly as to the date we move into Phase 2, but did say the state would have more complete knowledge by the end of the week because the data is always behind what is actually occurring that specific day.

Governor Kelly encouraged the Legislative Finance Council to extend the State Disaster Declaration. They are scheduled to meet later this afternoon.

John Hopkins University is reporting 1,370,460 confirmed total positive cases since tracking began.

Below is our local daily COVID-19 update.

Thanks!

Sheriff David Groves