

Thursday, April 2, 2020 Local Briefing Notes

Although the Kansas Department of Health and Environment map, through the link provided, shows 4 positive cases in Cherokee County, we have actually had five confirmed cases since test tracking began. The KDHE link is updated once a day and is not “real time.” As we have indicated before, one of those positive cases has since recovered. The two most recent Cherokee County cases involve a 61-year-old woman and a 62-year-old man.

As in the past, any time there is a positive test for infectious disease – whether it be COVID-19 or another type - health professionals with the Cherokee County Health Department conduct an infectious disease investigation and speak with those who have had recent contact – as defined for infectious disease investigations (not just merely walking by a person) - with those who have tested positive.

The state of Kansas is reporting 552 positives, including 138 hospitalizations, along with 13 deaths today. That is up from 482 positives, 114 hospitalizations and 10 deaths yesterday. There have been 6,059 negative tests ran by KDHE.

Locally, we anticipate another one of our Cherokee County cases to be cleared from isolation later this week.

During our local phone conference, Health Department Administrator Betha Elliott encouraged schools with playground equipment to consider taping them off or making efforts to sanitize them.

Columbus City Administrator Daniela Rivas stated playground equipment at city parks have been taped off, but the parks themselves are open so residents can utilize the walking tracks. City police have been patrolling the park areas to make sure there aren't large gatherings.

Cherokee County Ambulance Director Doug Mogle encouraged businesses who continue to operate under the KEFF to make sure there is adequate hand sanitizer accessible for their customers to use and also make efforts to sanitize door handles.

The Cherokee County Courthouse is locked but operating by appointments only. Citizens who wish to conduct business will have to call the individual office ahead of time and schedule an appointment before being escorted into the building.

Administrator Elliott is requesting anyone with transparency (as used in overhead projectors) contact Rebecca at the Cherokee County 911 / Mapping Office at 620-429-1645.

Baxter Springs Chief of Police reported that King Louie is manufacturing masks and gowns.

During our 1:00 conference call with the state, there were questions about KDHE reporting the number of positive cases who have recovered. KDHE didn't indicate this would be a high priority for them at this time.

It was also reported the National Strategic Stockpile is nearly depleted, but Kansas Department of Emergency Management Officials indicated that shouldn't impact them too much or cause a major disruption in the supply distribution.

Rather than posting the image below, as in the past, I will include a link to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment positive case map, which is the new format they are using.

If any of you need anything, please let me know.

Thanks,

Sheriff David Groves

Below you will find today's KDHE Daily Update. The KDHE update is generated once a day so it isn't real time.

Thanks for all you continue to do!

Sheriff David Groves