

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 Local Briefing Notes

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, as of the time of this email, is reporting 900 positive cases, which includes 223 hospitalizations and 27 deaths. They also report 8,614 negatives tests. This is up from 845 positive cases, 198 hospitalizations and 22 deaths reported yesterday. The positive cases come from 57 of the 105 counties.

This morning, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, which is comprised of local emergency responders, government representatives, area business leaders and organizations held their monthly meeting via Zoom. I will attach a draft copy of the minutes to this email.

During our 1:00 statewide conference call, they discussed Connecticut being added to the list of “high-risk” areas, meaning anyone traveling from Connecticut will be required to 14-day quarantine upon coming to Kansas. I am attaching a copy of that guidance.

They are still working out scenarios and guidance on how COVID-19 may impact upcoming elections.

The Kansas Department of Emergency Management is working on a survey tool to allow counties to submit, on a weekly basis, the burn rate of PPE’s.

There was discussion about COVID-19 related Workers Compensation for first responders infected during the course of their duties, but nothing final has been set.

The Army Corps of Engineers continues to asses, in consultation with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Kansas Department of Emergency Management in identifying alternative care sites across the state.

Also, this afternoon, Governor Kelly stated 25% of the positive case clusters being tracked by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment were due to community spread at religious gatherings. This contributed to her difficult decision today to issue Executive Order 20-18, measure brings religious gathering and funerals in line with previous orders. This will prohibit religious gatherings and funerals to fewer than 10 individuals at a time. In addition, clergy, parishioners and church staff must adhere to social distancing. This order takes effect on Wednesday, April 8th. The Governor encouraged clergy to embrace other methods to deliver religious messages, such as online or live-streaming.

The Governor indicated there were positive signs but there was still lots of work to do and it’s too early to speculate on when the Executive Orders may be lifted.

The Kansas Sheriffs’ Association has been working closely with Senator Moran on Personal Protective Equipment for First Responders. I’m attaching a copy of a letter sent from Senator Moran and other members of the Law Enforcement Caucus, to President Trump, urging him to make more PPE available to America’s First Responders.

I am also attaching a copy of Governor Kelly’s Executive Order 20-18 and the new travel advisory.

If you need anything, let me know.

Thanks,

Sheriff David Groves