

Thursday, April 9, 2020 Local Briefing Notes

Locally, we continue to have one active positive case, but all the rest have recovered and are no longer considered contagious.

Yesterday, at the time I sent the daily brief, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment had not yet updated their numbers online. However, during a press conference, Dr. Lee Norman reported 1,008 positive cases. Later in the day, the website was updated and yesterday's total positive cases in Kansas rose to 1,046.

As of early this afternoon, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment report 1,106 total positive cases in Kansas since tracking started. They also report today, 263 hospitalizations and 42 deaths.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has provided a written guidance on homemade masks and are encouraging Kansans not to leave their house unless necessary, but if you do, to wear a mask.

The Kansas Department of Education has requested to be notified if any school districts discontinue the student lunch program. Our districts in Cherokee County remain committed to providing this important service.

On the statewide call, there was a question about waiving the 2nd half property taxes from the May 10th deadline. There is no statutory authority for local governments to do that although some legislators are looking into the possibility.

Also, during the call, state partners remained unclear as to what implications yesterdays revocation by the Kansas Legislative Coordinating Council of EO 20-18 had. Although, they believe as of now, Executive Order 20-14 remains in place. I am attaching a copy of that EO.

Along those lines, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt has said, "As the dust settles, our assessment of the current situation is that Executive Order 20-14, the prior version of the 'mass gatherings' order, remains in effect because the new order rescinding it has not been published in the Kansas Register and therefore has not taken effect. We would be happy to consult with the governor's legal staff if they have a different view."

The state partners re-stated there is no need for travel documents to travel into or through Kansas.

They also re-stated cruise nights remained a local issue to determine. Kendra, with KDHE, advised Clay Britton, the Governor's Chief Counsel, has also previously stated as much, and as a result, they do not anticipate the issuance of written guidance regarding cruise nights from the state.

There continues to be an effort to provide work comp protections to first responders who contract COVID-19 during their duties.

Also, the Kansas Sheriff's Association has been working with the Kansas State Board of Nursing, who anticipates an influx of out of state nursing applications over the next two weeks.

As standard practice over the past 11 years, the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office has not charged nursing or teaching applicants to process their fingerprints. We will continue to complete the fingerprinting they need for application purposes at no charge.

Finally, KDHE has published guidance regarding waste water treatment plants. I am attaching that documentation.

During our 2:00 local video conference much of the information above was shared with local leaders.

Thanks,

Sheriff David Groves