

Thursday, March 26, 2020 Cherokee County Daily Briefing Notes

As of the time of this email, Cherokee County still has two confirmed COVID-19 cases, both of whom remain quarantined at their homes.

Statewide, there are 168 positive cases and three deaths. This is an increase from 126 positive cases and three deaths in Kansas reported yesterday.

During our 1:00 p.m. phone conference with the Kansas Department of Emergency Management, the following was discussed:

During a morning conference call with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Dr. Lee Norman stated they continue to look at ways to increase testing capabilities. In addition, they are bringing on new testing platforms online.

Further, KDHE will not give test results to people over the phone because they cannot confirm the callers' identity.

The KDHE Lab Director reported they have processed 1,400 samples since March 16, alone. Once they receive a sample, the turnaround time for a report back to the provider is one to two days.

During a call with Sheriff's from across the Western United States, some reported they were setting up field hospitals in their jurisdictions. The National Sheriff's Association is estimating the COVID-19 response for law enforcement alone with require 11 million masks, 23 million pairs of gloves and 20,000 gallons of concentrated sanitizing solution.

The Kansas Department on Aging and Disability Services reports being awarded \$2million in grants, which will be funneled through Area Agencies on Aging for the Senior Nutrition Program. This program is designed to provide meal deliver to seniors.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is recommending farmers to limit field burning.

KDHE continues to report there is no discussion on a state-level for a statewide "Stay at Home" order.

Locally, Bourbon County issued a "Stay at Home" order.

Freeman and Mercy Health Systems in Joplin report they will serve Cherokee County residents in their drive-thru testing location(s). They will have testing criteria, but less stringent than that of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

As always, if you need anything or have questions, please let me know.

Thanks,

Sheriff David Groves