

Monday, March 30, 2020 Cherokee County Daily Briefing Notes

As of the time of this email, Cherokee County has had three confirmed COVID-19 cases since testing began. Our first positive case, however, has met criteria set out by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and is no longer under isolation. The Cherokee County Health Department has been in contact with the newest positive and has conducted an infectious disease investigation, as they do any time there is an infectious disease in the county. As a result of their investigation, they have been able to make contact with all persons who have had recent direct contact with the patient, who is being identified as a 63-year-old Cherokee County man.

During the Board of County Commission Meeting, there was a question about churches holding services. Executive Order 20-14 (page 2, section c) exempts religious gatherings from the “mass gathering” prohibitions, so long as attendees can engage in appropriate social distancing. In addition, Executive Order 20—16 (page 6, section 12.a) allows for the performance or attendance to religious or faith-based services or activities.

During a call with the Governors Chief Legal Counsel Clay Britton and Chief of Staff Will Lawrence, they stated:

They are working through business inquiries and should start notifying businesses if they fall under the Kansas Essential Function Framework soon.

Questions raised and the answers are below:

Are “cruise nights” were allowed? They suggested it could be open to local interpretation as to whether or not it could be considered outdoor activity. However, social distancing and mass gathering requirements would still apply.

Are public viewings allowed? Yes, so long as the 10-person rule does is applied and social distancing is maintained.

Can local governments make the definition stricter than 10? Yes, they can make the mass gathering restrictions stronger but cannot deviate from the “Stay at Home” order issued by the Governor.

Are playgrounds exempt from the Executive Order? Playgrounds can remain open, if the entity controlling them (city, schools, etc...) allow them to remain open and everyone maintains social distancing.

Are restaurants and bars only allowed to be open for carryout / curbside pickup / delivery? Yes. They cannot be open for on premise consumption.

Can golf courses remain open? Yes so long as social distancing guidelines are met.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture said they are updating their written guidance(s) and will post them to the website, replacing outdated guidance.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism reported they will be notifying out of state turkey hunters and inform them, they may (depending on what state they travel from) be subject to a 14-day quarantine. They will be refunding those out of state hunters who request it.

They Chase State Lake has been closed, because it is technically owned by Chase County and they decided to close it. However, Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism does not intend or foresee any other lakes being closed.

The Kansas Department of Education stated teachers statewide are working to start implementing their continuous learning programs.

Regarding logistics from the State Emergency Command Center, they continue to process supply requests and fill them as they are able. There is a nationwide shortage of gloves, however.

Finally, although everyone has become accustomed to the 10-person rule, there was discussion about how it was worded, which is actually “prohibiting 10 or more people,” meaning no more than 9. The state is working to try to clarify that.

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

If you need anything, please let me know.

Thanks,

Sheriff David Groves