

Monday, May 4, 2020 Local Briefing Notes

Locally

Cherokee County has had 8 positive COVID-19 cases since tracking began. All have recovered and are no longer considered contagious.

Statewide

Today the Kansas Department of Health and Environment reported 5,245 positive cases, 553 hospitalizations, 136 deaths and 33,358 negative tests. These cases are in 82 of Kansas 105 counties.

During our afternoon call with the Kansas Emergency Operations Center, it was reported there have been 66 outbreaks identified resulting in 1,909 cases, 190 hospitalizations and 91 deaths.

In addition, KDHE is providing training for contact tracing volunteers and Local Health Departments are now able to request assistance from those volunteers, if needed.

Due to downed power-lines and storm damage, portions of I-70 has been closed today.

Numerous utility companies are reporting several thousand Kansas customers without power at the time, again due to this morning's storm.

The Kansas Department of Corrections provided an update on their facilities. There is 1 staff member positive from Lansing, 1 staff member from Topeka, 1 from Ellsworth, 1 from Norton and 1 from El Dorado. In addition, there have been 385 inmates test positive at Lansing and 2 inmates from Topeka. They have had 21 staff members recover and 52 offenders recover.

There were 120,000 meals delivered to Kansas Food Banks today.

Nationally

John Hopkins University is reporting 1,166,083 positive cases nationwide, with 67,913 deaths 180,303 recovered cases.

National Weather Service

Following the state EOC call, we had a call with the National Weather Service. Although not necessarily COVID-19 related, I wanted to include the information as situational awareness purposes for later today.

The estimated time of impact for our area is between 5:00pm-8:00pm. The storm has potential for 80 mph winds, up to 3" in diameter hail, and a tornado threat. These threats are particularly possible in Southeast Kansas and Southwest Missouri. In addition, there is potential for flash flooding due to heavy rains with rain fall rates from 1-2" at times and potential for localized 4"

of rainfall during the overnight hours and into tomorrow morning. Currently, the environment is starting to unfold, creating instability, which makes the threat of a tornado even more concerning. Based on information and data shown at the time, the potential threat for EF2 or EF3 rated tornado isn't out of the realm of possibility for portions of SEK and SWMO.

As with any storm, conditions can change, either becoming more or less severe. However, the NWS confidence level in the probability of a severe thunderstorm, which could include a tornado this afternoon, is 80%-85%.

Again, I know this isn't COVID-19 related, but wanted to provide the information as to the current thinking from the National Weather Service as of early this afternoon.

Below is our local daily COVID-19 update.

Thanks and have a good, safe afternoon!

Sheriff David Groves