

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 Cherokee County Daily Briefing Notes

As of the time of this email, there have been 482 positive COVID-19 cases in Kansas and 10 deaths statewide. This is up from 428 positive cases and 9 deaths in Kansas yesterday. Cherokee County has had three confirmed COVID-19 cases since testing began and as previously mentioned, one of those three cases has been cleared from isolation after meeting Kansas Department of Health and Environment Criteria.

During a phone conference with Dr. Anthony Fauci earlier today, he spoke about the importance of not pulling back on diligence when the slope / curve starts to head in the right direction. He encouraged American's to keep focusing on social distancing and proper hygiene, pointing out we are an extraordinary nation which has overcome challenges, such as World Wars and the Great Depression in the past and if the American people pull together and adhere to guidelines, we will get through this.

Also, during the call, Larry Cudlow, Special Advisor to the President, spoke about the key points for the economic assistance which was passed on a bi-partisan basis last week. The focus is on helping individuals and families get through this difficult time and meet their needs. The assistance will cover unpaid leave with rebate checks starting in the next couple of weeks. In addition, an increase in unemployment benefits of \$600.00 per week won't start for a few more weeks. Finally, he stated \$350 billion dollars earmarked to help small businesses will allow the Small Business Administration to approve loans to small businesses who continue to pay their employees (and if certain requirements are met the loan doesn't have to be re-paid). Through that same program, a payroll tax holiday until the end of the year has been approved.

On our 1:00 p.m. conference call, the Kansas Department of Labor reported updating their website to include all relevant information regarding the Emergency Paid Leave Act.

The Kansas Department of Commerce added a new "chat" feature on their website to help business owners obtain information regarding the SBA disaster loans.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment will be updating a "Map of COVID-19 In Kansas" on a daily basis and posting it on their website.

There have already been over 800 businesses send inquiries to [KEFF@ks.gov](mailto:KEFF@ks.gov) to check on their essential designation. The state is working on getting those checked and responses sent.

There was discussion on who (if anyone) would cover work comp issues for volunteer EMS personnel who contract COVID-19. It was stated it would likely be on the individual to prove they contracted it while performing EMS related duties.

The Kansas State Fire Marshals' Office reported they intend on conducting boiler inspections at schools starting next week, so long as state government employees are allowed to return to work. If not, they will schedule them on a case by case basis.

The state is looking into the possibility / feasibility of issuing some type of placard "Essential" Businesses can post on their doors to show they have been deemed essential. This is in response

to wide spread calls / complaints / tips about businesses operating when a resident doesn't believe they should be.

Locally, there is a small group who have been making protective shields using 3D printers. They need transparency (like those used in the past at schools utilizing overhead projectors). If anyone has any transparency, they are willing to allow to be used for this purpose, they can email me. Along this same line, if any of you need shields, please let me know along with how many. I'm not sure what their output capability will be (probably depends on the amount of transparency received), but will be happy to relay the request.

This afternoon, Governor Kelly announced, as planned, General Tafanelli's retirement took place today and General David Weishaar has been named the new Adjutant General of the State of Kansas. General Tafanelli has agreed to stay on as a Special Advisor to the Governor.

She also pointed out the current 482 positive cases in Kansas is spread among 41 of Kansas' 105 counties.

Dr. Lee Norman said they (KDHE) is working every supply chain they can to get adequate testing swabs. In the coming weeks, when they acquire the ability to process 10's of thousands of tests, they will be able to transition to population studies, essentially going from testing the sick to also testing those not exhibiting symptoms.

Through GPS tracking on cell phones they are able to determine we are not doing well with staying in place. On Monday, Kansas was given a "grade" of B and now are at a C, having 45 counties who have an F. Dr. Norman said uniformly across the state of Kansas we have to get serious about limiting travel.

Yesterday they distributed Personal Protective Equipment to 26 counties and anticipate distribution to 31 counties today.

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

Thanks for all you continue to do!

Sheriff David Groves