

Wednesday, March 25, 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.

There are 126 positive cases statewide with 3 confirmed deaths. There is a good link to track the statewide cases. The link is:

Jason, Betha and I were on a conference call with the U.S. Surgeon General earlier today. The General mentioned being halfway through the 15 day "Slow the Spread" movement and encouraged those who can, to donate blood, which is still allowable.

In addition, Dr. Peter Navarro stated FEMA and Health and Human Services continue to work on disseminating equipment and pharmaceuticals from the Strategic National Stockpile, on a daily basis. He mentioned Honeywell agreed to start manufacturing the N95 masks and will be able to produce an estimated 5 million masks a week starting in approximately 30 days.

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

Information regarding an upcoming webinar for EMS and Fire will be sent to Emergency Managers.

Response times to certain spill incidents across the state may be slower due to delays with contractors.

Residents can still fish and camp at state / public lands at this time. They remain open.

Secretary Norman's opinion on homemade masks remains they are better than nothing, but not his recommendation.

Written Decontamination Guidance for ambulances have been finalized and should be made available by the Board of EMS or on KDHE Website.

KDHE is vetting manufacturers abroad for Personal Protective Equipment procurement.

KDHE will continue to test samples provided prior to March 23rd, although the testing criteria for them has changed.

Cosmetology / Salon / Barber guidance has been put on KDHE Website. I will attach it to this email for your convenience.

The question was asked: How many "degrees of separation" requires quarantine. The answer is 1. So, if you have contact with a positive case, you need to be quarantined. If you have contact with a positive case and then you have contact with someone else, that someone else is not expected to quarantine, just you.

Many factors come into play with regards to the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment, such as counties with positive cases, and the requesting entity, such as healthcare and public health have priority.

Kansas Department of Transportation has changed state message boards to promote COVID related safety messages.

In the rumor category, it was said there has been discussion about an increase in deaths related to COVID-19 patients who also have Ibuprofen in their system. **“That is a rumor. It is not true.”** The World Health Organization nor the FDA are encouraging people to avoid Ibuprofen.

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

Thanks,

Sheriff David Groves