

Wednesday, September 2, 2020 Local Briefing Notes

Locally

Since tracking began locally on March 18, 2020, Cherokee County has had 255 positive cases. On Tuesday, September 1st, 2020, there were 38 active cases in our county. Two of our residents, who had tested positive for Covid-19, have died during the course of the pandemic.

Cherokee County has a positive case rate of 13.1 per 1,000 residents and a test rate of 107.0 per 1,000 residents, having had 2,133 residents tested, according to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The Cherokee County SPARK (Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas) local task force has recently submitted their program plan to the state recovery office. The state initially set a self-imposed deadline of September 15th to approve / disapprove county spending plans, but recent indications are that deadline may be moved up.

Statewide

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is reporting 43,940 positive cases since tracking began. That includes 2,361 hospitalizations and 458 deaths. KDHE also reports 375,307 negative tests.

There are 178 active “clusters” across the state (528 outbreaks since tracking began). The breakdown includes:

- Private businesses- 35 active
- Long-Term care facilities – 50 active
- Social gatherings – 20 active
- Daycare – 3 active
- Meat packing plants – 8 active
- Healthcare facilities – 10 active
- Group Homes – 10 active
- Sports – 7 active
- School – 3 active
- College / University – 23 active
- Corrections – 7 active

Nationwide / Worldwide

This afternoon, members of the Cherokee County Covid-19 Health Team participated in a phone conference with the White House.

Dr. Deborah Birx: Reported a 35% decline in hospitalizations along with a 20% decline in mortality across the country. Of continued concern are large gatherings, especially with Labor

Day Weekend celebrations. She continued to urge gatherings remain small, people to socially distant and wear masks. In addition, she encourages university leadership to have a plan to surge testing when they start to see indicators of an outbreak. Dr. Birx has been traveling across the Midwest significantly recently, meeting with other health officials and governors. She notes they have seen progress, especially when we take efforts to control the spread by socially distancing, avoiding large gatherings and wearing masks.

Admiral Brett Giroir – Health and Human Services: The Admiral reported 85.5 million tests have been concluded in United States. Recently there has been a 5.1% positivity rate, which shows a trend of decreasing. Test turnaround times continue to improve as well with 97.9% tests being returned within 5 days, having an average of 2.7 days. They anticipate another 1.2 million testing in nursing homes (with a CMS waiver) by the end of next week. Plans are in place to distribute 150 million Abbott Laboratories rapid tests to states where school are re-opening, with a great majority being turned over to Governors.

Under Secretary Ted McKinney, US Department of Agriculture: President Trump and the USDA have announced \$19 billion in direct payments to farmers, in an effort to keep food flowing worldwide. \$3 billion of the 19, will go towards helping farmers provide food directly to “food boxes” in the communities. They have just recently been able to add liquid milk to those food boxes. They are utilizing those who are otherwise out of work to help with the food box distribution.

Director Jim Carroll, National Drug Control Policy: They have been working with the CDC to address concerns by first responders in the administration of Naloxan on those experiencing a drug overdose. A one-page document has been released to assist first responders.

John Hopkins University reports 25,816,820 COVID-19 cases worldwide since tracking began. This includes 858,381 deaths reported globally. Domestically, they report 78,996,632 tests completed with 6,086,747 positives, which includes 184,974 deaths. There have been 2,202,682 recoveries in the U.S.

Thanks!
Sheriff David Groves