

## Wednesday, May 6, 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**

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment are reporting 5,458 positive cases since tracking began. Included in that number are 566 hospitalizations and 137 deaths. These cases span 82 of Kansas' 105 counties. They also report 34,634 negative tests. They also report Cherokee County having a test rate of 8.48 per 1,000 residents, 169 tests completed.

During our daily call with the Kansas Emergency Operations Center, the following was discussed:

Kansas Department of Corrections continues testing their inmate population and manage the positive cases within their facilities.

The United Way reported they have been allocated \$768,000.00 for emergency food and shelter in Kansas.

It was noted some stores are limiting meat purchases, but it is mainly to prevent over buying.

There was a question about the National Guard or KHP offering assistance to support Supreme Court Administrative Order 2020-PR-048, in order for the courts to reopen. The assistance would be in the form of taking temperatures, providing PPE, etc... for those entering the courtrooms. They will look into this possibility.

It was stated, regarding Driver's Ed, students can go ahead and take the test online but the driving portion will have to be done during the "Phase Out" section of the Ad Astra Plan.

The question of baseball practice was asked again. According to the Governor's Office, the answer is no. Pursuant to the Ad Astra Plan, organized sports team can not begin practicing in Phase One. They may begin practicing Phase Two, at the same phase when organized sporting facilities are allowed. This does not prevent individuals from engaging in outdoor activities as long as they can maintain social distancing (playing catch, etc.). The goal of this provision is to limit the spread of disease by preventing large teams from congregating together to play sports in which physical distancing is not possible.

### **Nationally**

This morning we participated in a conference call with the White House to receive an update regarding the COVID-19 response. A brief summary of those discussions are:

**Senior Assistant to the President Kelly Anne Conway** discussed the importance of protecting vulnerable populations, specifically seniors and residents of long-term care facility. She said the President is committed to setting up a Coronavirus Long Term Facility Commission, to ensure senior citizens remain safe and have access to resources, such as PPE, during the pandemic.

This week they will finalize a new rule this week regarding nursing homes reporting testing directly to the CDC.

They are also encouraging Governors who are re-opening their states economies to prioritize safety for seniors, as laid out in the CDC / White House Re-Opening plan.

One billion dollars in grant funding will be made available to assist seniors who are unable to get out of their homes to obtain essential services.

**Deputy Health and Human Service Secretary Eric Hargan** stated there are nearly 80 clinical trials going on right now and scientists continue to work on new and innovative methods of testing. The \$100,000,000,000.00 dollars provided by the CARES Act is being used to help healthcare providers, especially in those areas hardest hit with over \$50,000,000,000.00 already dispersed.

There is also a concerted effort to provide financial assistance to rural healthcare providers with funds starting to be dispersed later today.

**Brian Morgenstern, Assistant Secretary of the United States Treasury** updated on the CARES Act. The Treasury Department has been trying to get relief out as quickly as possible. They are currently working to support the airline and cargo industries. Average loan size under Phase 2 is \$80,000.00 which indicates to them, the loans are actually getting to small businesses. Assistant Secretary Morgenstern answered several questions regarding funds to governments. He stated there is flexibility in many of the funds but no requirement for a state to transfer funds to a county or a county transfer funds to a city.

**Department of Education Deputy Secretary Mick Zais** – The Department of Education has been working to support college and university students to ensure education could continue online. The grant funds are available for course materials, food, housing, childcare and healthcare, among other things. Additional funds were made available directly to higher education institutions with many of the institutions turning down taxpayer money and instead using funds / donations already available to them.

They have also provided financial support and flexibility to states to allow for distance education. Funds also made available through the CARES Act is going to help address learning needs for the next school year. Additional information about resources available through the Department of Education can be found at [ed.gov-coronavirus](https://ed.gov-coronavirus) or questions can be emailed to [Covid-19@ed.gov](mailto:Covid-19@ed.gov)

**John Pallasch, Assistant Secretary for Employment of Training from U.S. Department of Labor**, reported there are two main components of the Department of Labor's assistance. The

Family First Act provided one billion dollars in administrative funding which is being distributed to states. In addition, the CARES Act allows for benefits to self-employed, contract or 'gig' workers. They are currently providing technical assistance to states in order to stand up those programs across the country.

**Chris James, Field Operations for the Small Business Administration** - Funds through Farm Coops were made available starting yesterday. In addition, \$181 billion dollars in loans have been made available for small businesses. There are currently more than double the number of lenders in the program, from community banks, credit unions and large banks, as well. Fourteen years' worth of PPE loans in the first fourteen days have been made.  
Chris

The Administration continues to work closely with the nation's governors and last week held the 18<sup>th</sup> Governor's only call between them, Vice President Pence and the Senior Leadership Team. The call lasted just over two hours as they worked on state specific and national solutions.

**John Hopkins University** reports 1,206,323 positive cases nationwide with 71,152 deaths and 189,791 recovered cases. This is up from 1,181,855 positive cases nationwide, 69,079 deaths and 187,180 recovered cases reported yesterday.

Below is our local daily COVID-19 update.

Thanks and have a safe afternoon!

Sheriff David Groves