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City-Cowley County  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 12, 2020

### **Public Exposure to COVID-19 at Local Public Swimming Pool**

The City Cowley County Health Department has learned the following information and wished to share this with the Arkansas City, KS community.

A fourteen (14) year old female who splits residence with custodial parents in both Sedgwick and Cowley counties was experiencing symptoms of illness on Friday June 5, 2020 while in Sedgewick, County. Her mother took the child to a local private care clinic and during the visit had a test sample taken for COVID-19 which was processed by the clinic's contracted private laboratory.

Wednesday evening, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the clinic informed the family in Sedgwick County that the test results were positive for COVID-19. The Sedgwick County Health Department has confirmed that they now have results for the patient and are sharing those with us.

During the week of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the child came to Arkansas City to visit her other parent. While in Arkansas City and before the results of the testing were known the child interacted socially with friends and the community at large including a visit to the public pool on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. It is also reported that the mother of the girl has contacted a parent(s) of the girl's friends where she participated in a sleepover during the week possibly exposing friends there.

This social activity has likely exposed several people to COVID-19 in the Arkansas City community. The failure to heed the instructions and warnings of public health guidance and medical instructions is evidenced here. A person who is tested **MUST** remain quarantined with family members until such time as the results are known. This did not happen.

The Arkansas City community is upset as evidenced by the comments and calls made over social media and to the health department.

Families that believe they may have been exposed are required to isolate themselves at home for the next 48 hours.

(continued)

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On Monday June 15, 2020 the City Cowley County Health Department will open a drive through testing lane from 1:00 PM till 4:00 PM and schedule times for Arkansas City residents to be tested. It will take two (2) to three (3) days for the results to be known. This testing will be performed at no cost to the families. Anyone who is tested **MUST** remain in isolation until the test results are known. To schedule a test(s) you must call 620-221-1430. The testing will occur at the Winfield Health Department Office.

If residents wish to contact their private health care providers for testing, they should do so. Anyone in the community that feels they are experiencing symptoms and needs assistance should contact their health care provider.

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