

320 E. 9th Suite B
Winfield, KS 67156
Phone: (620) 221-1430
Fax: (620) 221-0389



City-Cowley County
Health Department

115 E. Radio Lane
Arkansas City, KS 67005
Phone: (620) 442-3260
Fax: (620) 442-1759

Contact: Thomas Langer
Cowley County Public Health Officer
Health Department Administrator
620-221-1430
Email: tlanger@cowleycounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 22, 2021

County Wide COVID-19 Update

The City-Cowley County Health Department monitors the health of county residents. The following is a weekly update to inform the community of the current status of the COVID-19 pandemic in Cowley County.

The October cases rose by fifty (50) this past week which continues to indicate a downward trend locally. As of October 22, 2021, the Health Department is tracking seventy-one (71) active cases.

LOCAL SCHOOLS:

The health and safety of children in our community remains our highest priority. In order for children to be in school they must be healthy. Everyone remains in agreement that families want children to be in school in person and benefit from classroom learning. We need everyone to work together to make sure that the school year is successful. Local school districts are continuing to work to minimize the spread of all illnesses especially COVID-19 by conducting screening and testing daily. Please remember to not send a sick child to school for any reason. If a family member becomes ill with COVID-19 every family member **MUST** quarantine if they are not vaccinated or have natural immunity from a previously documented case of COVID-19. The ill person(s) **MUST** isolate for a minimum of 10 (ten) days.

You should always contact the Health Department or your local physician for specific guidance about how to deal with the illness in your home. The most important thing to remember is to not spread the illness to others.

The same care and process must be followed if you have a child in daycare.

COVID-19 TESTING:

If you develop symptoms of illness of any kind you are encouraged to be tested. The Health Department continues to offer rapid antigen testing in our daily drive-up lane. The antigen test detects proteins from the virus that causes COVID-19 which are present in the respiratory system. Test results are generally available within 15 minutes following sample processing. Results of the tests are transmitted to people through a text message or an email. These tests are quick and a good tool to identify people with illness. We will also continue to offer PCR testing



which is more sensitive and definitive in confirming the presence of COVID-19. If you have illness symptoms and need testing please call the office and we will provide you details for when the testing lane will be open each day.

COWLEY COUNTY ILLNESS REPORT BY THE NUMBERS:

The positivity rate for the last week was 8.91% which is down from the 11.75% of the previous week. This continuing fluctuation (movement up and down) is not uncommon.

A comparison of the overall rates of infection in the non-vaccinated and vaccinated populations (see table below) illustrates the significant trend in illness spread.

Since March 31, 2021	Number of Cases	Percent of total
All cases	1672	100%
Vaccinated (break through)	159	9.5%
Non-Vaccinated	1513	90.5%

Month to month new case information is presented numerically in the tables below:

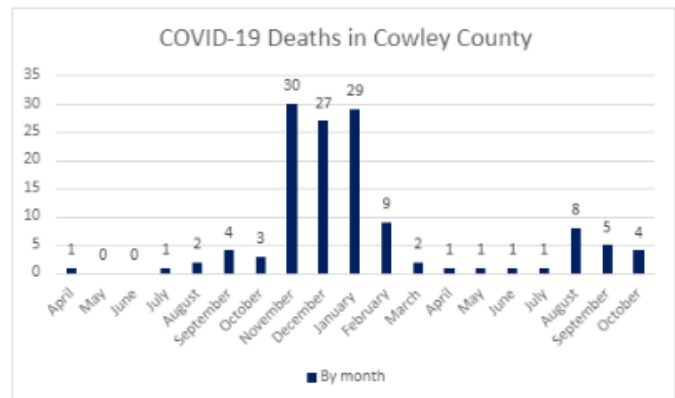
Month/Year	New Cases
April 2021	47
May 2021	56
June 2021	28
July 2021	153
August 2021	488
September 2021	592
October 2021* to date	308

COVID-19 Break through Cases	
May	2
June	2
July	25
August	50
September	45
October	34
TOTAL	159

BT Cases by Age	
12-18	5
19-35	20
36-60	65
60+	69
Total	159

BT Cases by Vaccine	
Moderna	87
Pfizer	50
Janssen	22
Total	159

Since the start of the pandemic, 5571 Cowley County residents have been confirmed as positive for COVID-19. Two (2) additional deaths occurred in Cowley County last week. One hundred twenty-four (126) Cowley County residents have died from complications related to COVID-19 infection since March of 2020.



320 E. 9th Suite B
Winfield, KS 67156
Phone: (620) 221-1430
Fax: (620) 221-0389



City-Cowley County
Health Department

115 E. Radio Lane
Arkansas City, KS 67005
Phone: (620) 442-3260
Fax: (620) 442-1759

Cowley County, remains identified as an area where infection is considered widespread. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has updated their reporting of the ongoing pandemic for the state and individual counties including weekly county rankings. You can visit their website for more data: <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/160/COVID-19-in-Kansas> .

OTHER COVID-19 NEWS:

Final approval was provided today for Moderna mRNA booster doses. We are scheduling appointments for people that want to receive a boost dose.

Jensen (J&J) received approval as well for boost doses. We are also creating appointments for people that wish to receive those vaccinations.

The Pfizer mRNA vaccine in pediatric doses for children ages 5 to 12 will be arriving next week. We will be scheduling vaccinations for families starting next week.

All vaccines will be available at both health department offices and will be offered to residents through various in house and on-site clinics over the next several weeks.

As the Public Health Officer, I highly endorse the use of vaccines to prevent and stop the spread of illness. I realize people have differing points of view on this matter. I am happy to talk to anyone about their concerns of any vaccine and explain the reasons I believe the COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. I will respect and take into consideration the decisions of individuals. As I have stated previously the virus does not listen to news reports or follow social media. The virus does not discriminate and knows no political ideology. It will continue to evolve and seek out a host that is unprotected in order to spread. Current data indicates a strong correlation that indicates that if you are not vaccinated your risk of infection from COVID-19 is significantly higher than if you were vaccinated. I hope that you look at what is happening locally and base your decisions about your health, including vaccinations, on those facts.

PERSONAL CARE AND ILLNESS PREVENTION:

Influenza season is upon us. The Health Department urges everyone to roll up the sleeve and take the flu vaccine to reduce the rate of illness in the County. Prevention is a top priority for us, and it seems likely that we will not be spared influenza cases this season as our personal activity levels are back to normal for most people.

Remember your individual health status is vital in combating illness of all kinds. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle includes eating nutritious foods, maintaining a healthy body weight, staying physically active, drinking plenty of water and getting adequate rest.

320 E. 9th Suite B
Winfield, KS 67156
Phone: (620) 221-1430
Fax: (620) 221-0389



City-Cowley County
Health Department

115 E. Radio Lane
Arkansas City, KS 67005
Phone: (620) 442-3260
Fax: (620) 442-1759

For as long as the pandemic persists Cowley County residents are advised to take all necessary precautions to prevent the contraction and spread of ANY illness.

- Stay home if you feel ill.
- If you develop any symptoms of illness, be tested to determine if you are infected and to seek medical help.
- Wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer.
- Wear a mask in enclosed places if required to do so or if you so desire.
- Avoid crowds and large social gatherings if you believe those settings are a risk for you.
- You **MUST** stay home and isolate from others if you are ill so you will not spread the virus or any other illness to others.
- Please be kind and respectful of others.

Halloween and Arkalalah occur next week! One year ago, we experienced an early season winter storm that dumped icy rain upon us. The following weekend was Halloween and the month that followed resulted in over 1000 COVID cases and 30 deaths. We do not anticipate that happening again, but we are mindful of how rapidly conditions can and often do change.

We will NOT issue an update next Friday – instead we will provide an update on Monday November 1, 2021. Until then we hope you all remains healthy and safe!

Stay well.