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City-Cowley County
Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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County COVID-19 Cases near 400 – additional death reported.

The City - Cowley County Health Department continues to test exposed or symptomatic residents for COVID-19 in the community. The months of August and September were especially busy as 115 and 114 new cases were discovered during those months respectively.

The Public Health Officer received notification yesterday of an additional death attributed to COVID-19. An Arkansas City woman in her 70's became ill in mid-September and required hospitalization in a regional facility. She passed away less than one week later due to her illness complications. It is uncertain if she had any pre-existing conditions. Since the death occurred in a regional hospital outside of Cowley County the notification to the local health department was made through normal channels by the State Health Department. This fatality brings the total count of deaths directly attributed to COVID-19 to 9 since the beginning of the pandemic in March.

Observation of the frequency of new cases in the county indicates minor improvement. During the first seven days of September 2020, twenty-one (21) new cases were identified. During the same period in October, sixteen (16) new cases were found. A baseline for new cases in Cowley County is approximately 2.5 new cases per day or seventy-five (75) new cases per month.

Contact tracing and disease investigation continues to indicate that the spread of the COVID-19 virus is through person to person close contact in social settings or congregate groups – especially in family units and group home settings. County schools have had cases emerge, but the individuals affected both juvenile and adult have been rapidly identified and isolated. The school operation during a pandemic protocol has allowed the infected individuals to recover and return as appropriate. Groups or clusters of infections have been generally minor and linked to specific activities like sports or social activities. To date there have not been widespread large groups (more than ten (10) people connected to any infections.

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Cases continue to be closely monitored in Cowley County. The Health Department is offering the following data to help illustrate the illness activity levels to date.

Total Cases	Male	Female			
391	182	209			
Location	67005	67008	67146	67156	Other
	266	8	11	101	5
Ethnicity	Hispanic/Latino	Not Hispanic	Other		
	184	168	39		
Age Distribution	0-17	18-35	36-55	56-72	73+
	30	158	127	51	25
CL Infection Rate	Total Tests	Total Cases	KS Rate		
7.1%	5454	391	11.7%		

The data indicates that there has been significant normalizing of the infection rate in the community based upon ethnicity since July. The Arkansas City community continues to have a higher incidence rate (68%) than Winfield (26%) and the rest of the County (6%).

The Health Department continues to urge that you do everything you can to avoid contracting the virus. If you feel ill, stay home do not continue to go to work or interact in the community, (i.e. shopping, social interactions) and spread the virus to others. Unless you are in a family setting you are advised to treat every person you come in contact with as potentially being ill. Observe appropriate social distance, wear a mask when in areas where people are gathered and wash and sanitize your hands often. If you develop symptoms of illness contact the Health Department and get tested.

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