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City-Cowley County
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 6, 2021

County Wide COVID-19 Update

The City-Cowley County Health Department continues to monitor the health of our county residents and the ongoing cases of COVID-19 locally. The following is a weekly update to inform the community of the current status of the pandemic in Cowley County.

I would again like to thank all of our county residents that have chosen to be vaccinated. We have in stock all three vaccines, Moderna, Pfizer and J&J for those who would like more information please call us and we can discuss any concerns you may have and arrange a vaccination visit for if you so desire.

During the past week 95 new cases have been recorded in Cowley County all of those cases remain active as of today. 25% of the new cases are connected to an outbreak in a local long term care facility. Requests for testing are holding stable based on data received from local testing providers indicates that 258 people were tested during the week. The crude infection rate for the week has climbed to 37%.

Nine (9) of the new COVID-19 cases, (9%) are identified as “break-through” cases occurring in people who previously acquired immunity through infection or were properly vaccinated. Eighty-six (86) cases have occurred in people who were not vaccinated and have no known immunity.

Local hospitals and physicians remain busy in treating COVID-19 patients. The Delta variant remains the dominant cause of current infections.

Earlier this week the FDA announced the emergency use authorization for use of monoclonal antibody drugs for the early treatment of COVID-19 cases in hospital settings. These drugs mimic human antibodies and surround spike proteins in the body which does not allow the spike proteins to attach and spread infection to host human cells. The use of monoclonal drug therapies is not new or experimental. This type of treatment has been used in treating cancer patients and people with other life-threatening illnesses such as HIV for decades. The current use of monoclonal therapy for COVID-19 IS NOT a cure, nor is it a replacement for vaccination. It is an additional treatment that can be used by physicians when treating newly diagnosed patients, especially those at high risk, with confirmed COVID-19.

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If the infection rate continues at the current pace we could see as many as 450 new cases in August 2021, which could be a new monthly high for the year to date.

For the sake of comparison, we will chart and post the monthly numbers in the chart below:

Month/Year		New Cases
April	2021	47
May	2021	56
June	2021	28
July	2021	153
August	2021	95

As was expected Cowley County, along with most all counties in Kansas, has been identified as an area where infection is currently widespread and spreading. Community members are advised to take all necessary precautions including frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer, wearing of a mask if so desired, avoidance of crowds - especially people unknown to you. You are also reminded to stay home and isolate from others if you develop any symptoms of illness, be tested to determine if you are infected and to seek medical help if you are ill.

The Cowley County Fair concluded this past Monday, to date we have not seen a larger than expected number of new cases associated with that event. We will continue to monitor for any cases connected to the event for an additional week.

Remember the virus does not discriminate. It will seek out a host that is unprotected in order to spread. Current data indicates that if you are not vaccinated your risk of infection is 10 times higher than if you were vaccinated. We urge you to consider vaccination to protect your health. **THE CHOICE IS YOURS**, and we respect your choice.

We will update this report next Friday, August 13, 2021, until then I hope you all stay well.

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