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City-Cowley County
Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 11, 2022

County Wide COVID-19 Update

The health department monitors the health of county residents. The following is an update to inform the community of the current status of the COVID-19 pandemic in Cowley County.

Respiratory infections in Cowley County are widespread and continue to effect local residents. This overall condition is expected to slowly improve over the next 4-6 weeks. All residents are encouraged to take all available precautions to avoid the contraction and spread of illness.

LOCAL SCHOOLS:

Local schools have reported some incidents of illness, but attendance is much improved from where we were one month ago. Expect illness to affect attendance centers through the next several weeks. Students that are showing symptoms of any illness should closely follow their school district policies for attendance. Contact your school RN if you have questions about COVID testing for local students.

The PHO continually reviews illness data from our community and will propose any changes as needed. As of this date the Joint Cowley County Board of Health in their meeting February 8, 2022, has approved the continuation of the 10-day isolation protocol for people who test positive for SARS-CoV2 in Cowley County.

COVID-19 TESTING:

During the past week testing requests have continued to decline county wide. We hope this pattern continues.

The Health Department is still providing testing and we have established new relationships with laboratories to have results returned rapidly. If you begin to feel ill you are advised to test to learn if you may have COVID in order to help stop the spread of illness. If you develop symptoms and need a test please contact the Winfield Office and staff will help you, detail the process, and get you scheduled.

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COWLEY COUNTY ILLNESS REPORT BY THE NUMBERS:

The positivity rate for the last seven days has declined to 9.37%. Testing volumes continue to slow and are currently averaging fewer than 50 people per day in the county.

Since the start of the pandemic, nearly 9,930 COVID cases have been confirmed in Cowley County. Thus far in February 270 new cases have been reported. Two additional deaths were recorded this week connected to COVID infection in Cowley County. Overall, one hundred forty-seven (147) Cowley County residents have died from complications related to COVID-19 since March of 2020.

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

Month/Year	New Cases
January 2021	828
February 2021	304
March 2021	90
April 2021	47
May 2021	59
June 2021	28
July 2021	153
August 2021	488
September 2021	592
October 2021	386
November 2021	606
December 2021*	653
TOTAL	4159

Month/Year	January 2021	January 2022	February 2022
New Cases	828	2675	270*

Year Total	2021	2022
Total Cases	4159	2945
% of cases	100%	71%

This chart compares the previous year, 2021 with the current year to date.

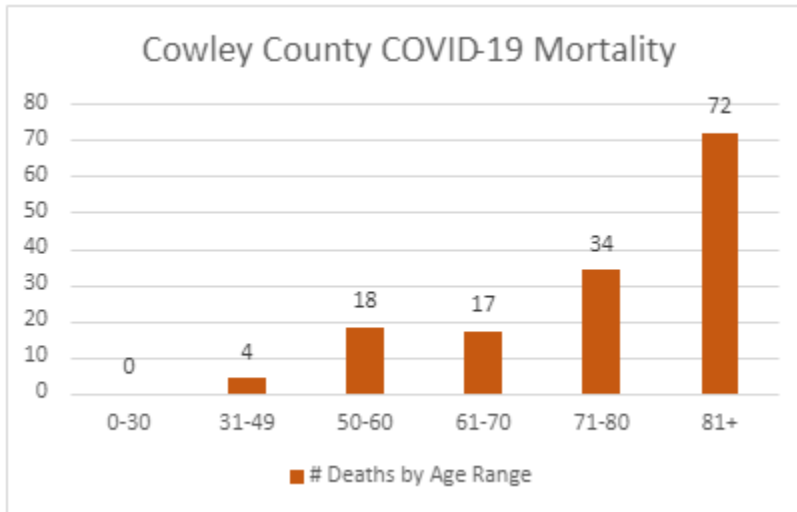
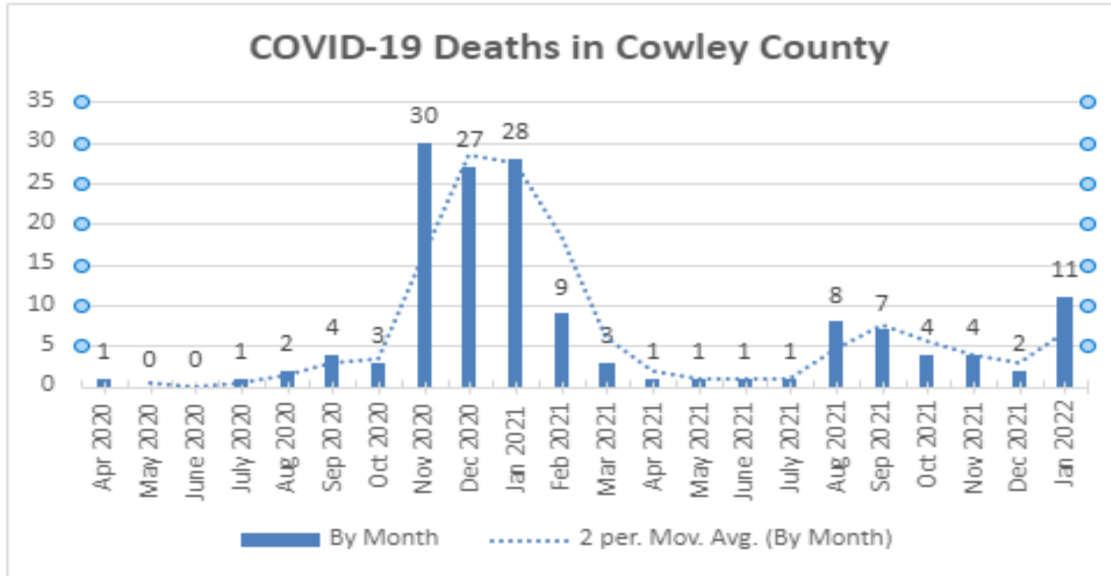
Cowley County and all of Kansas remains identified as an area where COVID-19 infection remains widespread.

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PERSONAL CARE AND ILLNESS PREVENTION:

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.

If you and your doctor believe the use of vitamins and supplements can aid in keeping you healthy please use them.

At this point in time, we have gone over and over the steps people should take to prevent the contraction and spread of a respiratory virus. Please take those precautions to protect yourself and your loved ones.

If you do become ill, please do not participate in any group events until after you have fully recovered from your illness. 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 symptoms of illness, be tested to determine if you are infected.
- Wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer.
- Clean high touch surfaces with disinfecting cleaners (doors, counters etc.).
- Wear a mask that properly covers your nose and mouth in public.
- Avoid crowds and large social gatherings.
- When ill you **MUST** stay home and isolate from others so you will not spread the virus or any other illness.
- Please be kind and respectful of others.

The next health update will be published Friday, February 18, 2022

Stay well.