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City-Cowley County
Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 18, 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 continue to effect local residents. During the past week COVID-19 infection has slowed and Influenza type A infections have increased. All residents are encouraged to take all available precautions to avoid the contraction and spread of illness.

LOCAL SCHOOLS:

Local schools continue to report incidents of illness, but attendance is much improved from where we were one month ago. 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.

COVID-19 TESTING:

During the past week testing requests have slowed county wide.

The Health Department provides testing on a daily basis by appointment. If you begin to feel ill you are advised to test to learn if you have COVID-19 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.

COWLEY COUNTY ILLNESS REPORT BY THE NUMBERS:

The positivity rate for the last seven days has declined to 6.6%. Testing volumes have stabilized continue to slow and are currently averaging fewer than 200 people per week in the county.

Since the start of the pandemic, ten thousand seven (10,007) COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Cowley County. Thus far in February 286 new cases have been reported. No new deaths have been reported this week. Overall, one hundred forty-nine (149) Cowley County residents have died from complications related to COVID-19 since March of 2020.

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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 | 286* |

| Year Total | 2021 | 2022 |
|-------------|------|------|
| Total Cases | 4159 | 2961 |
| % 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.

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 to and respectful of others.

The next health update will be published Friday, February 25, 2022

Stay well.