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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 4, 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.** Locally new COVID-19 infections have slowed dramatically while influenza infections as expected have increased and are being detected through testing. While this week's numbers are a welcome relief from the surge brought on by Omicron it is important to understand that the virus is not gone. It is still active only at a much slower pace. All residents are encouraged to continue to take precautions to avoid the contraction and spread of any illness.

### **LOCAL SCHOOLS:**

Local schools continue to report incidents of illness, attendance has reflected increased flu like illness. Students that develop symptoms of illness should closely follow school district policies for attendance. Contact your school RN if you have questions about COVID testing for local students.

### **COVID-19 TESTING:**

Testing requests have declined county wide and totaled near 150 tests for the most recent 7-day period. By contrast in mid-January the Health Department tested on average 100 people per day. A slow spread of COVID-19 is occurring similar to what was experienced during the same time period in 2021 (see table below). We anticipate that we will continue to see new cases emerge but on a much slower pace than what occurred during the first 6 weeks of the year.

The Health Department continues to offer testing on a daily basis by appointment. If you feel ill you are advised to test to learn if you have COVID-19 or influenza in order to help stop the spread of these illnesses. 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 fallen to less than 1% which is very similar to the slow period that was experienced in the Spring of 2021 (March – June) prior to the emergence of the Delta variant.

As of March 3, 2022, ten thousand thirty (10,057) COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Cowley County since the start of the pandemic. During February 2022 three-hundred twenty-one (321) new cases were reported. Since March 1, 2022, fifteen (15) new cases have been reported. No new deaths have been reported in the County. Overall, one hundred fifty (150) 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:

New Cases	* = month to date.	
Month	2021	2022
January	828	2675
February	304	321
March	90	15*
April	47	
May	59	
June	28	
July	153	
August	488	
September	592	
October	386	
November	606	
December	653	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4159</b>	<b>3011</b>

Year Total	2021	2022
Total Cases	4159	3011
% Of cases	100%	72%

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

Cowley County is currently identified as an area where COVID-19 infection remains active.

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 while in public.
- When ill stay home and isolate from others so you will not spread illness.

The next health update will be published Friday, March 11, 2022

Stay well!