

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

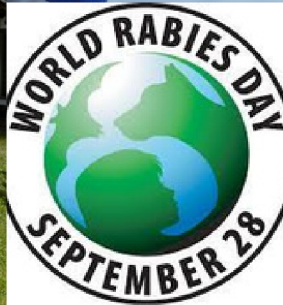
What's New in Public Health?

National Fire Prevention Month

Next month is National Fire Prevention Month. Dropping temperatures will have more people lighting up fireplaces, plugging in space heaters, and starting up their furnaces. These can all lead to devastating house fires. That's why it is so important to make sure that your home is prepared for a fire! Here are some ways you can prepare today:

- **Maintain your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors**
 - Regularly testing the units, replacing batteries twice a year, and replacing the units every ten years can ensure that they are in good working order.
- **Have a fire extinguisher ready** in your home.
- **Have a fire escape plan.**
 - Make sure you and your family have a place in place that you practice regularly.
- **Replace worn, damaged, or frayed electrical cords.**

Check out next week's National Preparedness Month posts on our social media and visit [ready.gov/home-fires](https://www.ready.gov/home-fires) for more information on fire preparation and prevention.



Bivalent Boosters & Novavax

The Health Department has received the first shipment of the new bivalent boosters! These boosters will provide better protection from the predominant variants in the community. To see if you are eligible for a booster, please visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html)

We also have Novavax available as well.

If you are interested in receiving either, call the Health Department to get your appointment scheduled today:

Ark City: 620 442 3260 | Winfield: 620 221 1430

Ark City & Winfield Drive-Thru Flu Clinics

Flu season is on the horizon, and now is the best time to ensure you have the best protection with your yearly flu shot.

The Health Department will be operating two drive-thru flu clinics in October. No appointment is necessary. Check below for details:

Ark City:

Wednesday, October 5th - 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

The Agri-Business Building: 712 W Washington Ave, Arkansas City, KS 67005

Winfield:

Wednesday, October 12th - 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Winfield Fairgrounds Barn 4: 1105 W 9th Ave, Winfield, KS 67156

World Rabies Day

Wednesday, September 28th is World Rabies Day! It is important to remember that rabies is 100% fatal if left untreated. However, with prompt medical intervention, it is also 100% preventable.

Here are some tips for you to stay safe from rabies:

- **Keep your pets up to date with their rabies shots.**
- **Maintain control and supervise your pets.**
- **Stay away from unfamiliar, stray, or wild animals.**
- **Call your local animal control office** if you see an unfamiliar, stray, or wild animal in your neighborhood.
- If you or your pet may have been exposed to rabies, **seek a healthcare provider as soon as possible** to see if you need post-exposure prophylaxis.

Visit [cdc.gov/rabies](https://www.cdc.gov/rabies) for more information.

Covid & Illness data

In contrast to July and August, September has seen a much lower incidence of COVID cases in the county with 209 cases thus far.

This lower case rate is likely due to extra vigilance exercised within the community. More accessible testing options, including the

increased availability of COVID home tests, also likely helped to lower rates of illness. While this decrease is good news, it is vital to remember that COVID is still circulating within the community. With flu season nearly here, we advise everyone to take every precaution in order to avoid illness.

Month to month new case information		
New Cases		*=month to date
Month	2021	2022
January	828	2675
February	304	321
March	90	61
April	47	44
May	59	112
June	28	174
July	153	528
August	488	526
September	592	209*
October	386	
November	606	
December	653	
TOTAL	4159	4650

Comparison of previous year, 2021, with current year to date

	Year Total	2021	2022
Total Cases		4159	4650
% of cases		100%	112%

Feeling Sick?

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.

