

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE



What's New in Public Health?

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Nationally, 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer, In Kansas, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women with around 2,250 women diagnosed and an average of 375 deaths every year.

Show your support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month by encouraging regular check-ups and doctor's visits. Routine and preventative care can help keep women safe from breast cancer. The earlier the disease is detected, the easier it can be to treat.

In the fight against breast cancer, the Health Department participates in the Early Detection Works Program (EDW). This program provides screenings, resources, and referrals for uninsured women who are at risk for developing breast or cervical cancers. If you are in need of this program or interested in participating, call the Health Department today.

National SIDS Awareness Month

For National Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month, we want to highlight our Safe Sleep Program. This program is focused on reducing SIDS in the community by providing free resources and education to parents. Since its implementation in Cowley County, the Safe Sleep Program has helped to significantly reduce incidents of SIDS in our community. This program is available at no cost for all parents. If you are interested, call the Health Department for your consultation.

International Infection Prevention Week

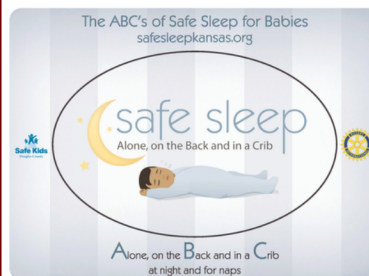
October 16-22 is National Infection Prevention Week. This week is dedicated to highlighting the importance of infection prevention. By employing the best practices, we can all do our part in breaking the chain of transmission and keeping infectious disease under control in our community.

Some of the best ways you can protect yourself and your community include getting vaccinated, staying home when sick, practicing good personal hygiene, and improving your health habits to protect yourself from illness.

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.



Winfield Drive-Thru Flu Clinic

With flu season nearly here, getting your yearly flu shot will provide you with the best protection this holiday season.

Stop by our drive-through flu clinic in Winfield next week to get your yearly dose of protection! We will also have new bivalent COVID boosters available. No appointment is necessary. See the details below:

Winfield:

Wednesday, October 12th - 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
 Winfield Fairgrounds Barn 4
 1105 W 9th Ave, Winfield, KS 67156

COVID & Illness Data

September ended with 264 cases, a significant decrease from July and August. While the decline in daily COVID cases is certainly good news, it is important to remember that the disease is still present within the community.

Cold and flu season, as well as the holidays, are approaching quickly, and we could see the current situation change very quickly. To combat flu, we highly recommend everyone get their yearly flu shot.

For COVID, the new bivalent boosters can provide better protection against the dominant variants in the community and are available to anyone who is eligible and would like one administered.

As always, we advise everyone to exercise caution and use the best practices in order to avoid illness. We can all help to break the chain of illness transmission and protect the health of our community.

Month to month new case information

| New Cases | 2021 | *=month to date 2022 |
|-----------|------|----------------------|
| 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 | 264 |
| October | 386 | 20* |
| November | 606 | |
| December | 653 | |
| TOTAL | 4159 | 4725 |

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

| Year Total | 2021 | 2022 |
|-------------|------|------|
| Total Cases | 4159 | 4725 |
| % of cases | 100% | 113% |