



# PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE



## What's New in Public Health

### Halloween Safety

Candy, costumes, and jack-o-lanterns make Halloween a special time of year! Make sure you and your family stay safe with the following tips:

#### Costume Safety

- Make sure your children's costumes are made only from flame-resistant materials.
- Avoid masks that can obstruct your child's vision.

#### Candy & Treat Safety

- Check all the candy to make sure it's sealed properly and untampered.
- If your child has food allergies, make sure to check each piece of candy to ensure there are no allergens.

#### Street Safety

- Opt for bright costumes, reflective materials, glow sticks, or flashlights to ensure you can be seen by drivers.
- Stick to a planned route through familiar and well-lit areas.

#### For Motorists

- Slow down! Kids are excited and may dart into the street unexpectedly.
- Put the electronic devices away and keep focused on the road.
- Avoid driving during peak trick-or-treating hours.

For more Halloween safety tips, visit [safekids.org/halloween](https://safekids.org/halloween)

### National Mammography Day

Winter For Breast Cancer Awareness Month, today is National Mammography Day! Regular and routine screenings can significantly reduce illness and deaths from cancer. Make sure you are getting regular screenings and encourage others to do so as well!



BREAST  
CANCER  
AWARENESS  
MONTH



### Community Night Out

Don't miss the [Winfield Community Night Out](#) this evening at [Island Park](#) from 5:30 - 7:30 pm! Stop by our booth to learn more about Health Department programs and services and pick up some free at-home COVID test kits and hand sanitizer!

### November: Winter Preparedness Month #KSPrepared

Winter will be here soon! Now is the time to get prepared and start using the best practices. Join us on social media during November as we cover some winter preparedness topics including fire prevention, cold & flu season, and winter weather. Just look for the hashtag [#KSPrepared](#) to check out our tips on how you can stay safe and ready this winter!

### 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.

### COVID & Illness Data

October continues September's trend of declining COVID cases with **61** reported so far.

While the news of fewer cases is a welcome reprieve, we still advise caution. Peak flu season and the upcoming holidays will likely result in higher rates of illness transmission within the community. We recommend everyone get their yearly flu shot as soon as possible. Bivalent COVID boosters and Novavax are also available for anyone who would like to receive them.

As always, remember to use the best practices to protect yourself and others from illness.

Month to month new case information

New Cases	2021	*=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	264
October	386	61*
November	606	
December	653	
TOTAL	4159	4766

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

Year Total	2021	2022
Total Cases	4159	4766
% of cases	100%	114%