



PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE



What's New in Public Health?

World Immunization Day

World Immunization Day is next week (November 10th), and we want to highlight some of the immunization services that we offer to the community!

Flu Shots

Flu cases are already being reported in Kansas and peak flu season will be here soon. Make sure that you and your family are protected this winter by getting the best protection possible!

Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program

The VFC Program ensures that all children have access to immunizations regardless of coverage or financial situation. This program is available for all uninsured children or any children covered by Medicaid.

Immunization Payment Plans

Cost should never be an obstacle between you and receiving immunizations. We offer payment plans and will work with you to ensure that you never lack the protection that you need.

If you are interested in any of these services, don't hesitate to call us today!

Health Department Program Highlight: Healthy Start Home Visiting

Our Health Start Home Visiting Program connects expecting and new moms with the education, resources, and support they need to ensure that their newborn has a healthy start in life!

This service is free of charge! Visits will be personalized to fit your needs, whether it be in the family home, at a Health Department location or over the phone. Our Home Visitors are mothers who can help guide women through motherhood and beyond! Some of our services include:

- One-on-one visits
- Breastfeeding education & assistance
- Nutrition education
- Healthy Homes education and resources
- Safe Sleep education and resources
- Enrollment assistance in support programs (e.g. WIC, Medicaid, SNAP, child support, etc.)
- Infant development screenings
- Referrals for advanced care
- And more!



COVID & Illness Data

October has shown a considerable drop in COVID cases across the county with 114 cases reported over the course of the month.

The decrease in COVID cases is certainly welcome news! However, COVID is not the only respiratory illness present within the community. Kansas is beginning to see its first flu cases of the season. Additionally, cases of RSV are rising as well.

Month to month new case information

New Cases	2021	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	114
November	606	14*
December	653	
TOTAL	4159	4833

These illnesses can spread quickly. But, by taking all necessary precautions, you can avoid illness and help stop the chain of transmission. Flu shots, hand-washing, and isolating when sick are just some of the ways you can help prevent the spread of illness.

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

	2021	2022
Year Total	4159	4833
Total Cases	4159	4833
% of cases	100%	116%

*Case count as of November 2nd

For more information, scan the QR code to visit our new webpage!

If you are interested in participating, call the Health Department today!

RSV Information and Prevention

Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, is human respiratory virus that usually results in mild, cold-like symptoms. The virus affects all ages and can sometimes result in severe illness for infants, older adults, and those with compromised immune systems. This year has seen a large spike in RSV cases across the country. With no vaccine available, RSV can spread quite quickly. Despite its typically mild symptoms, it's important for everyone to help prevent its spread and to protect the vulnerable members of our community. Here are some ways you can help keep RSV from spreading:

- Wash Your Hands
- Avoid Touching Your Face
- Cover Up When Coughing or Sneezing
- Avoid People Who Are Sick
- Clean and Disinfect

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.