

Public Health Update



What's New in Public Health?

Tornado Awareness Month

A key part of tornado preparedness is having a safe place to go when a warning is issued. Knowing where to go when a tornado strikes can make help keep you safe. If you lack a basement or live somewhere especially vulnerable to tornados, such as a mobile home, [find a shelter today!](#) Visit cowleycountyks.gov/CommunityShelters for list of public shelters. If you do not have a nearby public shelter, talk with your neighbors or others in your area who may have access to a basement or sturdy building!

Animal Bites

With the arrival of spring and more people venturing outside, animal bites have been increasing! Remember to always exercise caution if you see an unfamiliar or wild animal. Never approach, touch, feed, or interact with these animals. Many can become aggressive very quickly and some carry rabies, a potentially deadly viral infection. If you see an unfamiliar or wild animal, keep your distance and [contact animal control or the police in your area!](#)

Tickborne Illness

As more people head outdoors for hiking, camping trips and other outdoor activities, more people become exposed to ticks and the diseases they carry. These diseases can cause lifelong debilitating illnesses and conditions. The first step in ensuring that you and your loved ones are protected from ticks is

to [learn how to avoid ticks and prevent bites!](#) Knowing where ticks live, wearing an appropriate insect repellent, and regularly checking for them can help protect you and your loved ones. Visit cdc.gov/nceid/dvbd/media/stopticks.html for more ways to prevent and avoid tick bites today!

Upcoming Events

Arkansas City Chamber Coffee

On Thursday May 5th, the Health Department will be hosting Chamber Coffee at the Arkansas City Chamber of Commerce at 10:00am. Come visit and learn more about the services and programs we offer! Visit arkcitychamber.com for more information

The Health & Safety Fair

The Health and Safety Fair draws near! This week we have been promoting some of our amazing sponsors as well as some of the wonderful prizes that you could win! A big feature of this year's fair will be the inclusion of USD 470's Pre-K Preview Event! Explore a school bus with your child and learn about the free registration for Pre-K and the School Supply Assistance Program!

The Health & Safety Fair will be held at the Agri-Business Building in Arkansas City on Saturday June 4th, from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

For more information or to participate in the Health & Safety Fair, email dvidasol@cowleycountyks.gov

Health Department Program Highlight Environmental Health Department

The Environmental Health Department plays a critical role in protecting the health of Cowley County residents. Contamination in the air and water can lead to serious illnesses including cancer, and heart and lung diseases. Our environmental health specialist assesses, corrects, and prevents environmental hazards within the county. Whether by ensuring the proper development of wastewater systems or by routinely testing water, we work to keep the community safe from contamination.

COVID & Illness Data

COVID-19 remains active in Cowley County, though at a much-reduced pace.

19 cases have been confirmed over the past 2 weeks, and 24 cases have been reported for the entire month of April. A total of 3081 cases have been confirmed this year

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

Year Total	2021	2022
Total Cases	4159	3081
% of cases	100%	74%

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	24
May	59	
June	28	
July	153	
August	488	
September	592	
October	386	
November	606	
December	653	
TOTAL	4159	3081

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.

