Pottawatomie County Community Daily Update

Pottawatomie County, Kan. (March 31, 2020) — In this time of national concern, Pottawatomie County officials want to keep you updated on a daily basis in regards to COVID-19. Your safety, health and security is our top priority.
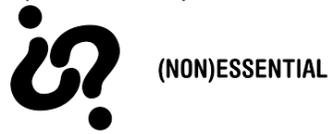
DAILY UPDATE: March 31, 2020

Positive COVID-19 Cases in Kansas: 428   *Deaths in Kansas: 9*
Cases in Pottawatomie County: 2; one at home recovering; one at Ascension Via Christi in Manhattan

With a second confirmed case of COVID-19 in Pottawatomie County, Lisa Kenworthy – the County's Health Officer and Director of the Health Department, would like to remind everyone the most effective step to take in order to prevent or mitigate the spread of this virus, is to stay home. If you are able, stay home, limit excursions to essential trips only, social distancing works, but only if everyone practices it. The Governor's Executive Order 20-16 specifies a Stay-At-Home Order, with only essential businesses to remain in operation.

 (NON)ESSENTIAL

<u>What is an essential business?</u> The State of Kansas has established guidelines for determining which businesses provide functions considered "essential". This determination is based upon the Kansas Essential Functions Framework (KEFF). For the safety of all citizens (employees and the public), it is critical that as many individuals as possible remain at home. As noted by the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Lee A. Norman, M.D., just because a business may fall within one of the exceptions to the KEFF, it does not mean that business should be open*. Accordingly, it is strongly encouraged that unless your business absolutely needs to be open to fulfill one of the essential functions identified in KEFF, you should strongly consider not exposing your employees or the public to the dangers associated with COVID-19*.

Would you like more information on resources for your family, at-home activities, etc? We have that for you here: https://www.pottcounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/3346/At-Home-Activities-and-Resources-for-Youth-and-Families

Do you have Questions about COVID? What is the difference between quarantine and isolation? View the KDHE FAQs page https://khap2.kdhe.state.ks.us/NewsRelease/COVID19/FAQs_3-31-2020.pdf. If you have specific questions related to Pottawatomie County's response to COVID, please e-mail them to COVID@pottcounty.org. We will do the best we can to address your concerns in a timely fashion.

Daily updates on COVID-19 and Pottawatomie County's actions will be submitted and posted to a variety of news stations, newspapers, web-sites and social media. These updates will be posted around 4:00 p.m. daily until the pandemic is no longer an issue. Emergent messages will be posted immediately as they come to officials. You may elect to receive notice of these life-safety messages by signing up for the Everbridge NE Kansas Regional Notification System. If you wish to receive these alerts, please visit our website https://www.pottcounty.org/431/Emergency-Alerts and select the "Sign Up" icon. These messages are categorized as Community Information and Public Health alerts.

For general information, contact the KDHE phone bank at 1-866-534-3463 (1-866-KDHEINF) or email COVID-19@ks.gov. You may also contact the Health Department at 785-457-3179 or email Covid@pottcounty.org
 If you have questions or need assistance with signing up, contact Emergency Management at 785-457-3358
Pottawatomie County Website: www.pottcounty.org
Facebook: [@PottCountyKS](https://facebook.com/PottCountyKS)   Twitter: [@PTCountyKS](https://twitter.com/PTCountyKS)

###