



Pottawatomie County Community Daily Update

Pottawatomie County, Kan. (May 7, 2020) —
Your safety, health, and security is our top priority.

	State of Kansas	Pottawatomie County
Total positive COVID-19 cases	6144 (+410)	16 (11 recovered, 4 active, 1 probable*)
Total COVID-19 hospitalizations	587	0
COVID-19 related deaths	147 (+3)	0
Pending Tests		
Total Tests	44822	

*What is “probable”?

From the KDHE website <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/160/COVID-19-in-Kansas> “As of May 7, 2020, confirmed and probable cases are included in the case totals. A confirmed case is defined as a person who tested positive by molecular testing for the novel coronavirus (SARS CoV-2), which causes Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). A probable case is defined as a person with: a) presumptive lab evidence (serology) with COVID-19 symptoms or epi-linked to a confirmed case, or b) no lab testing with COVID-19 symptoms and epi-linked to a confirmed case.”

What is a Local Health Officer? What duties does one have? How do they operate? Many of our updates have indicated a decision or recommendation made by “the Local County Health Officer”, however many people do not fully understand that role. Each county appoints a local health officer, and he/she operates under State Statute. Among other duties and responsibilities, the local health officer must (emphasis added):

“... local health officer having knowledge of any infectious or contagious disease, or of a death from such disease, within their jurisdiction, shall immediately exercise and maintain a supervision over such case or cases during their continuance, seeing that all such cases are properly cared for and that the provisions of this act as to isolation, restriction of communication, quarantine and disinfection are duly enforced.... The local health officer is hereby empowered and authorized to prohibit public gatherings when necessary for the control of any and all infectious or contagious disease.”

Therefore, it is under this authority that Local Health Orders are designed and passed.

If you have COVID related health questions, e-mail **COVID@pottcounty.org**. Questions related to Pottawatomie County’s response to COVID, e-mail **PIO@pottcounty.org**.

For general information, contact the KDHE phone bank at 1-866-534-3463 (1-866-KDHEINF) or email COVID-19@ks.gov. You may elect to receive notice of 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.

Facebook:  [@PottCountyKS](https://www.facebook.com/PottCountyKS)

Twitter: [@PTCountyKS](https://twitter.com/PTCountyKS) 

Pottawatomie County Website: www.pottcounty.org

If you have questions or need assistance with signing up, contact Emergency Management at 785-457-3358.