



Pottawatomie County Community Update

Monday, July 6, 2020 - Your safety, health, and security is our **top** priority.
 Due to the holiday weekend, this is the first update since July 1, 2020.

	State of Kansas	Pottawatomie County*
Total positive COVID-19 cases	16,901 (+1,911)	82 (+9) - 9 active
Total COVID-19 hospitalizations	1,235 (+40)	0 Current known PT Co. hospitalizations
COVID-19 related deaths	280 (+8)	0
Total Tests	202,219 (+19,046)	1456 (+101)

Numbers in parentheses indicates the difference since the last update; numbers are updated Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. For a daily case summary, visit <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/160/COVID-19-in-Kansas>

*Pottawatomie County is changing the numbers we report at the local level to ensure only the most accurate information is provided. Pending cases are not always shared with us from other entities who perform the tests; therefore, the number of pending cases will no longer be displayed.

During the two special meetings last week, a number of people shared that a password was required to access the meeting if they called in to listen. During the first meeting, July 1st, a helpful citizen provided a secondary link that worked without the need for a password; but that was not available on Thursday, July 2nd. The issue has been identified and corrected. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience. Minutes from the July 1, 2020 meeting have been approved, and once the July 2, 2020, meeting minutes are approved, they will be available on the County website.

The Pottawatomie County Board of Commissioners voted on Thursday, July 2, 2020, in a special meeting prior to Governor Kelly's Executive Order No. 20-52 going into effect. The Board voted to pass Health Order #7, opting out of the Governor's Order requiring most people to wear masks in public areas throughout the State. This was not a decision made lightly. A number of issues were identified and discussed prior to the motion. Although the governor's mandate is not in effect in Pottawatomie County, Health Order #7 does encourage citizens to wear masks, follow social distancing guidelines, and other recommendations to mitigate the spread of this virus. Please be aware that business owners have the right to require masks worn to access their services. "No shirt, no shoes, no service," may, at the business owner's or manager's decision, be edited to say, "No shirt, no shoes, no mask, no service." Violation of that business' decision can be a trespassing offense (criminal) and involve law enforcement. You do not have to agree with the decision, but please respect it.

Governor Kelly hosted a news conference today at 2:00 p.m. She started the conference by asking citizens to complete the 2020 census, stating that is how Kansas will receive Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the pandemic. She went on to discuss her Executive Order regarding the mask mandate. When asked, she indicated she did not know how many counties had opted out of her order. Riley County voted this morning to reject Governor Kelly's mask order. The City of Manhattan's Commission meets tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. to discuss Ordinance No. 7488 requiring masks or face coverings as per the Governor's Executive Order within the city limits. This would apply to all areas within the boundaries of Manhattan, in both Riley and Pottawatomie Counties. If this passes, a violation of this ordinance would be an infraction (no corresponding criminal law), therefore both the Riley County Police Department and K-State Police Departments could enforce the order. The proposed

ordinance sets guidelines for fines for the first, second, and third and following offenses (in order to be enforceable, penalties must be applied). More information will be provided once available. To the best of our knowledge, the City of Wichita is the only other city level municipality that has mandated where the county has opted out. Kansas State University mandates the wearing of masks by every person on campus. This is currently in effect, and expected to remain in effect through at least the fall semester.

For COVID related health questions, e-mail COVID@pottcounty.org. Questions related to Pottawatomie County's response to COVID, e-mail PIO@pottcounty.org.

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