



# Pottawatomie County Community Update

**Wednesday, August 5, 2020** - Your safety, health, and security is our **top** priority.

	State of Kansas	Pottawatomie County
Total positive COVID-19 cases	29,717 (+841)	114 (+2) = 5 Active, 109 Recovered 12 Pending*
Total COVID-19 hospitalizations	1,821 (+39)	<b>1</b> <b>Current known PT Co. hospitalizations</b>
COVID-19 related deaths	368 (+3)	0
Total Tests	308,718 (+,879)	2,041 (+49)

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>  
Hospitalizations, if we have any, are for any Pottawatomie County citizen hospitalized due to Covid, regardless of where that hospital is located.

With school preparing to start across the area, the Fire Marshalls’ office provided guidance to the various schools districts, reminding them crisis drills are set in state statute. As these are set by the state, this precludes their office from the ability to issue a variance on them. The tornado drills are required in September and March. If no in-person classes are in process during those months; the tornado drills are not required. If students and staff are in school buildings during those two months, conducting the tornado drills one class at a time is acceptable. Fire alarm drills need to be performed when and if staff and students are in the buildings. The three crisis drills are very flexible and can be completed with just staff, or even with an online presentation of some type. The legislature left it up to the individual districts to determine what their crisis drills look like.

The Health Department continues to field calls regarding the schools and re-opening plans. The Health Department, including the Health Officer, do not write these plans, but they do review them with the schools to ensure they cover specific areas. The re-opening dates for area schools are:

- USD 320 Wamego – Sep. 3, 2020
- USD 321 St. Mary’s – Aug. 27, 2020
- USD 322 Onaga – Aug. 13, 2020
- USD 323 Rock Creek – Aug. 20, 2020
- USD 384 Olsburg Elem. – Aug. 26, 2020
- Flint Hills Christian School – Aug. 19, 2020

Please visit the individual school or district website, or contact them directly for additional information, and exact start dates for specific grades. As most schools are requiring the wearing of facemasks, it is strongly recommended to start working with your children now so they are prepared. Eileen Kennedy-Moore Ph.D., with Psychology Today offers some advice for parents:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/growing-friendships/202007/top-5-parent-concerns-about-kids-wearing-masks-0>

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Stay covered. Stay safe.

TO HELP YOUR CHILDREN ADJUST...

**PRACTICE WEARING A MASK**



- Encourage children to wear masks for longer periods of time each day
- Don't trade masks with friends
- Make sure it fits properly

