



Pottawatomie County Community Update

Friday, August 7, 2020- Your safety, health, and security is our **top** priority.

	State of Kansas	Pottawatomie County
Total positive COVID-19 cases	30,638 (+921)	114 (+0) = 2 Active, 112 Recovered 15 Pending*
Total COVID-19 hospitalizations	1,875 (+54)	1 Current known PT Co. hospitalizations
COVID-19 related deaths	380 (+12)	0
Total Tests	316,512 (+7,794)	2,077 (+36)

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.

After Wednesday’s update regarding back-to-school practices, we received the following question:

QUESTION:

“Can you please clarify more on how the Health Department will be guiding the schools? ... we have inquired multiple times on how positive Covid cases will be handled within the schools. Repeatedly, the school administration has answered that it will be determined by the County Health Department. The above post (*Wednesday’s update*) seems to be saying that the schools need to make the plans. Which is it?

I think it would be prudent for the Pottawatomie County Health Department to release the procedures and protocols it will be using when handling Covid in the schools. As parents trying to make the best decisions for our children, information seems to be sorely lacking. I understand this is an ever changing, fluid situation, but parents have the right to know what steps and action would go into place so we can best plan and prepare. It is very unsettling to have the schools say it is up to the health department and the health department say it is up to the schools.”

RESPONSE:

As each school is different, the Health Department could not, even if it wanted to, write a one-size fits all policy or procedure regarding contagious diseases for those schools...The school should have a process for addressing contagious illnesses and other such situations, which the Health Officer would review. Liz Parthemer, Pottawatomie County’s Health Officer added, “Yes, each school will have a re-opening plan that the Health Department will review and make recommendations on. This is the schools plan, however we are working with them to ensure that from a health standpoint they are doing what is recommended. Again these are all recommendations and not orders or requirements. We all want our children to be in the safest environment possible.”

She continued, “All positive cases will isolate and be followed by the Health Department. Close contacts of these cases will also be contacted and required to quarantine or follow a modified quarantine procedure. The procedures we have in place for this have not changed. The school and the Health Department will be working closely together to identify and monitor any cases and contacts that are identified in a school system. Please call your local Health Department, or visit the KDHE website for any further questions.”

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