



Pottawatomie County Community Update

Wednesday, August 19, 2020 - Your safety, health, and security is our **top** priority.

	State of Kansas	Pottawatomie County
Total positive COVID-19 cases	35,890 (+723)	132 (+9) = 14 Active (+7); 118 Recovered (typo on Mondays; should have been 116 recovered) 17 Pending
Total COVID-19 hospitalizations	2,090 (+56)	0 Current known PT Co. hospitalizations
COVID-19 related deaths	411 (+6)	0
Total Tests	359,840 (+5,578)	2,267 (+39)

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.

COMMUNITY UPDATES related to COVID-19:

The Pottawatomie County Board of Commissioners/Board of Health met for a special meeting today regarding the Governor’s order mandating mitigation requirements for K-12 education. The discussion did include the County’s decision to opt-out of the Governor’s statewide mask mandate. Liz Parthemer, County Health Officer, reiterated her recommendation to adopt the Governor’s mandate. John Watt, County Counselor, shared information from Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt’s Attorney General Opinion No. 2020-8 stating, “...local public school boards have constitutional and statutory authority to adopt local policies governing matters addressed in Executive Order 20-59.” Therefore the decision whether or not to follow Governor Kelly’s Executive Order 20-59 which mandates procedures for K-12 schools to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, can be made by each public school board. As private schools, including church affiliated private schools were not addressed; the Board of County Commissioners/ Board of Health passed Health Order No. 9 exempting private schools from EO 20-59 as well. This order is available at <https://www.pottcounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/3695/Public-Health-Order-8>. The order includes mitigation guidelines we “recommend and encourage”, which are detailed in the order.

The Wamego City Council voted at their meeting last night, “with the idea of safety in mind” to cancel the Wamego Celebrate Freedom event, originally postponed from Independence Day to Labor Day weekend.

At last night’s City Commission Meeting, the City of Manhattan passed the first reading of an ordinance to extend the requirement for a face covering through the end of the year. The City of Manhattan’s Commission meets again on Tuesday, September 1st, when they should have the second reading of the ordinance.

Riley County has identified three outbreaks that affect Riley County citizens. Two of the outbreaks are in Riley County, one at the Phi Delta Theta fraternity in Manhattan; and the second at the Blue Valley USD 384 School District Office in Randolph. The third outbreak occurred at a wedding that took place in Shawnee County, attended by a group of 13 Riley County residents who have tested positive.

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