Pottawatomie County Community Update

	State of Kansas	Pott. County*
Total positive COVID-19 cases	168,295 (+6,234)	Per KDHE 725 (+22) Per PT County Health Dept: 727 (+20) 64 Active (+23); 20 Pending; 663 Recovered (-3)
Total COVID-19 hospitalizations	5,417 (+127)	0 current (-1, per PT County Health Dept) 29 cumulative (+1, per KDHE)
COVID-19 related deaths	1,786 (+104)	**3 (KDHE confirmed)**
Total Tests	845,186 (+14,004)	4,644 (+58) per KDHE 4,861 (+55) per PT County Health Dept

Numbers in parentheses indicates the difference since the last report; numbers are updated as available, usually on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. For a case summary, visit https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/160/COVID-19-in-Kansas_-

COVID-19 Related Deaths in Pottawatomie County
The Pottawatomie County Health Department reached out to KDHE regarding information on the two pending COVID-19 attributed deaths from Pottawatomie County. KDHE was able to confirm those two deaths as COVID-19, as well one additional one. Therefore, in summary, Pottawatomie County had three COVID-19 related deaths during the month of November. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of those who passed.

Where can I get tested?
Yesterday, Thursday, December 3, 2020, Governor Laura Kelly introduced the new #COVID19 Public Health Campaign: "Stop the Spread. It's Up to Us, Kansas." The campaign includes the launch of a new testing website, GoGetTested.com/Kansas, to quickly identify free testing locations near you.

"Editorial Comment"
I'd like to make an "editorial" comment as the County's PIO (and manager for County's Facebook page) to encourage everyone to think before you speak or post. Regardless of how you celebrate the season, whether it is with a Christmas that includes Santa, or the religious celebrations of Christmas, Hanukah, Solstice, or choose not to recognize any of them, this is the time of year that people generally wish each other well, and are in "good cheer". Unfortunately, 2020 has been extremely difficult for many of us, and that has crossed over into this usually joyful time of year. As you meet with family and friends, whether in person or virtual, to celebrate or just recognize the season, topics will turn to the events of this year. Politics and the pandemic are topics that prevailed this year, and have driven wedges between co-workers, friends, and family.

When we avoid connecting with others because they think or feel differently, that encourages divisiveness. Just because someone thinks differently does not make them evil or the enemy. Search for common ground. Please, remember that some children, young adults, others across the nation are listening. Showing callousness towards another's thoughts and beliefs says more about your personality than it does about those beliefs. I am asking everyone, at least for the month of December, please, extend the same good will and respect to others in areas where you disagree, as you would in wishing someone tidings of joy, peace, and goodwill.

Yes, we have the Freedom of Speech (for the most part), but sometimes that freedom is best used when knowing what to say, or how to say it.

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