



Chautauqua County Health Department

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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First case of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) identified in Chautauqua County

30 Mar 2020

SEDAN Chautauqua County Health Department is announcing the first case of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Chautauqua County. Testing sent to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Laboratories identified the positive case.

Chautauqua County Health Department is conducting a disease investigation to identify any close contacts of the individual and those who were exposed will be contacted as soon as possible. We will be monitoring these contacts for fever and respiratory symptoms. Acting in accordance with patient privacy laws, no further information about this patient will be released.

KDHE has released guidelines http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/COVID-19_Resource_Center.html for quarantine and isolation of travelers who visited locations in the United States where large numbers of people have contracted the disease.

"In recent weeks, Chautauqua County Health Department, Emergency Management, Sheriff's Office, Sedan City Hospital and Chautauqua County's Public Information Officer have been meeting in preparation for the continued spread of COVID-19," said Misti Byers, Chautauqua County Health Department Administrator.

In an effort to slow the spread of the virus, Chautauqua County Health Department Administrator Misti Byers continues to urge residents to frequently wash their hands with soap and warm water, refrain from touching their face and stay home, if possible, as recommended by our Governor.

Anyone experiencing symptoms of a fever greater than 100.4 degrees (F), a cough and shortness of breath are encouraged to call their medical provider or Chautauqua County Health Department. By calling ahead, you avoid putting other patients and medical staff at risk. They will be able to provide instructions and make preparations prior to your arrival. Under guidance from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, those who are exhibiting the symptoms previously describe, will first be tested for Influenza A & B, and Strep, in order to meet the criteria to be tested for COVID-19.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOV. L. KELLY'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-16, THE HEALTH OFFICER HAS ALSO STRONGLY RECOMMENDED:

- People avoid non-essential trips and stay home to the extent they can.
- Restaurants close in-house dining and limit service to carry out or delivery.
- Retirement communities and long-term care centers limit visitors.
- People avoid large gatherings including sports practices, games and tournaments and unnecessary social gatherings.
- If you do need to go out in public, ensure you maintain six feet from other people.

Chautauqua County Health Department has worked closely on these decisions with numerous community partners, including Chautauqua County Government, City of Sedan, Chautauqua County Emergency Management, Sedan City Hospital and leadership of local public and private school districts.

Chautauqua County residents can stay informed by visiting www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus or <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has set up a hotline for anyone with COVID-19 related questions. It can be reached at 1-866-534-3463 or email COVID-19@ks.gov. You may also contact the Chautauqua County Health Department Administrator, Misti Byers at (620) 725-5850 or email cqcohd@sbcglobal.net.