

3/16/2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Jefferson County Health Department, Public Safety Agencies and Emergency Preparedness

This release is intended to provide timely and accurate information regarding the proactive and ongoing plans surrounding COVID-19. Jefferson County is actively engaged with all local, state and federal agencies to comply with guidelines and best-practice for COVID-19. We will continue to interact with the public, update press releases and respond to questions in a timely and accurate manner.

All official closures and recommendations initiated thus far represent **proactive** measures for public health. Jefferson County is not reacting to the spread of a pandemic; we are preparing for the potential exposure of residents in a manner which is consistent with best practice. This response is intended to aid in limiting the severity of a *potential* pandemic virus in our County. At the time of this release, there have been NO confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Jefferson County and there are currently eleven (11) confirmed cases throughout the State of Kansas. Although this number will likely grow, we want to take this opportunity to thank the public for their assistance, patience and compliance with the current closures and recommendations.

Additionally, we want to assure the public that all measures currently in place, if practiced regularly, will have a positive impact on public health and will assist in containing and limiting the immediate impact of the virus. However, we also recognize that limiting exposure and transmission of the virus must be the priority of the citizens and requires the personal commitment and vigilance of the public. We are asking for your continued assistance following the recommended guidelines:

- Self-quarantine: 14 days home quarantine if you have travelled to a high-risk area since 3/15/2020
- Social Distancing: Refrain from gathering in social groups
- Hand Washing: Practice good general hygiene, vigorous handwashing and limiting hand contact with the face
- Best Practice: Do not go to work if you have a fever or flu-like symptoms

Those at highest risk:

- Above the age of 60
- Pre-existing health history of underlying medical concerns to include: COPD, Diabetes, Hypertension and Heart Disease
- Immunocompromised or Immunosuppressed: Autoimmune diseases, Rheumatoid Arthritis and those receiving cancer treatment

In summary, thanks to the patient and persistent efforts of the citizens of Jefferson County, the Public Health Agencies, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness remains cautiously optimistic about the future. We want to ensure to all the citizens that we are continuing proactive measures to limit critical exposure and will continue to closely monitor the ongoing data and information, locally regionally and nationally to provide the most timely and accurate information. Now is not the time to panic. Remain calm and continue to be vigilant. We are working on this together!

For the most up-to-date information, please see the following

links: [www.jfcountyks.com](http://www.jfcountyks.com), [www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus](http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus) [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

