



Linn County Health Department

902 Main, PO Box 456
Pleasanton, Kansas 66075
Ph 913-352-6640 * Fax 913-352-6730



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 19, 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

Linn County COVID-19 Cases Rising and Staffing Shortage; Causing Delays in Contact

Pleasanton, KS – Linn County is experiencing a sharp increase in the number of COVID-19 cases. A provisional count up to 11/10/2020 indicates that over 165 total cases have been reported. On Wednesday, November 18, 2020 there were over 65 new cases reported in the past week. This is an all-time record.

In addition to the spike of Covid-19 cases, Linn County Health Department is experiencing a shortage of staff due to illness. The Health Department is working with Kansas Department of Health and Environment for additional staffing support however, they too are experiencing an increase of requests for support.

The cases are widely distributed among multiple settings, including schools.

In many cases an exact source of infection cannot be identified; additional evidence shows that several cases may be the result of infections acquired during small and large social gatherings.

The high workload generated by this increase results in the health department often being unable to contact newly diagnosed individuals in a timely manner and provide advice on precautions to take to avoid further transmission of the virus.

Individuals who are notified of a positive laboratory test for COVID-19 should take the following precautions:

1. If you have severe symptoms and seeking urgent medical attention **call before** going to Clinic, Hospital or Emergency Room.
2. Isolate yourself in your house. Isolation means that you should not come in contact with anyone, should not leave your property and should not allow visitors to enter your house. Isolation should last at least 10 days from the date the symptoms appear, or if there are no symptoms from the date the laboratory test is performed.
3. Consider isolating yourself from your other household members, where possible. Transmission within the household is very common, but it may be prevented if sick individuals or those with a positive coronavirus test immediately isolate themselves in a different part of the house and have no direct contact with other household members.
4. Make a list of everyone that you had a close contact with (10 minutes within 6 feet) starting two days before symptoms appeared; or if not exhibiting symptoms, two days before the date

the laboratory test was performed. Contact each individual and tell them that they have been exposed to the virus and they need to remain in quarantine in their home for 14 days from the date they were exposed. If the exposed person experiences any symptoms, they should contact their Primary Care Provider or the Health Department for further instruction and testing. Individuals in quarantine should not leave their house, except for emergencies; and should not go to work or school.

What can people do to protect themselves and to reduce the spread of the virus?

1. Avoid close contact with other individuals outside your household. Close contact is defined as contact within 6 feet that lasts 10 cumulative minutes or more.
2. Always wear a mask when in a public place.
3. Avoid large gatherings of people.
4. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
5. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Additional information can be found from the following resource pages:

Linn County Health Department: <https://www.linncountyks.com/departments/health-department>

Kansas Department of Health and Environment: <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

###