



For Immediate Release

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Re: COVID-19 Update and Call to Action

Junction City, KS – COVID-19 testing at Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Laboratories is being prioritized based on urgent need, due to shortages of supplies and reagents. Konza Prairie Community Health Center (Konza) and Geary Community Hospital (GCH) local testing protocols and practices are aligned with the following KDHE criteria:

- Healthcare workers and first responders who have COVID-19 symptoms,
- Potential clusters of unknown respiratory illness, with priority given to long-term care facilities and healthcare facilities,
- Hospitalized patients with no alternative diagnosis,
- Individuals over the age of 60 who have symptoms of COVID-19 with priority given to people who reside in a nursing home, long-term care facility, or other congregate setting, and
- Individuals with underlying health conditions that would be treated differently if they were infected with COVID 19.

Exceptions for testing of patients who do not meet the criteria above may be made, based on clinical judgment. It should be noted, not everyone needs to be tested for COVID-19. Most people will have mild illness and are able to recover at home. There is no treatment specifically for COVID-19 or vaccine to prevent COVID-19. Even healthy individuals that do not exhibit symptoms or have mild symptoms are extremely contagious. The best way to stop the spread of COVID-19 is to avoid being exposed or exposing others. Practicing social distancing when you are not sick, quarantine when you might have been exposed, and isolation if you become sick, is key to stopping the spread of the virus from person to person.

If you have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, have traveled outside the US or to an area in the US with widespread transmission, call before going to a medical facility. Contact Geary Community Hospital COVID-19 hotlines at 785-210-4214 or 785-210-4825 or Konza Prairie Community Health Center at 785-238-4711. Staff will provide medical guidance and information on next steps of the screening process.

You can help stop the spread! Practice these safety measures:

1. Stay home if you're sick. Call your primary care provider or a medical facility for screening and medical information.
2. Avoid contact with people who are sick and practice social distancing.

3. Whether you are sick or not- wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water aren't available.
4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
5. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of your elbow and wear a facemask only if you are sick, help us conserve PPE.
6. Clean and disinfect surfaces daily.

For accurate and up to date information on coronavirus or GCH and Konza response visit:

- Kansas Department of Health and Environment: <https://govstatus.egov.com/coronavirus>
- Geary Community Hospital- www.gearycommunityhospital.org
- Konza Prairie Community Health Center- www.kpchc.org