



## March 4, 2020 Public Update

### Situation Overview

KDHE is closely monitoring an outbreak of a respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus named coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The outbreak first started in Wuhan, China, but cases have been identified around the world including in the United States. The first case in the United States was announced January 21, 2020. Kansas currently has no confirmed cases of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus and no persons currently under investigation (PUI). Four previous PUIs tested negative for COVID-19. State health officials continue to work with CDC and other health agencies to learn more about this virus.

### KDHE Response Activities

- KDHE has activated its internal Incident Command System (ICS) to respond with Epidemiology, Laboratory, Water, Waste Management and Strategic National Stockpiles/Medical Countermeasures (SNS/MCM) units activated.
- The Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories (KHEL) remains ready to test with the CDC/FDA-authorized Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) kits. At this point, KHEL has adequate capacity to support the needs of Kansas.
- KDHE has created a toolkit of Kansas-specific guidance to help local public health departments engage with their community partners on COVID-19 planning. It can be found on the KDHE website: [www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus](http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus). New information is added daily.
- KDHE is sending the CDC Weekly Key Messages, which are cleared to be shared with partners, to local health departments and healthcare coalitions, public health coordinators and tribal preparedness contacts.
- KDHE has a phone-bank operation plan in place in the event it needs to be reactivated. All phone-bank volunteers have been trained and availability collected weekly in case of a need to activate suddenly. KDHE phone-bank language line is now active and ready to go.
- KDHE worked with the Governor's Office and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management to hold a press conference Wednesday afternoon giving a collective update on COVID-19.

### For More Information:

- Please visit our tool kit and Frequently Asked Questions: [www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus](http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus).