



**NEWS RELEASE #4**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lindsay Payer, Coffey County Health Department Administrator

March 28, 2020

**New cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) identified in Coffey County**

**Burlington** – Coffey County Health Department (CCHD) announces three new cases of COVID-19. This brings the total positive cases to eight in Coffey County.

The following Coffey County residents are involved:

- 86-year-old male
- 20-year-old female
- 67-year-old female

These three cases are under isolation in accordance with guidelines from the Kansas Department of Health & Environment.

All eight positive cases for COVID-19 originated from a skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility in Burlington. The facility has been and continues to cooperate with CCHD in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

CCHD will continue to identify close contacts of the individuals. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet for a prolonged period (10 minutes or longer) or having direct contact with infectious secretions. Officials will contact those who were exposed as soon as possible. The health department will actively monitor the close contacts for 14 days for fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

Coffey County Health Officer John Shell, M.D. oversees disease containment in Coffey County.

“All of our cases thus far in Coffey County are to a single patient-care entity. Upon suspicion of COVID-19, appropriate quarantine was initiated,” Shell said. “This proves why self-isolation and social distancing are so important. Once any group’s protective bubble is burst, the whole group is at risk. This care facility is not to blame—just like any classroom or other location would not be to blame. All of the positive and suspected cases and exposures are being addressed by the Coffey County Health Department in association with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.”

Since the spread of COVID-19 began, Coffey County officials are working daily in collaboration with state and local partners to slow the spread of the COVID-19.

Coffey County residents can stay informed by visiting:

- Coffey Health Department Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/Coffey-County-Health-Department-246233812996/](https://www.facebook.com/Coffey-County-Health-Department-246233812996/)
- Coffey Health System: [www.coffeyhealth.org/COVID-19](https://www.coffeyhealth.org/COVID-19) or [www.facebook.com/CoffeyHealthSystem/](https://www.facebook.com/CoffeyHealthSystem/)
- KDHE: [www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus](https://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus) or KDHE phone bank at 1-866-534-3463
- CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>.

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