



**NEWS RELEASE #5**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lindsay Payer, Coffey County Health Department Administrator

March 30, 2020

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

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

The following Coffey County residents are involved:

- 84 yr. old male
- 39 yr. old female
- 82 yr. old female
- 86 yr. old female
- 90 yr. old female
- 77 yr. old female

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

All 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.

“We know that containment of this infection is very difficult in care facilities,” said Coffey County Health Department Administrator Lindsay Payer.

CCHD will continue to identify close contacts of the individuals of each positive case. 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 have contacted those who were exposed in these cases. The health department will actively monitor the close contacts for 14 days for fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

Social distancing and Infection Control Measures are cornerstones for reducing the spread of COVID 19:

Social Distancing:

- At the individual level this means maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals.

- At the group level this means canceling mass gatherings where individuals that will be in close contact with each other.

Infection Control Measures:

- Washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible OR use a 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Covering coughs / sneezes into the sleeve / inner elbow and not hands or openly into the space around you.
- Regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces and not shaking hands.

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

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