



News Release #7

Lindsay Payer, Coffey County Health Dept.

April 1, 2020

First fatality of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) identified in county

Burlington, Kansas – On March 31, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) confirmed the first known death of COVID-19 in Coffey County. A 90-year-old female passed away on March 31. She tested positive on March 30.

“Our heartfelt sympathy goes to the family, friends, and caregivers,” said Coffey County Health Officer John Shell, M.D. “This is the announcement that we’d sincerely hoped would never be necessary.”

Contact investigations are ongoing and any identified close contacts will be isolated or quarantined at home and monitored for symptoms by Coffey County Health Department staff.

If you experience symptoms such as a fever, cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider immediately. Do not visit in-person prior to receiving confirmation from that healthcare provider. Please adhere to the following recommendations:

- Avoid non-essential trips and stay home to the extent you can,
- Follow all recommendations regarding self-quarantine,
- Avoid gatherings of more than 10 people, and
- If you do need to go out in public, ensure you maintain six feet distance from other people.

The Coffey County Health Department continues to work closely on these decisions with state and local partners.

Coffey County residents can stay informed by visiting:

- Coffey Health Department Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/Coffey-County-Health-Department-246233812996/
- Coffey Health System: www.coffeyhealth.org/covid-19/ or www.facebook.com/CoffeyHealthSystem/
- KDHE: www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus or KDHE phone bank at 1-866-534-3463
- CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

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