

PRESS RELEASE

COVID-19

March 23, 2020

There continues to be NO confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Barton County at this time. Of the 105 Kansas counties, 89 counties have no positive tests.

Per KDHE (Kansas Department of Health and Environment), there were 82 confirmed cases in the State of Kansas as of 10am this morning. Due to the wide scale shortages of laboratory supplies and reagents, testing at the KDHE Laboratories must be prioritized for public health purposes and urgent need. KDHE reports they will be prioritizing specimens for COVID-19 testing, which will be reserved for the following patients that meet Kansas' patient under investigation (PUI) criteria starting 3/23/2020.

- 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

For more information, please visit the KDHE website at:

<https://govstatus.egov.com/coronavirus>

As a reminder, please be aware that access to Barton County buildings have been restricted to the public. Please call the county office you wish to transact business with for more information. You can also visit our website at: www.bartoncounty.org for more information and instruction on how to conduct business with the County at this time.

We cannot stress enough the need to practice good hygiene and maintain social distancing by using the County's online functions, emailing or calling ahead for assistance.

We will continue to provide further information as it becomes available.