To protect and improve the health and environment of all Kansans

What is a Pandemic?

**Endemic**
- A virus that happens regularly
- Somewhat expected
- Vaccines and/or treatments are usually available, though there may sometimes be shortages
- Frequently those who are very young, older, pregnant, or have chronic conditions are the most at-risk

**Pandemic**
- Happen less frequently
- Usually a novel strain of a virus not seen before in humans, or seen rarely
- Spread the same way other viruses do, but infects more people due to a lack of immunity
- Likely no vaccine or treatment, for at least a period of time
- Not possible to predict who will be most at-risk
Terminology clarification:

- **SARS-CoV-2**: The name of the virus
- **COVID-19**: The name of the disease caused by the virus

Current Status of COVID-19

[Map of global COVID-19 cases with a link to systems.jhu.edu/research/public-health/ncov/]

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Current Status of COVID-19

Total cases: 423
Total deaths: 19
States reporting cases: 35, including D.C.

cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html

Travel restrictions
- The U.S. has placed some restrictions on people coming back to the United States from specific countries with ongoing transmission.
- You should be aware that anyone returning from a trip to any of these countries may face difficulties in returning to daily life.
- Screening and monitoring may be required upon return to the U.S.
- This map can be found:
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Current Status of COVID-19

Total cases: 1

KDHE Coordination with Local Partners

- Local health departments are your key resource
- Regular communication with:
  - Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD)
  - Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) partners
  - Healthcare Coalitions
  - Community Care Network of Kansas (formerly KAMU)
  - Kansas Division of Emergency Management
  - federal partners
  - hospitals
  - county emergency managers
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KDHE Coordination with Local Partners

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Public Information Phone Bank

- Staffed Monday - Friday from 8am – 5pm CST, with flexibility
- Capability to answer calls in virtually any language via a translation operator service
- Health departments & healthcare providers should use the Epi hotline
- Email address: COVID-19@ks.gov

1-866-534-3463
Fact vs. Fiction

FICTION: Wearing a face mask will protect you from COVID-19.

FACT: Certain models of professional, tight-fitting respirators (such as the N95) can protect healthcare workers as they care for infected patients.

It is not recommended that the general public wear surgical masks.

People with a respiratory illness can wear surgical masks when going to healthcare providers and around healthy people to lessen their chances of infecting others.

Stocking up on surgical masks is not recommended as it makes fewer available for the healthcare workers who need them.

Fact vs. Fiction

FICTION: There is a vaccine available to cure COVID-19.

FACT: There is no vaccine for COVID-19 right now. Scientists have already begun working on one, but developing a vaccine that is safe and effective in humans will take many months.
Fact vs. Fiction

FICTION: I can request to be tested for COVID-19 at any time.

FACT: The state of Kansas only tests those who meet certain criteria for COVID-19.

Fact vs. Fiction

FICTION: You shouldn't buy products from China because you could get COVID-19 from the package.

FACT: Although researchers are still studying this new virus, scientists note that most viruses like this one do not stay alive for very long on surfaces, so it is not likely that you would get COVID-19 from a package that was in transit for days or weeks.

The illness is most likely transmitted by droplets from an infected person’s sneeze or cough.
Fact vs. Fiction

FICTION: Hand dryers and UV lamps are effective to kill the COVID-19 virus.

FACT: UV lamps and hand dryers should not be used to sterilize hands. Instead, you should wash your hands with soap and water. If soap and water aren’t available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

FICTION: The best way to protect yourself from COVID-19 is by taking acetic acid or steroids, or using essential oils, salt water, ethanol, or other substances.

FACT: The best way to protect yourself from COVID-19 is:
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water (at least 20 seconds)
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, sneezing, or coughing.
- Cough into the crook of your elbow or a tissue
- Stay home when you are sick
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