



TO: LOCAL NEWS MEDIA

FROM: SALINE COUNTY, SALINE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, SALINE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND THE CITY OF SALINA

DATE: March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

As of 5 pm, March 20th, 2020, Saline County has not had any confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. When a positive case is identified in Saline County, the Saline County Health Department will be the only official source to release that information.

First off, our agencies want to express our deepest gratitude to the business community. This is an unprecedented situation across the globe. We continue to be impressed by the measures that many of our businesses are taking to continue serving the citizens but also taking the guidance and recommendations from our Federal, State, and Local partners seriously. Thank you. The Salina Area Chamber's website is a great resource for everyone: [www.salinakansas.org/salina-strong.html](http://www.salinakansas.org/salina-strong.html)

This situation continues to change rapidly with the number of cases of COVID-19 in Kansas that is growing each day. Our State and Federal partners issued information that is important to pass along:

- Governor Kelly announced the HIRE Fund (Hospitality Industry Relief Emergency) Fund. This is available for existing for-profit businesses located in Kansas offering loans of up to \$20,000 at 0% interest.
- KDHE issued an informational flyer that describes and compares the symptoms of the flu, allergies, and COVID-19.
- U.S. Treasury Secretary announced that the deadline for filing U.S. income taxes has been moved from April 15 to July 15.

Guidance and information are constantly being updated by KDHE. Please visit their site to see the most current information: <https://govstatus.egov.com/coronavirus>

We cannot stress enough the importance of preventing the spread of diseases by:

- Staying at home if you are sick.
- Washing your hands.
- Covering your sneezes and coughs.
- If you have concerns about your health condition, please call your healthcare provider.

As stated before, this is a rapidly changing situation. Our local government leaders are working hard and are making difficult decisions as it relates to the best interests of the health and safety of our citizens and employees. Additional press releases will be issued from our individual agencies and shared through our social media channels for any additional cancellations, closures, or modified services.

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