



TO: LOCAL NEWS MEDIA

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

DATE: March 24th, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

As of 5 pm, March 24th, 2020, Saline County has not had a confirmed positive case of COVID-19. Just because no positive cases have been reported through our official channels, doesn't mean that there isn't a potential for a positive case to exist within our community. It is possible that a person hasn't met the requirements for the testing set by KDHE and have been advised by their medical provider to self-quarantine. When a positive case is identified in Saline County, the Saline County Health Department will be the only official source to release that information.

Our agencies are aware of the other Counties that have instituted shelter-in-place orders. That decision is one that is made by the local Health Officer in collaboration with the County Commission, and one that Saline County's Health Officer is not considering at this point. Additionally, the Saline County Health Officer has already determined that should a local order be issued, that no paperwork would be required from employers identifying essential or even non-essential employees.

Governor Laura Kelly's Executive Order that prohibits mass gatherings of 10 or more people will go into effect on Wednesday, March 25th. The Kansas Department of Agriculture issued new guidance for Drive-Thru Food Safety and Grocery Store Food Safety.

Several common questions and their answers directly related to symptoms, testing for the virus, and requirements for testing have been posted on our website www.saline.org/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.

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