



Kearny County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2020

Many of you may have noticed or heard already, but we have had a significant increase in new CoVID-19 cases as well as hospitalizations over the past week. Our positivity rate of symptomatic tests has also increased from under 10% to 30%. Put together, this means that we will move back to Level 3 Public Risk Level in our County. The change in alert level is not a scare tactic, it is just an attempt to communicate activity of CoVID-19 in our county. What does this mean practically? It means that school will continue, businesses will remain open, but that some of the “extra” events will either be restricted or cancelled. I know that this is often frustrating or disappointing; please understand that our goals continue to be keeping our community as healthy as possible, keeping businesses open and thriving, and keeping schools open and children learning. To accomplish this, we will have to be careful and intentional.

It is important to understand how our community health organizations continue to evaluate for CoVID-19. Our 3 goals in community health are to:

1. Screen well
2. Test frequently
3. Isolate appropriately

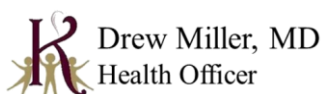
Two frustrations that I have heard recently are a lack of rapid test availability and lack of understanding about isolation and quarantine. We are extremely limited in our rapid test availability at this time and are limiting its use to the most sick individuals. We continue to request from different sources an increased availability of rapid tests and hope that in the weeks to come that we can offer rapid testing more widely. I also realize that quarantine and isolation is a frustrating process, but doing this well is the best way that we can continue to decrease viral spread and accomplish our goals in spite of an increase in virus activity.

A final statement is just the same encouragement as last time. We live in a wonderful county and community. No person can go far in our community without running into family, friends, or neighbors. This small community is made up of a diverse group of people, which includes those at higher risk for severe CoVID-19 illness and complications resulting from infection. We can achieve our goals and help to keep our county safe for our entire community by working together in this. We ask that you show respect and preference to your family, friends, and neighbors.

Please... Wear a mask, Wash your hands, Watch your distance.

Thanks and stay healthy.

Drew Miller, MD, FAAFP
Kearny County Health Officer



Amanda Peterson, RN
Health Nurse



Jerrad Webb, EMT-P
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