

We will be moving as a county to Level 4 Public Risk Level in Kearny County. Our numbers of positive cases, hospitalizations, and deaths have increased over the past 2 weeks. We have had a significant outbreak at High Plains Retirement Village as well as another sharp increase in community transmission and new cases. Our total percent positivity rates remain elevated. As you may already know, our county has issued a new resolution requiring masks or other face coverings for all indoor public property within the county and restricting mass gatherings to 25% of established capacity indoor facilities. These are important requirements for all of us to follow in order to mitigate viral spread. We ask that the community limit as much as possible unnecessary gatherings or meetings while we are at the Level 4 Risk Level. If we work together as a community to follow these requirements and guidelines, we can reduce the spread of this virus and the impact it is having on our community and healthcare system. In this, we can keep our time as a county at the highest risk level as brief as possible.

Again, I know that this is often frustrating or disappointing; please understand that our goals continue to be:

1. Keeping our community as healthy as possible,
2. Keeping businesses open and thriving,
3. Keeping schools open and children learning.

To accomplish this, we will have to be careful and intentional. As a county health organization, we continue to encourage individuals and organizations to screen well for symptoms, make appointments for testing when screening is positive, and isolate / quarantine appropriately if instructed to do so by the health department.

My final statement does not change. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Drew Miller', with a stylized, cursive script.

Drew Miller, MD, FAAFP  
Kearny County Health Officer