



Kearny County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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To our Kearny County Community:

You all have heard recently or maybe even felt acutely the strain that Kearny County Hospital is feeling with regards to COVID-19. That strain exists in our long-term care facility, in our clinic, and in our hospital. You have probably read or heard or possibly even experienced also the lack of ICU bed availability in our region and beyond. We have provided several graphs that illustrate these trends in our county and region. A couple bits of information:

- Kearny County Hospital is equipped to take care of up to 9 patients with acute COVID-19 respiratory illness at a time.
- KCH is making progress in treating patients hospitalized with COVID-19 with medicines like remdesivir and dexamethasone, and respiratory support with heated high flow oxygen and BiPAP.
- KCH is making plans to handle more cases of COVID-19 with overflow planning.
- KCH is also making plans to handle more severe cases of COVID-19 locally if ICU beds are not available.

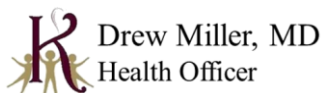
However, we need your help. We have seen throughout our facility that masks can be a very effective way to cut down on the spread of COVID-19. A study recently published by the University of Kansas has confirmed with objective data: counties in Kansas that have a mask ordinance have decreased their seven-day rolling averages of daily COVID-19 cases, while counties without masks have seen those averages increase. There was a 50% reduction in the spread of COVID-19 in these counties with an ordinance as compared to those counties without. Masks do not eliminate COVID-19, but they significantly slow the spread of the disease.

- Wearing a mask cuts down on the spread of COVID-19 and allows our local community to continue to stay active (businesses, schools, etc).
- Wearing a mask in our community is essential right now to avoid overloading our local and regional healthcare entities.

At this point, no one in this community has been unaffected in some way by COVID-19. I am sure each of you are frustrated by all of the contradictory information that exists. However, at this moment, we are at a critical point in this pandemic. We need to help and support of this community in order to keep our community healthy. We can achieve our goals and keep our county both safe and thriving by working together in this. We ask that you show respect and preference to your family, friends, and neighbors.

Please wear your mask.

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