

Virus cluster blamed for Jackson Co virus increase

(KAIR)--Coronavirus exposure at Holton's largest employer is cited as the reason for a 46 virus-case increase in Jackson County.

The total case-count in that Kansas county currently stands at 84.

According to a news release issued Friday by Jackson County Health Officer Angie Reith, the substantial increase follows the testing of employees at Holton's Johnsonville meat processing facility. It closed May 13 after the confirmation of five facility-related cases. The closure was to allow the employees time to recover, and to work with the health department to conduct employee testing.

According to the release, the health department, with the assistance of the Kansas National Guard-Joint Task Force, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and Johnsonville, has conducted testing on all employees over the course of two days this week, leading to the identification of the 46 new confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. The release says that all of the affected individuals live in Jackson County. Told to isolate at home, disease investigators and contact tracers from KDHE will work to see that all contacts of the infected individuals are placed into quarantine.

Johnsonville, which employs 240, has not yet announced a reopening date, with the release saying the company will not commit to a particular date until the employees recover.

According to Jackson County virus-related statistics, ten of those in the county's total case count have recovered, and one is currently hospitalized.

Nemaha County Community Health Services on Friday reported one new case of COVID-19, bringing the county's total to 9. One person is hospitalized, while one has recovered and is no longer in isolation. The health agency attributes the recent increase in cases to an increase in testing throughout the county.

Atchison County records its 19th confirmed positive case of COVID-19.

That word came in a release issued Friday by Atchison County Emergency Management Director Wes Lanter, who identified the person as a man in his fifties who is isolating at home.



The latest confirmation means a 4-case increase in Atchison County this week.

The Doniphan County Health Department on Friday reported two new positive

cases of COVID-19, bringing the county's total to 12. One of the new cases is their first hospitalization. Nine individuals have recovered and are no longer in isolation.


KDHE Friday confirmed 8,958 Kansas cases, representing 88 of the state's 105 counties.

185 have died in Kansas due to the virus.



NEK Multi-County Health Departments, Jackson County
about 4 years ago

Please see a statement on today's positive case count.



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5/22/2020

COVID-19 IN JACKSON COUNTY RESIDENTS BY STATUS TYPE	
Cases	84
Deaths	0
Currently Hospitalized	1
Recovered	10


Released = Released from Isolation

May 22, 2020

Immediate Release:

Our office was notified in the recent past of a possible cluster of COVID-19 positive individuals that work at Johnsonville in Jackson County. On May 13th, Johnsonville declared having 5 positive cases to temporarily close its Johnsonville facility in Holton to allow employees to recover and work with our office to conduct testing of its employees.

Over the past two days this office with the assistance of the Kansas National Guard, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Johnsonville, conducted COVID-19 testing on all employees. Our office has identified, 46 new positive cases of COVID-19 that reside in Jackson County. Cases were immediately notified of the need to stay at home. Disease investigators and contact tracers from KDHE will be assisting in ensuring all contacts are placed into quarantine. Our office will continue to work closely with the Johnsonville facility to ensure that their employees receive education regarding the virus, as well as abide by quarantine and isolation requirements. At this time, Johnsonville does not have a re-opening date set and will not commit to a day until all employees recover.



Public Health
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Jackson County

We understand that this significant increase in numbers is concerning to many in our community. We also know that we are entering into a holiday weekend where many people plan to travel or see other persons. We ask that all citizens of our county continue to practice social distancing, wear a mask when in public and avoid gatherings of more than 10 people. This is especially true for those that are at an increased risk of complications associated with the COVID-19 virus, such as the elderly and immunocompromised individuals. We ask those people at increased risk to remain at home except for essential functions. If you are ill, please remain at home and contact your doctor. Let us all work together to help prevent the spread of this virus further in our county.

Je Reith RN, BSN
Jackson County Health Officer

Many Signals Communications