



Franklin County Health Department
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Franklin County Testing More

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FRANKLIN COUNTY, KS – Over the past three days, COVID-19 testing in Franklin County has dramatically increased. “There is now a much higher availability of testing across the State of Kansas,” explained Nick Robbins, Interim Director of the Franklin County Health Department. “The increase in testing has allowed the Health Department the ability to test all close-contacts of positive cases in the County – not just those who are symptomatic.”

Throughout the County’s COVID-19 response, the Franklin County Health Department has continued to thoroughly investigate each and every positive case to determine individuals they may have come in close contact with – also known as contact tracing. “For the first several weeks of this Pandemic, KDHE only allowed testing of symptomatic individuals, even if they were a close contact,” mentioned Jennifer Wadkins, Franklin County Health Department Nurse Supervisor. “The Health Department would keep in daily contact with those who may have been exposed checking for symptoms of COVID-19,” she said. “Now that more testing has become available we can test every close contact of a positive case. This will help us identify more of the asymptomatic carriers throughout the County.”

Over the weekend, it was discovered that one positive case had over 100 close contacts that needed testing. In response to the high volume of close contacts that needed to be tested, the Franklin County Emergency Management team deployed their Mobile Command Trailer in the Franklin County Annex parking lot, which enabled the Health Department to conduct “drive-thru” testing.

The Health Department was thankful for the mobile trailer testing site. “The ability to test individuals outside of a building, in which those being tested do not even need to get out of their vehicles, keeps the potentially infected persons from coming in contact with anyone,” commented Robbins.

As the State of Kansas is reopening, Franklin County residents should continue to practice social distancing, wear a mask when in public, thoroughly clean and disinfect and continue to wash hands often. It will take everyone’s effort to contain the spread of this virus.