

12/3/20 COVID-19 Update for Local Partners Q&A

<p>Situation - A long-term care facility has had a COVID19 outbreak among their residents and several staff members and we are now reaching the end of the residents' quarantine. Can the facility open back up to visitors?</p>	<p>This is a question for KDADS. I think you can email Scott.Brunner@ks.gov.</p>
<p>I'm assuming that individuals who have had the disease and still have their "suspected 3 month immunity", could still spread the disease. If that is the case can education be given to the public concerning this? We are seeing numerous individuals who think they have immunity and thus don't have to wear the masks!</p>	<p>The current thinking is that people are immune from getting the disease for up to three months, which would mean in theory they wouldn't be able to spread it. That being said, continuing to push physical distancing and masking is super important because we are learning about this virus every day and we can't assume anything.</p>
<p>Just want to clarify, 24,000 doses. Is this the number including the two-dose series meaning 12,000 people will receive the vaccine? Or does it mean 24,000 people will get the two doses in the first round? Thank you.</p>	<p>24,000 persons. Their second doses will arrive 3-4 weeks after the first.</p>
<p>Do we know where behavioral healthcare workers fall?</p>	<p>No specific recommendations about BH workers yet.</p>
<p>Any updates on immunizations for pregnant women and children?</p>	<p>The COVID vaccine is not approved for those under 18 or pregnant persons.</p>
<p>Have a situation - an employee gets a COVID19 antibody test because the employee had symptoms 2-3 weeks ago, and the employee tests positive for COVID IGG and IGM. The employee does not have any symptoms of COVID 19 as of today, but a household contact has tested positive for COVID19 on 12-01-2020. Is the employee considered immune to COVID19? Can the employee come back to work in a hospital/clinic/long term care environment?</p>	<p>Two things for this situation: 1) For people who are re-exposed within three months, we only accept an antigen or PCR test result to waive being quarantined again due to the second exposure. That being said, 2) if your local health officer allows, healthcare workers are eligible for a modified quarantine where they are allowed to continue working with appropriate PPE as long as they are asymptomatic. The modified quarantine order would have to come from the local health department.</p>
<p>Clarification, you do not want the faxed form when we test anyone</p>	<p>If you are doing point of care testing, you should report the patient data and the result via the KS Reportable Disease Portal. If you are sampling someone and sending off to a reference lab, you don't need to send us anything saying you are testing the person and you don't need to send us the result when you get it.</p>
<p>Is the quarantine time going to be changed to match CDC shorten quarantine time for persons that have been exposed from two weeks to 10 days with no symptoms</p>	<p>Yes, KDHE has adopted the shortened quarantine time, though we still recommend a 14-day quarantine as the gold standard. You can see more here: https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1640/Shortened-Quarantine-Guidance-PDF--12-4-20</p>

<p>Does the lab receive a confirmation from KDHE that KDHE received the results after the lab sends positive results through the portal? Thank you.</p>	<p>No. We ask labs to confirm with KDHE.EpiTraxAdmin@ks.gov the first time they send results to make sure we get them. After that, no confirmation needed or given.</p>
<p>To clarify, we send labs to Quest, so we wouldn't be reporting the positives anymore. However, they don't have the information we report: presence or absence of symptoms, when symptoms began, if there was exposure to known cases, whether translation is needed or not. My understanding was that the county health department wanted this information. It's OK to not report this information now?</p>	<p>Are you not able to send that information along with the sample to Quest? You are right that LHDs will want that information. It's a little iffy whether labs actually send us the data even if they get it. If it's possible to send with sample through the sample submission process, that would be best. If that's not possible, then please keep sending us the information as you are and we will try to get it in.</p>
<p>The alterative quarantine is this for house hold contacts too or just one time exposure?</p>	<p>The shortened quarantine also applies to household contacts. The household positive case must be out of their 10 day/72 hour criteria to be released from isolation before the household contact's quarantine starts. With the shortened quarantine those household contacts can now do a 7 day (with test) or 10 day (without test) instead of the full 14 days.</p>
<p>KDHE says that residents in long term care and assisted facilities will not be eligible for shortened quarantines. Does that include the employees that work for those facilities? What about support staff for those facilities?</p>	<p>Staff working in LTC and assisted living facilities, and staff working in Corrections, ARE eligible for shortened quarantine. It didn't make sense to make them exempt since they are already allowed to have modified quarantine where they can continue working with appropriate PPE as long as they remain asymptomatic.</p>
<p>Can you please provide literature that may have been considered with CDC's modified quarantine change? Thank you.</p>	<p>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html. This was posted yesterday. More available on CDC site.</p>
<p>When will we know the decision from each county health department about quarantine length? We have employees that want to know how long their quarantine will last? Can county health departments change their mind and adapt different quarantine guidelines and who will make sure the employers have that information?</p>	<p>The best thing is to ask your local health department what their guidance is.</p>
<p>If you reside in a county that adopt a shortened quarantine but work in another county what guidelines do you follow? What county makes the decision?</p>	<p>We would expect employees to follow the guidelines of the county they live in.</p>

<p>Do local health departments have flexibility to partially implement the shortened quarantine guidance? For example, can a county choose to permit the 10-day quarantine sans testing but NOT offer the 7-day with testing as an option?</p>	<p>Yes, the local health department can decide what rules they want to set for isolation and quarantine.</p>
<p>Could you clarify what type of test the Abbott ID now is? Would it count as a PCR test for the new quarantine rules?</p>	<p>The Abbott ID Now is a rapid PCR test, so yes, technically it can be used to test out of quarantine. However, rapid tests are not as effective on asymptomatic individuals, so we would prefer that you use a regular workflow PCR that goes to a lab.</p>
<p>Can we start the shortened quarantine today for our new positive cases?</p>	<p>If your local health officer says yes then yes.</p>
<p>Do we have to use the assigned lab when we are already a client with another lab on your list.</p>	<p>You do not have to use one of the contracted labs. However, if the lab you use does not have a contract with the State, then the bill will not be paid by the State.</p>
<p>Does the free testing end at the end of December for the Unified Testing funded by the state?</p>	<p>The federal funding being used right now for the testing strategy will currently end by the end of the year. There is a possibility that this funding will be extended, but that is not a certainty. We are working on different mechanisms we can use to continue the testing beyond the new year.</p>
<p>Dr. Norman, on the last call you discussed a way we were going to identify open beds in hospitals in Kansas if a hospital is full. I can't remember the name. I apologize. Also, has this been put into place?</p>	<p>This is called "Mission Control" and it is in place. A few weeks ago we went into contract with the company to allow every county in Kansas to be in the application. We are working with the Kansas Hospital Association to installation and training of the software. More than half of the counties are onboarded, but we hope to have everyone onboarded in the next week or two. It has been very successful so far as it saves time and phone calls for providers. We are also working with Life Save for transportation, using your usual providers (but filling in gaps where transfer is difficult).</p>
<p>When will WellHealth or KDHE be reaching out with the locations they chose in Sedgwick County?</p>	<p>We first have to identify sites, then work out logistics to make sure that everything can be set up. We have four tentative sites in Sedgwick County and hope to have those set up by next week.</p>
<p>Do folks seeking tests have to meet PUI requirements to get a free test through this new initiative? Thought is was open to anyone.</p>	<p>The testing done through December 30 is open to anyone, regardless of symptoms or exposure.</p>

Could you provide the form for private industries to submit to KDHE for approval of expanded testing?	Here you go: https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1619/Employer-Based-Testing-Application
So entities can contact reference labs directly? Testing does not need to go through well health sites/kiosks/mobile units, etc?	Yes, you can contact them directly.
When will the form releasing cases and contacts from isolation and quarantine be updated?	We are working through those updates now. We have several hundred documents to be updated so we will get through them as quickly as we can.
Did you state that there are labs that do free testing? Did I hear that correctly?	Yes. The contracted labs with the State will perform the testing and KDHE will pay the bill.
Can you add the link in chat for us to get the toolkit for the change in quarantine? Can't find it.	The quarantine handout can be found here: https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1640/Shortened-Quarantine-Guidance--12-2-20 The social media graphics can be found in our social media toolkit, linked here (no direct link for these): https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/265/Publications
Do you know where home health patients and employees will fall in the vaccine plan?	No specific recommendations have been received yet.
Thank you, that is what we needed to know. Additionally, Sedgwick County conducts MOR testing at various locations and want to be sure and provide focus to the areas that don't have testing options when making our location decisions. We will need to send out a press release - should we contact a certain person at WellHealth for coordination in this or KDHE?	I would ask that you contact our consultant group as they are coordinating directly with WellHealth and have the most up to date info. Please reach out to alcorta.andrew@bcg.com
Often time the PCR turnaround time is greater than 48 hours, is there a plan to adapt to the increased testing that would be expected by this testing after exposure plan? since if people test on day 5 with hopes to get out after day 7, they will be expecting a result by then	The contracted labs we are using have agreed to turnaround times of less than 48 hours. Most labs that we are aware of are running at 24 – 36 hours, though you have to account for travel time to the lab, so a total of 48 – 72 hours total.
Can you remind me where to find the social media toolkit on the KDHE website?	You can find it here: https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/265/Publications