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**County Health Department**

**NEWS RELEASE** **Contact:** Name

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE County Health Officer

Date Phone number

**First Fatality of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) identified in County**

**City/County** – On date, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) confirmed the first known death of COVID-19 in County. The patient tested positive on (date) and was admitted to the hospital on (date). Patient (age/gender/circumstances of contraction).

The marks the first death caused by the novel coronavirus in County. Contact investigations are ongoing and any identified close contacts will be quarantined at home and monitored for symptoms by County Health Department Staff.

(Include quote from County Health Officer, if applicable)

KDHE has released guidelines (<http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/COVID-19_Resource_Center.htm> for quarantine and isolation of travelers who visited locations in the United States where large numbers of people have contracted the disease. These guidelines are available on our Facebook page.

(Include information on Press Conference, if applicable)

If you are experiencing symptoms such as a fever, cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider immediately. Do no visit in-person prior to receiving confirmation from that healthcare provider. Please adhere to the following recommendations:

• Avoid non-essential trips and stay home to the extent you can.

• Follow all recommendations regarding self-quarantine

• Avoid large gatherings (groups of more than 10)

• If you do need to go out in public, ensure you maintain six feet distance from other people.

The County Health Department has worked closely on these decisions with numerous community partners, including County Government, The City of, County Emergency Management, Hospital, School district, and other local partners.

County residents can stay informed by visiting the County Health Department’s Facebook Page, [www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus](http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus) or <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>.

For general information, contact the KDHE phone bank at 1-866-534-3463 (1-866-KDHEINF) or email COVID-19@ks.gov . You may also contact the County Health Department information line at (phone number) or email (email address).