[INSERT HEALTH DEPARTMENT LOGO]

**NEWS RELEASE** **Contact:** [NAME]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE [TITLE]

[DATE] [PHONE NUMBER]

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

**[CITY NAME]** – [HEALTH DEPARTMENT NAME] is announcing the first case of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in [COUNTY NAME] County. Testing sent to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s Laboratories identified the positive case (CAN EXCLUDE THIS SENTENCE, IF PREFERRED).

The case involves a GENDER, AGE RANGE, ANY TRAVEL HISTORY, UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITIONS. [HEALTH DEPARTMENT NAME] is working to identify any close contacts of the individual and those who were exposed will be contacted as soon as possible. We will be monitoring these contacts for fever and respiratory symptoms. No further information about the patient will be released.

(USE 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.

ADD IF DESIRED: “HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR/HEALTH OFFICER QUOTE,” said NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON. “HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR/HEALTH OFFICER QUOTE CONTINUED.”

ADD IF DESIRED: WHAT HAS THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT DONE SO FAR TO MITIGATE SPREAD? i.e. PROVIDE DETAILS ON CLOSURES, LIMITING GATHERINGS, ETC.

ADD IF DESIRED: “HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR/HEALTH OFFICER QUOTE TO EXPAND ON EFFORTS LISTED ABOVE,” said NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON. “HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR/HEALTH OFFICER QUOTE CONTINUED.”

THE HEALTH OFFICER HAS ALSO STRONGLY RECOMMENDED (FEEL FREE TO CUSTOMIZE BASED ON YOUR HEALTH OFFICER’S DIRECTIVES/GOVERNOR’S ORDERS):

• People avoid non-essential trips and stay home to the extent they can.

• Restaurants close in-house dining and limit service to carry out or delivery.

• Retirement communities and long-term care centers limit visitors.

• People avoid large gatherings including sports practices, games and tournaments and unnecessary social gatherings.

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

[HEALTH DEPARTMENT NAME] has worked closely on these decisions with numerous community partners, including [COUNTY NAME] County Government, City of [CITY NAME], [COUNTY NAME] County Emergency Management, [HOSPITAL NAME(S)] and leadership of local public and private school districts.

[COUNTY NAME] County residents can stay informed by visiting [YOUR WEBSITE], [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 [HEALTH DEPARTMENT NAME] information line at [HEALTH DEPARTMENT’S PHONE NUMBER] or email [HEALTH DEPARTMENT’S GENERAL EMAIL ADDRESS].