

BOARD OF FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Franklin County Remaining in Phase III

For Immediate Release

June 19, 2020

FRANKLIN COUNTY, KS – At the direction of the Public Health Officer and County Staff, Franklin County will remain in Phase III of Governor Kelly’s “Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas”. Over the next two weeks, Dr. Bud Ransom in conjunction with the Board of Public Health and County Staff, will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation and move to the ‘Phase Out’ portion of the plan as appropriate.

Franklin County Administrator, Derek Brown, touched on several reasons supporting the decision to remain in Phase III. “First and foremost, Franklin County’s active cases are currently trending upward, despite a growing number of individuals who have refused to be tested. Moving into a new Phase will give the impression that we are on a downward trend, which is not the case. Also, with every advancement in Phases, we see residents continue to become more relaxed and less-likely to follow recommended guidelines. Finally, we continue to see states that have been more aggressive in opening up previously, now seeing large numbers of positive cases.”

The Franklin County Health Department has identified nine new positive cases since last Friday, June 12, 2020. Franklin County now has a total of 57 positive cases and 1,510 negative test results. The Health Department is currently awaiting results from 78 pending tests. All of these cases have been thoroughly investigated and those who have come in close contact with these individuals have been contacted. Its important to note that some of these cases were asymptomatic.

As numbers continue to rise, please be diligent in your efforts to help mitigate the spread of this disease. Franklin County residents and those working in this community should:

- Wear a mask in public
- Practice social distancing
- Continue good hand-hygiene and thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces often.

For updated Franklin County information go to: www.franklincoks.org/covid19 or contact Franklin County Communications Director Kaci Brady – kbrady@franklincoks.org