FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
08/08/2022

MEDIA RELEASE

KDHE and SCHD Investigating Probable Case of Monkeypox in Shawnee County

Topeka, Kan. – The Shawnee County Health Department (SCHD) working in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Health and Environment Laboratories has identified a probable case of Monkeypox in Shawnee County. The individual was exposed after contact with a confirmed positive case that had traveled to Shawnee County from out-of-state. SCHD is awaiting confirmatory test results from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The individual is currently isolating at home and KDHE is working to identify and monitor any and all close contacts. To maintain patient confidentiality, no additional information will be shared at this time.

The monkeypox vaccine, JYNNEOS, is available to individuals in Shawnee County with a known exposure to a positive case. Due to limited vaccine supply, eligible individuals will be contacted by KDHE or SCHD through contact monitoring efforts.

"The risk of monkeypox transmission in Shawnee County continues to be low," said Teresa Fisher, Director of SCHD. "The Shawnee County Health Department will continue to work in close collaboration with KDHE and our local healthcare partners. Should you be experiencing any symptoms consistent with monkeypox you should contact your medical provider immediately."

People with monkeypox sometimes develop a flu-like illness with fever, fatigue, and enlarged lymph nodes followed by a rash. The incubation period for monkeypox is typically 7 to 14 days; however, it can range from 5 to 21 days.

Monkeypox is a viral infection that can spread through contact with body fluids, sores, or shared items (such as clothing and bedding) that have been contaminated with fluids from sores of a person with monkeypox. Individuals with monkeypox may spread the virus through:

- Respiratory secretions through prolonged face-to-face interactions (the type that mainly happen when living with someone or caring for someone who has monkeypox);
- Direct skin-to-skin contact with rash lesions (lesions may look like pimples) or infectious sores/scabs;
- Sexual/intimate contact, including kissing, hugging, massaging and cuddling;
- Living in a house and sharing a bed with someone; and
- Sharing towels or unwashed clothing.

Healthy People – Healthy Environment – Healthy Shawnee County
Most people with monkeypox have a mild illness that improves without treatment over 2 to 4 weeks. Treatment is supportive and focused on easing the symptoms of the illness. Monkeypox is contagious and can spread easily to others until scabs have fallen off and a new layer of skin has formed. Monkeypox is NOT spread through casual brief conversations or walking past someone in a store.

To prevent the spread of monkeypox, SCHD recommends:

- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.
  - Do not touch the rash or scabs of a person with monkeypox.
  - Do not kiss, hug, cuddle or have sex with someone with monkeypox.

- Avoid contact with objects and materials that a person with monkeypox has used.
  - Do not share eating utensils or cups with a person with monkeypox.
  - Do not handle or touch the bedding, towels, or clothing of a person with monkeypox.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially before eating or touching your face and after you use the bathroom.

KDHE has set up a phone bank that is available to assist in answering general questions about monkeypox. Individuals can call 1-866-KDHEINF (534-3463) Monday-Friday, 8:30 am – 5 pm or can email their questions to monkeypox@ks.gov.

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Shawnee County Health Department is committed to working in partnership with our community to promote and protect the optimal health of all people by bridging gaps to eliminate health inequities, respecting the diversity of our community, through adaptive and innovative processes.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube

Healthy People – Healthy Environment – Healthy Shawnee County
For Immediate Release

Contact for further information: Gretchen Spiker, Director of Communications, gspiker@topeka.org

August 9, 2022

City of Topeka to survey road conditions

TOPEKA, Kan. – The City of Topeka on Wednesday will kick off a project to inventory the condition of all roads maintained by the City.

To accomplish this, the City hired Roadway Asset Services, LLC (RAS) based out of Austin, Texas. RAS is a nationwide firm that provides professional asset management and mobile data collection services to local and state government agencies.

Beginning Wednesday, August 10, 2022, RAS vehicles will collect imagery on all pavement and above ground transportation-related assets located within the public right-of-way. The vehicles will be traveling all City-maintained roads, to include alleys. The data collection will occur during daylight hours and on dry roads.

RAS vehicles are clearly marked, and look like the below photo.

The City previously worked with RAS on a similar project. The data collection process is expected to take 4 to 6 weeks.
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Key: ≠ = Information/Resource Session, * = Hiring Event, ≠ ≠ = Workshops
IMPORTANT NOTICE!

FOR
TOPEKA HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT BUS PASSENGERS

As of August 10, 2022,
Topeka Metro is discontinuing the
after school
West 10th Special buses
for students
at Topeka High School
and Highland Park High School
TOPEKA METRO RESTORES SPECIAL BUS ROUTES

We thank the Topeka Metro for restoring the special 10th Street bus routes serving Topeka High School & Highland Park High School students at this time.

In partnership with the Topeka Metro, Topeka Public Schools has purchased bus passes being made available to middle & high school students as needed.
MUST PRE-REGISTER BY SEPT. 9TH
FREE

Date: Fri. Sept. 16th 2022
Time: 4:30 - 6 P.M.

Research and Extension Master Gardener
SEP is hosting a speaker from the Kansas State
Caterpillar and Chrysalis Habitat.

Learn about the Monarch Butterfly population and
How to help save their species!

Saving the Monarch Butterfly Project:
Your mental health matters, contact any of these resources for assistance.

**Valeo Crisis Center**
24-Hour Crisis Line: 785.234.3300
400 SW Oakley
Topeka, Kansas, 66606
valeotopeka.org

**Text HOME to 741741**
To connect with a counselor for free

**Stormont Vail**
Behaviorial Health
Call 785.270.4646

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:**
Call 988
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

**Topeka Police Department**
Behavioral Health Unit
Call 911
HHHS COMMUNITY CLINIC
Friday Sept. 2, 2022
12pm - 3pm

DON'T WAIT.
VACCINATE.

LOW-COST PET VACCINE CLINIC

SERVICES & PRICING
- DAPP - Free
- FVRCP - Free
- Rabies - $15
- Bordetella - $15
- Microchip - $20

CALL US TODAY
785-272-2299

Helping Hands
Humane Society, Inc.

5720 SW 21st St., Topeka, KS 66604
www.hhhstopeka.org/spay-neuter
OUR MISSION
To support youth and communities in creating healthy and safe environments through crime prevention, substance abuse prevention, and other behavioral health services.

OUR VISION
Healthy, safe and resilient communities.

PREVENTION AND RESILIENCY SERVICES
2209 SW 29th Street
Topeka, KS 66611
(785) 266-8666
info@parstopeka.org
www.parstopeka.org

Community-focused, not-for-profit organization dedicated to reducing drug and alcohol misuse through awareness, education, promotions, and evaluation services in Topeka and Shawnee County.

education partnerships safety wellness health evaluations prevention youth community resiliency family communication wellbeing adults
AVAILABLE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION & EDUCATION

PRESENTATIONS
- Drug Trends & Paraphernalia
- Drugs & Family Dynamics
- Risk & Protective Factors
- Aspects of Addiction
- Trauma & Addiction
- Alcohol, Marijuana, Vaping, and Prescription Drugs specific presentations

PROGRAMS
- wreckED
- MADD’s Power of Parents
- #theImpact
- Mock Bedroom

SCHOOLS
Customized presentations and programs available for school aged youth in Shawnee County. Contact PARS for more information.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE EVALUATIONS

YOUTH
- No-cost services offered in-person or online through grant funding
- Evaluations with our Licensed Addictions Counselor, including one-on-one and family appointments
- Case Management Services available, as needed
- Referrals for additional treatment available for high-risk youth

ADULT
- Court approved evaluation program in Shawnee County
- ADIS course offered quarterly
- Evaluation services offered in-person or online
- Flexible scheduling with daytime or evening appointments

CRIME PREVENTION & EDUCATION

PRESENTATIONS
- Safe Property Management
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
- Retailer’s Association
- Customized trainings and workshops also available

PROGRAMS
- Neighborhood Watch
- National Night Out
- Safe Streets Coalition
- Substance Misuse Taskforce
- Mediation
- Lock It, Lose It, or Remove It
- Calles Seguras
Quick Facts & Figures

**PSYCHOSTIMULANT OVERDOSE DEATHS**

In Kansas and nationally, fatal overdose deaths involving psychostimulants are increasing. Psychostimulants with abuse potential include illicit drugs such as methamphetamine, as well as prescription stimulants.¹

Between 2018 and 2019, the number of deaths involving psychostimulants doubled in Kansas from 77 deaths to 153 deaths. This is the highest number of reported deaths involving psychostimulants ever reported in Kansas.

Psychostimulant-involved deaths among males doubled again between 2018 (n=55) and 2019 (n=110). This represents a statistically significant increase.

In the United States, the number of deaths nationally attributed to psychostimulants is predicted to increase by 26.4% from 12,676 deaths in 2018 to 16,521 deaths in 2019 (2).

Females experienced a 95.5% increase in psychostimulant-involved fatal overdoses between 2018 (n=22) and 2019 (n=43).

Psychostimulant deaths occur in all population densities in Kansas. Population density designations are defined as: **Frontier** - Six or fewer people per square mile; **Rural** - Greater than 6 but less than 20 people per square mile; **Densely-settled rural** - between 20 and 39 people per square mile; **Semi-Urban** - between 40 and 149 people per square mile; **Urban** - 150 or more people per square mile.

Those 35-44 years of age experienced a statistically significant increase in psychostimulant involved overdose deaths between 2018 (n=15) and 2019 (n=45). This represents a threefold increase in one year for this age group. Those 55-64 years of age experienced a 140% increase in deaths attributed to psychostimulants from 2018 (n=15) to 2019 (n=36).

References


¹. Psychostimulant overdose deaths include those with a contributing cause of death ICD-10 code of T43.6.
Kansas psychostimulant overdose death rates almost doubled from 2018 to 2019 and account for 39% of all fatal overdoses statewide.

In Kansas, psychostimulant mortality rates are two and a half times higher among men than women, however, rates increased for both from 2018 to 2019.

Although the number of psychostimulant deaths are higher in more densely populated areas in Kansas, mortality rates are similar across all population density designations statewide.