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Franklin County to Conduct Drive-Thru Testing in Wellsville

*****For Immediate Release*****

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FRANKLIN COUNTY, KS – The Franklin County Health Department has seen a quick increase in COVID-19 cases in the Wellsville community over the past several days. Contact tracing of positive test results in this area has proven to be an issue. In order to keep the community as safe as possible, the Health Department has worked with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to obtain enough test-kits to conduct a drive-thru testing site in Wellsville.

The drive-thru testing is open to Wellsville residents only and/or those who have children in the Wellsville School District. Those individuals who feel they have been in close contact (*defined as being in the same area, within 6 ft., for longer than 10 minutes*) with someone who may have tested positive previously should make plans to get tested. The drive-thru testing will take place in the Wellsville High School Parking lot from 8:30am to 4pm. Those who fit the criteria and would like to be tested should start on 7th street and turn into the parking lot. The Franklin County Emergency Management Mobile Command Trailer will be at the north end of the parking lot. Individuals will not need to get out of their vehicle for any reason.

Individuals who are tested will also be asked to fill-out a questionnaire which will help the Health Department with contact tracing. Based on the questionnaire, if individuals have been in close prolonged contact with a previous positive individual they may be contacted by the Health Department with further instructions. Studies suggests that close contacts can develop symptoms up to 14-days after interaction.

The Health Department would like to clarify that any student who has been contacted by the School District or the Health Department pertaining to being in direct contact with a positive individual and has been referred for testing, should still quarantine for 14-days before going out in public. A negative test can be produced before the on-set of symptoms. Also, there are many carriers of this virus who have been asymptomatic, showing no symptoms at all within the quarantine period. Your efforts to help mitigate the spread of this virus are sincerely appreciated. It takes everyone doing their part.

This drive-thru testing has been a joint effort between the Franklin County Health Department, Franklin County Emergency Management, Wellsville USD 289, the City of Wellsville, the Wellsville Police Department and the Ottawa Family Physicians Lab Staff. The County would like to extend a thank you to these organizations for their efforts in helping to stop the spread.