

TRANSLINES EXPRESS

Dec. 2, 2020

Kansas City Plaza lights ceremony features KDOT workers



Area Superintendents Albert Horn, left, and Drake Jennings were featured in a video highlighting essential workers as part of the Kansas City Country Club Plaza virtual lighting ceremony. Photos by Kelly Kultala, District One

By Kelly Kultala
District One

The Kansas City Country Club Plaza hosted the 91st annual lighting ceremony on Thanksgiving Day.

This time the honored “flipping of the switch” event, which in past years attracted thousands of spectators to the Plaza area and many considered the official beginning of the holiday season, was transformed as a virtual only event this year because of concerns

about the spread of COVID-19. The ceremony was broadcast on KMBC-TV and it paid tribute to front line and essential workers, who are working hard during the pandemic to serve the public.

District One was contacted by a KMBC-TV producer and asked to provide videos of KDOT workers “counting down” to when the Plaza lights were turned on and the fireworks began. Albert Horn, Area Superintendent in Bonner Springs, and Drake Jennings, Area Superintendent in Olathe, participated in the essential workers video. Check out the video [here](#).



State offices are closed for the holidays on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 24 and 25.

State offices will also be closed on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, for New Year’s Day.

Have a safe and Merry Christmas!

Hale named Communications Director

By Kim Stich
Headquarters

Steve Hale has been named Director of Communications for KDOT.

He is excited to be involved in the agency's Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program. "KDOT is a well-respected agency in our state," Hale said. "Kansans understand the importance of safe and reliable transportation infrastructure, whether it involves roads, rail, aviation or technology. The IKE program is an example of KDOT's commitment to the well-being of Kansas both now and into the future."

Hale grew up in Cheyenne County and graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in journalism. For 20 years he worked as a reporter, editor and publisher for newspapers in McPherson, Cimarron, Arkansas City, Gardner, Overland Park and Nevada, Missouri. Hale then transitioned into the marketing and public relations fields. For the past 18 months he served as a Senior Partnership Specialist with the 2020 Census in Kansas.

During his time at the Census Bureau, Hale traveled across Kansas frequently, talking to citizens about the importance the census had on their communities. Working at KDOT will be similar, he said, as it also embodies service to the public.

"Everyone on the KDOT team is working for the betterment of Kansas," Hale said.

While traveling, Hale appreciated being able to tour many scenic highways across the state. One in particular caught his attention: K-14 between I-70 and Beloit. "It's arguably the most scenic two-lane highway in Kansas. It's beautiful."

He and his wife, Sharyl, reside in Gardner. They have two grown sons and two grandsons.



Steve Hale

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Project Delivery
Greg Schieber

Safety
Troy Whitworth

Kudos

Email to KDOT -

I would like to send a huge Thank You to the driver of your state truck that was applying liquid salt yesterday afternoon on K-4 and Daisy Road around the 1:45-2:00 p.m. time frame. I was headed to a doctor appointment in Salina, and the truck was putting down the salt brine on bridges. When he came to Daisy Road, he pulled his truck off to the right and let myself and another driver pass... Thank you so very much. Great job KDOT.

Adams named KDOT Director of Field Operations

Clay Adams has been selected as the Director of Field Operations for KDOT.

This is a new position - the Division of Operations previously included both field and project delivery responsibilities. By splitting the Division, it will allow the Directors to better focus on their specific functions.

"I'm looking forward to working closer with the KDOT district offices and concentrating on the maintenance and operations parts of our agency," Adams said. "I want to provide a voice for the field offices when it comes to policies and procedures to represent their needs that affect their staff."

KDOT FUN FACT

Clay Adams' father, J.O. Adams, was named KDOT Director of Operations in March 1976.



Clay Adams

Adams said the Directors will work together to make sure offices at Headquarters and in the field are supported. There will continue to be some common issues that relate to both Divisions.

Adams has served at KDOT for nearly 30 years. He worked for KDOT for three summers while attending Kansas State University, then was at United Construction

Co. in Lenexa for several years. In 1991, he moved to Topeka to purchase his parents' farm and began at KDOT as a Staff Engineer in Construction and Maintenance. He was named District One Maintenance Engineer and served for 15 years until he was promoted to District One Engineer in 2007. In 2013, he became the Chief of the Bureau of Maintenance, where he served up until his recent promotion.

He and his wife, Patti, have two grown children and two grandchildren. They reside in Overbrook.

Schieber named KDOT Director of Project Delivery

Greg Schieber has been selected as the Director of Project Delivery for KDOT.

This is a new position - the Division of Operations previously included both field and project delivery responsibilities. By splitting the Division, it will allow the Directors to better focus on their specific functions.

"It's exciting to have a new division and focus on the direction and how to improve our efforts for the agency," Schieber said. "I think it will help as we deliver the IKE transportation program and our ability to implement new solutions on construction projects."

The new division will lead several bureaus at Headquarters, but it will still be responsible for overall construction administration and materials acceptance across the state.



Greg Schieber

"One of the focuses will be continuing to improve partnerships between the contracting and materials industries as we work together on construction projects," Schieber said.

Schieber graduated from the University of Kansas and came to work at KDOT 19 years ago in the Bureau of Materials and Research where he held several positions.

He then became the Assistant Bureau Chief of Construction and Materials. In 2015, he went to the Area Four Office in Topeka as the Metro Engineer, then came back to Construction and Materials to become the Bureau Chief, where he served up until his recent promotion.

He and his wife, Abby, have three kids, and he is very involved in coaching their activities. They reside in Topeka.

KDOT employees celebrate 40 years of service in FY 2020

State employees celebrating 40 and 50 years of service usually gather in Topeka to highlight their accomplishments. This year, a video of all 131 state employees reaching 40 and 50 years of service is being

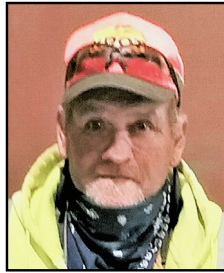
created by KDOT's Multimedia Services. Below are the 20 KDOT employees and towns they work in who reached this milestone - all are celebrating 40 years in Fiscal Year 2020.



*Randall Balluch
WaKeeney*



*Edward Burdick
Topeka*



*Ricky Conner
Ottawa*



*Douglas Cressler
Hoxie*



*Glen Cunningham
Chanute*



*James Ehrlich
Russell*



*Wayne Gudmonson
Chanute*



*Brent Gurwell
Topeka*



*Ronald Hall
Garden City*



*Fred Hummer
Chanute*



*Marty Martinez
Topeka*



*Joyce Paynter
Topeka*



*Brad Rognlie
Topeka*



*Harold Schleicher
Phillipsburg*



*Gene Watts, Jr.
Pratt*



*Richard Wieneman
Lawrence*



*John Wiens
Hutchinson*



*David Wiggins
El Dorado*



*Carla Wilson
Liberal*

*Judith Sprout
Topeka*

**Thank you
all for your
service!**

Recent incidents show - seat belts save lives

By Lisa Mussman and Lisa Knoll
District Three and District Six

Two recent incidents are good examples of the importance of always wearing seat belts.

District Three Area Construction Engineer Jim Riener was on his way to check on a project earlier this month when he was involved in a crash that ended up looking a lot worse than it was.

Riener was traveling along K-9 in Phillips County when he collided with a vehicle that pulled out in front of him from a side road. The impact caused the truck he was driving to catch on fire, burning it to a shell.

“As I approached the intersection, I noticed the vehicle and was able to anticipate that it might pull out in front of me, which gave me time to react and led to the impact being much less than it could have been,” Riener said.

Fortunately, neither driver was seriously injured. And true to KDOT policy, Riener was properly restrained at the time of the incident.

Riener said this experience serves as a good reminder of how quickly things can go wrong.

“We never know when something unexpected may happen and need to remember to protect ourselves at all times,” Riener said. “This includes wearing seat belts, paying attention when driving and anticipating other motorists’ actions.”

On the morning of Oct. 25, Lakin Equipment Operator



This photo shows the truck Equipment Operator Jacob Eidson rolled. He only had minor injuries because he was wearing his seat belt. Photo by Ken Bowden, District Six

Jacob Eidson was headed north on K-25 to salt and sand the highway.

K-25 is a two-lane, remote highway with very few trees and even fewer vehicles. About 30 miles north of Lakin, Eidson noticed ice building up on his mirrors. As he approached White Woman Creek just south of Leoti, he saw a Jeep in the ditch and two Sheriff officers and vehicles on the southbound shoulder.

Moving at 10-15 mph, he began to cross the bridge. He felt the truck shift and slide. He tried to steer right to avoid the officers. The truck hit the guardrail and rolled down the embankment.

Eidson, who was buckled up, remembers the truck’s first aid kit hitting him in the head, then hitting the driver’s side window. Once the truck stopped rolling, he opened his eyes to see the truck’s engine. The truck’s control panel had shifted and his leg was pinned underneath it so he couldn’t get out. The officers broke out the windshield and with help, got Eidson out.

Ask Eidson if seat belts make a difference. Without hesitation, he says, “Oh definitely. I had a bruise from the seat belt, and I was sore. Without it, I would have had broken ribs or more.” His advice, “Always buckle up. Every time. It will save your life.”



The truck was heavily damaged, but Area Construction Engineer Jim Riener was fine because of his seat belt. Photo by Lisa Mussman, District Three



Left photo: Shannon Clarkson, Equipment Operator Senior on the District Specials Crew, operates the cherry-picker truck for Donnie Burkholder, Equipment Operator Specialist on the District Specials Crew. Burkholder is running wiring through the bridge deck for the new bridge sensor. Jeff Bogart, Equipment Operator Senior in Concordia, provides assistance from below. Right photo: Steve Schmidt, Highway Maintenance Supervisor of the District Specials crew, cuts out and removes the core of the failed bridge sensor. Photos by Ashley Perez, District Two

New bridge sensor to monitor winter bridge temps

By Ashley Perez
District Two

Bridge sensors are used across Kansas to monitor bridge deck temperatures to determine if the bridge is frozen or wet.

KDOT has 43 road weather stations and the KTA has 10 road weather stations. The data from these weather stations are incorporated in the weather forecasts for Kansas highways and bridges. KDOT crews rely on these weather stations and pavement forecast to manage and decide on the best treatment options

before, during and after each storm.

On Nov. 17, District Two staff jumped into action to replace a failed bridge sensor on U.S. 81. After setting up traffic control, the core of the old bridge sensor was cut out and removed. Once removed, wiring was run through the bridge deck and the new sensor was installed.

Currently, KDOT is not receiving data from the new sensor. It is anticipated that the bridge deck sensor on U.S. 81 will be turned on in a few weeks.

Data from this sensor and others in Kansas can be viewed [here](#).

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT employee Johnny Deel Ivison, Jr., Equipment Operator in the District One, Area Three Subarea office in Leavenworth. Ivison worked at KDOT for about three years. He was a volunteer firefighter who died en route to a fire in rural Leavenworth County on Nov. 8. Ivison leaves behind his wife, Tiffanee Ivison of Leavenworth, and two young sons.



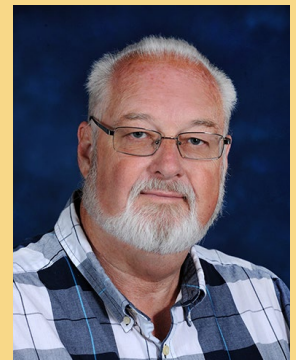
Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT employee Ryan Peltier, who passed away on Nov. 14 in Cloud County. Peltier began at KDOT in May of 2001 and currently served as the Equipment Operator Specialist in Concordia. David Casper, Highway Maintenance Supervisor in Concordia, says the shop won't be the same and he will miss his right hand man.



Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT employee Danny Coonce, who passed away on Nov. 10. Coonce was an Equipment Body Mechanic at the District Five shop in Hutchinson. He began at KDOT in 2013, serving for almost seven years. His co-workers say he was a diligent body repair employee. He enjoyed coffee with his co-workers. His hobby - his passion - was antique trucks.



Condolences to the friends and family of KDOT employee John Davis, who passed away on Nov. 17 in Topeka. Davis began with KDOT in 2006 and was an Engineering Technician Senior at the Emporia Construction Office. His coworkers said he was a very kind man, had a beautiful singing voice, collected marbles and whittled wood canes. He is survived by his wife, Pamela, and four children. Davis was planning to retire next spring.



Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Clinton Burger, who passed away on Nov. 9. He was from Beloit. Burger worked for KDOT for many years, retiring in 1991 as the Highway Superintendent for District Two, Area Two.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Roberta Drake who passed away on Nov. 28. She started at KDOT in 1997 and worked as an Equipment Operator Senior at the Altoona Subarea office. After 14 years, Drake retired in 2011.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree William "Bill" Nolting who passed away on Nov. 29 in Topeka. Nolting started at KDOT in 1958 and was a Professional Civil Engineer in Design and Construction and Maintenance. He retired in 1994.

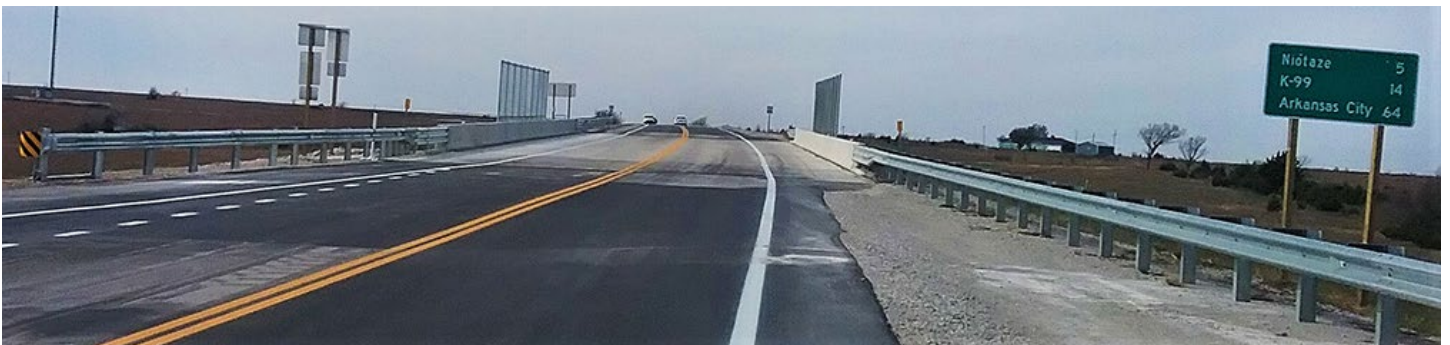
Trivia!

Peanuts comics – 70th anniversary

1. What was the original name of the comic strip?
2. How many Peanuts comic strips ran in newspapers between 1950 and 2000?
3. How many newspapers and countries was the comic strip appearing in when it retired?
4. How many siblings does Snoopy have?
5. How many Peanuts TV specials have there been?
6. How many adults have appeared in the comic strip?
7. Name all of the major awards Peanuts has received.



The new U.S. 166 railroad overpass (below), located west of the U.S. 166/75 interchange in Montgomery County, opened to unrestricted traffic in late October. The overpass spans the South Kansas & Oklahoma tracks (top right), replacing a bridge constructed in 1959. The new overpass was built on an alignment north of the old bridge. The replacement project on the existing bridge (top left) started in July 2019 and had a \$3.4 million construction cost. B & B Bridge Company of St. Paul was the primary contractor. Ben Ware's road squad and Shawn Schwensen's bridge squad designed the project. Photos by Priscilla Petersen, District Four, and Multimedia Services



Trivia answers

1. Li'l Folks.
2. 17,897, and each one was drawn by Schulz.
3. 2,600 newspapers and 75 countries.
4. Five – four brothers and a sister.
5. 45. And "Charlie Brown Christmas" was the first one.
6. None, just the teacher's "wah-wah" voice.
7. Peanuts projects won two Grammys, four Emmy awards and two Tony awards. They've only gotten an Oscar nomination, though: "A Boy Named Charlie Brown" (1969) got a nod for Best Original Song Score.

Three bridge projects wrap up in District Five

By Tim Potter
District Five

District Five recently completed three bridge projects, opening K-14, U.S. 54 and U.S. 281 to unrestricted traffic at the project locations.

K-14: The largest of the three projects is the new K-14 bridge at Hunter Creek near Kingman.

The new bridge – about 3 miles south of Kingman – is higher and wider, with the deck 40 feet wide. The new bridge includes drainage improvements.

“It’s more of an improvement than just a wider bridge,” said Jeremy King, Engineering Technician Senior and project manager/lead inspector. “It’s night and day from what it used to be.”

Work on the bridge replacement began in early June. King Construction Co. Inc., of Hesston, is the primary contractor for the \$1,393,896 project.

U.S. 54: Repairs have been made to the U.S. 54



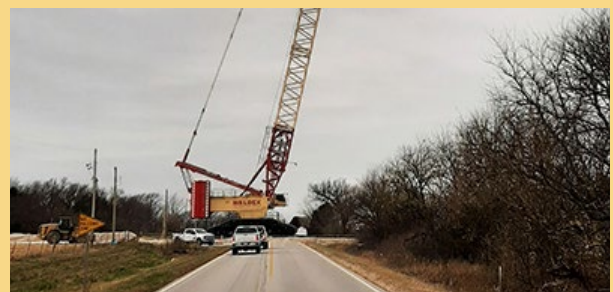
The new bridge on K-14 at Hunter Creek, near Kingman, is wider and offers better drainage. Photo by Jeremy King, District Five

bridges over the Whitewater River just west of Augusta. The work began this past spring. Bridges Inc., of Newton, is the main contractor for the \$884,292 project.

U.S. 281: The U.S. 281 bridge about 2.5 miles north of Great Bend has been replaced. The work began in early June. The primary contractor for the \$584,273 project is L&M Contractors Inc., of Great Bend.



The morning of Nov. 20, a section of K-47 was closed to move a wind tower crane across the highway. Moving the crane, which was necessary to complete the installation of a wind farm in Neosho County, had been scheduled and rescheduled several times since October. Starting at 8 a.m., barricades were placed at the junctions with U.S. 169 and U.S. 59. The crane’s progress was smooth, taking less than four hours. K-47 reopened shortly before noon. Photos by Joe Engle, District Four



Truss, gusset work on bridge underway

By Kelly Kultala
District One

A bridge repair project began last October on the 7th St./U.S. 169/Herman Dillon Bridge in Kansas City. Trusses and gussets underneath the bridge are being fixed and replaced, so much of the work is not visible from the bridge deck.

In order for the contractor to access the trusses to perform the repairs, a working platform will need to be built, spanning the river, and hanging underneath the bridge.

The northbound lanes, going over the bridge, are



Workers check out the underneath of the 7th St./U.S. 169 bridge as repair work continues. Photo by Joel Smith, District One

currently closed till mid-December, while the fall work is completed. The repairs involve removing rivets, paint, and pack rust; drilling to arrest cracks in the repair area, installing new bolts in place of removed rivets, painting and sealing the repair area. The bridge will reopen for the winter, and additional lane closures and bridge work will occur next spring.

Local transportation, technology projects selected

Gov. Laura Kelly and Secretary Julie Lorenz announced the recipients of more than \$6 million in funds provided by two programs that invest in technology and local community transportation needs on Nov. 12 at the Lenexa Civic Center.

The announcement was the first-ever awards for KDOT's Innovative Technology program made possible by IKE.

Five Innovative Technology projects totaling \$1.3 million were selected. The program provides financial assistance for innovative technology projects that improve safety and increase KDOT's technology investment.

Gov. Kelly and Secretary Lorenz also announced recipients of the Cost Share Program. More than \$4.9 million will support 14 transportation construction projects funded through state and local partnerships that improve safety, support job retention and growth, improve access or mobility, and relieve congestion.

To see lists of all the projects selected, click [here](#).



Gov. Laura Kelly announces the projects selected to receive funding as part of KDOT's Cost Share and Innovative Technology programs on Nov. 12. Photo by KDOT Multimedia Services.

Maintenance crews pushing through pandemic

By Tracy Crockett
District Five

Seven months into the pandemic, KDOT maintenance crews across the state are adapting to many challenges. All offices are finding new or alternate ways to accomplish their goals.

Some of these challenges include staffing, safety protocol and morale, to name a few. Marissa Martinez, Highway Maintenance Supervisor for the Wichita Metro East Subarea, said the pandemic is affecting employees both at work and at home.

“We’re trying to show genuine concern for every employee and their household. Each family situation and stress level during this pandemic is different,” Martinez said.

With crew members out due to COVID-19, it poses challenges such as taking management away from projects, crews dealing with paperwork and not having enough skilled employees for each task, she said.

“Every day is a new day,” Martinez said. “We’re keeping a pretty positive outlook and every employee is doing their part to keep KDOT’s vision alive.”

Adapting to wearing masks and social distancing has been a group effort. “I’m asking everyone to keep each other honest/accountable,” she said. “If you see someone without a mask on, say something.”

Crews have moved to a larger area to receive assignments to allow for social distancing. More time is given to sanitize and clean trucks and shared areas each day. If an employee is feeling sick, they are asked to stay home.

Cashless KTA plaza set to open

Construction is nearly complete for the new Exit 53A in Wichita. This will be the first cashless plaza for KTA. When completed later this year, southbound travelers will not stop when leaving the Turnpike, but will keep moving to connect to westbound Kellogg.

- Electronic customers will be billed as normal at the lowest toll rate.
- Customers who typically use a tollbooth will have 10 days to go online and pay for their trip.
- If the cash toll is not paid within 10 days, a statement



Exit 53A in Wichita will be the first cashless plaza on the KTA.

will be mailed at a higher toll rate.

- Failure to pay the toll statement will result in a toll violation.

Watch this video [here](#) to learn how Exit 53A will work.

Thank you for your service

Retirees

The following employees retired from KDOT on Dec. 1.

District One

Carl Burgardt, Engineering Technician, Kansas City

District Four

Joseph Oldham, Equipment Operator Specialist, Mound City

The following employees will retire from KDOT on Jan. 1.

District One

John Long, Equipment Operator Senior, Wamego

Douglas Welch, Equipment Operator Senior, Horton

District Three

Kent Portenier, Equipment Operator Specialist, Phillipsburg

William Vacura, Engineering Technician, Norton
District Two

James Struble, Equipment Operator Senior,
Minneapolis

District Four

Kirby Alexander, Highway Maintenance Supervisor,
Garnett

Charles Baker, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Erie

James Dahlke, Equipment Operator Senior,
Columbus

Fredrick Gebhardt, Engineering Technician Senior,
Pittsburg

Alvin Loveall, Highway Maintenance Supervisor,
Louisburg

District Five

Valeria Mullen, Engineering Technician Specialist,
Hutchinson

Joseph Pasek, Engineering Technician Senior, Wichita

Daniel Tapia, Equipment Operator Senior, Winfield

Jerry Watkins, Equipment Operator, Lyons



A look back - this photo, published in the Dec. 19, 2012, Translines edition, showed the downtown business district in WaKeeney known as the "Christmas City of the High Plains."

KDOT Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form

Year	Quantity	Cost	Total
2020		\$5	
2019		\$3	
2018		\$3	
2016		\$3	
2015		\$3	
2013		\$3	
Total enclosed			



Please Print -

Name: _____ Best phone: _____

Work address: _____

(Retirees only - home address)

How to Order:

HQ - email/call Jennifer to make arrangements.

Districts/Retirees - Mail form to -
Jennifer Meyer, ESOB/6th Floor,
700 SW Harrison, Topeka, KS 66603

Make checks payable to
KDOT Employee Council

Contact
Jennifer: (785)
296-3661
or Jennifer.Meyer@ks.gov

2016



2015



2013



Past Ornaments Available






2019



2018



What are the differences between social distancing, quarantine and isolation?

	Social Distancing	Quarantine	Isolation
Who is it for? 	Anyone who hasn't been exposed to the disease.	People or groups who don't currently have symptoms but were exposed to the disease.	People who are already sick with the disease.
What is it? 	A day-to-day precautionary measure used by non-exposed people to help prevent the spread of a disease.	A prevention strategy used to monitor and separate well people who may have been exposed to a disease for a certain amount of time to see if they become ill. Helps prevent the spread of disease. Usually takes place in the home.	A prevention strategy used to separate people who are sick with an infectious disease from healthy people. Helps limit the spread of disease. Can take place in the home or hospital. Healthcare providers often send patients to home-isolation when they no longer require medical attention.
When do I use it? 	All the time until further direction by KDHE or the local health department.	<p>If you have recently traveled to a country or US state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19, or been on a cruise or river cruise, or if you have come into close contact with someone who has COVID-19.</p> <p>Consult the KDHE website or contact your local health department if you are unsure if you should self-quarantine.</p>	If you are waiting for COVID-19 test results, have tested positive for COVID-19, or have symptoms of the disease without a test. Contact your healthcare provider immediately if you are experiencing symptoms severe enough to seek healthcare. If symptoms are mild, stay at home and isolate away from others.
How long is it for? 	Indefinite until otherwise directed.	<p>14 days after your last exposure.</p> <p>Once your quarantine period has ended, if you do not have symptoms, you may return to your normal routine.</p>	<p>For most cases, 10 days from the beginning of symptoms OR 72 hours after fever is gone without the use of fever reducing medicine and other symptoms have significantly improved</p> <p>WHICHEVER IS LONGER</p>
What does this mean for my daily life? 	<p>Avoid large gatherings and groups of over 50 people. Try your best to stay 6-feet away from people. Call or video-chat with loved ones, particularly those that are elderly or have underlying health conditions that places them at high-risk.</p> <p>If possible, work from home.</p> <p>Practice good hygiene and avoid shaking hands or touching your face.</p> <p>If you are feeling sick, stay home and if needed, call a healthcare provider.</p>	<p>Stay at home, avoid close contact with others. Do not attend any settings where you cannot maintain about a 6-foot distance. However, you must remain asymptomatic and this allowance must be made by the county local health officer and is determined on a case by case basis.</p> <p>For food, medication, and other necessities - have supplies delivered.</p> <p>Use precaution - don't share household items, wash hands, and clean frequently touched surfaces often.</p> <p>For in home quarantine, monitor symptoms. If you become ill and need attention call your healthcare provider.</p>	<p>Do not leave your home unless it is in an emergency. If you are in a home with others, stay in a room by yourself. Call or video-chat loved ones.</p> <p>For food, medication, and other necessities - have supplies delivered. and try to stock up for the duration of the isolation.</p> <p>Use precaution - don't share household items, wash hands, and clean frequently touched surfaces often.</p> <p>If you are in home isolation, monitor your symptoms and if you need medical attention, contact with your healthcare provider.</p>



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KANSAS

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Celebrate the special relationships in your life this holiday season by treating your family and friends to a heart-warming gift box filled with goods from around the Sunflower State! Your purchase directly supports small Kansas businesses and promotes local Kansas communities.

Each holiday gift box includes an array of delicious sweet and salty snacks, useful sunflower oil and so much more!



Ad Astra Gift Box



Konza Gift Box

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by December 10 for guaranteed holiday delivery!