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Compliance with isolation and quarantine orders key to slowing spread of COVID-19 cases in Douglas County

Updated quarantine list now includes nine Greek chapter houses, with two removed

LAWRENCE – As Douglas County has seen an increase in COVID-19 cases in recent days as part of the University of Kansas entry testing, Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health disease investigators have been working to identify close contacts of positive cases to quarantine them with the goal of slowing the spread of the coronavirus in the community.

As part of this process of identifying close contacts, especially in settings where college students live and interact in close quarters and proximity, Wednesday evening, we announced that nine chapter houses had been issued quarantine orders and a 10th was in process. Today, as part of the ongoing disease investigation process, we are removing two of those chapter houses from the list and adding one.

This current list includes the following chapter houses: Pi Kappa Phi, Phi Gamma Delta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Gamma Phi Beta, Delta Delta Delta, Alpha Chi Omega, Pi Beta Phi, Sigma Nu and Beta Theta Pi.

As part of the ongoing disease investigation, we have also determined that two houses currently have no positive cases within the chapter house: Kappa Alpha Theta and Phi Kappa Psi. Currently the members within the residence are not quarantined. All their positive cases live outside of the building and are not allowed in until isolation is complete.

“This is one of the most effective measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Even if you are asymptomatic, it is important to comply with this directive, especially to protect those in our community who are at high risk,” said Douglas County’s Local [Health Officer Dr. Thomas Marcellino](#). “In cases where contacts are identified in Greek chapter houses, we consider them as living in a household. And household members are considered high risk.”

More detailed information about the contact tracing process is [available at LDCHealth.org](#).

According to KU, as of Tuesday afternoon 222 people have tested positive out of 19,452 entry test results received, for a positivity rate of 1.14%. The overall positivity rate among members of the Greek community was 5.47%.

University of Kansas and LDCPH leaders also met with members of the KU Greek community Wednesday evening to share information about the process and guidance for moving forward.

Other important ways to reduce transmission of COVID-19 are:

- Wear a mask when in public and not able to practice social distancing from others.
- Practice social distancing, staying at least 6 feet apart from others when in public or outdoors;
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water is not immediately available;
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow and avoid touching your face;

Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health maintains the Coronavirus hotline, 785-856-4343, and there are [options in the community for COVID-19 screening and testing](#). Always call a healthcare provider to let them know of your symptoms before showing up. Members of the public can also check douglascountyks.org/coronavirus or ldchealth.org/coronavirus for information about COVID-19 in Douglas County.

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