

Hospital provides COVID update

(KNZA)--A Hiawatha Community Hospital official updated city and county officials Monday on COVID-19 vaccination numbers.

HCH Chief Operating Officer Alison Kerl appeared before the Brown County Commission and Hiawatha City Commission during their regular meetings to provide an update.

Kerl said the hospital staff have been very involved in working with the Brown County Health Department on the mass COVID-19 vaccinations in the community.

As of Monday, they had administered 3,035 vaccines, which equates to 1,718 people. Currently, the general public is eligible to receive the vaccine.

Kerl said the hospital recently started to receive vaccines as well. She said they are doing 100 Johnson and Johnson vaccines this week, which requires only one dose. Kerl anticipated the hospital would continue to get the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

She said the hospital has seen a decrease in COVID patients requiring admission and decreased volume in the hospital setting. In March, they were still averaging 9 patients a day in their West Clinic. The positivity rate was 4.5 percent in March, with an increase towards the end of the month.

As of Monday, the Brown County Health Department reported five active COVID-19 cases in the county, with no hospitalizations.

Many Signals Communications