

Virus cases increase locally; Omicron confirmed in KS

(KAIR)--A two-case, one week increase in the number of active coronavirus cases in Atchison County.

That word was delivered in Wednesday's update of the local numbers by the Atchison County office of the Northeast Kansas Multi-County Health Departments.

According to the figures, Atchison County currently has 151 active cases of COVID-19, up two from the 149 cases reported December 8.

Additionally, a three-case increase in the number of virus-related hospitalizations in Atchison County is also reported, with the health department Wednesday saying the current number hospitalized is 13, up from last week's 10 hospitalizations.

The statistics show that of Atchison County's current 151 coronavirus cases, eight are less than 5-years-old; 11 are between the ages of 5 to 12; 26 cases involve those aged 13 to 21; 28 cases are those between 22 and 35; 24 cases are aged 36 to 50; 34 cases are aged 51 to 65; and 20 of the county's cases are those over the age of 65.

According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Atchison County has had 2,801 cases since the beginning of the pandemic.

26 have died.

Meanwhile, the first case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 has been confirmed in Kansas.

That word comes in a release issued Thursday by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, which confirms that the case was confirmed in "a vaccinated adult in Franklin County," who the release says "has not received a booster dose."

No additional details are being made public "to protect the privacy of the individual."

The variant was discovered at the state Health and Environmental Laboratories, which is now "screening all current positive PCR COVID-19 samples received at the lab to look for a specific genetic characteristic that would indicate the Omicron variant."

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