

Governor Kelly Proclaims the Week of November 18 as Use Antibiotics Wisely Week in Kansas

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly proclaimed Nov. 18–24 as Use Antibiotics Wisely Week in Kansas. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is asking health care providers and Kansans to use antibiotics wisely to help protect from the threat of growing resistance. This one-week observance led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and joined each year by more than 300 organizations is to promote awareness of antibiotic resistance (AR) and to share the importance of appropriate antibiotic prescribing and use across the United States.

“Working together, we must improve the prescribing and use of antibiotic and antifungal drugs and pursue infection prevention actions across the health of humans, animals, plants, and the environment,” KDHE Chief Medical Officer Dr. Dereck Totten said. “Each of us can help prevent the development of

new antibiotic resistant bacteria by using antibiotics only when appropriate and as they are prescribed. This will go a long way in helping protect all Kansans.”

KDHE uses a One Health approach to fight antimicrobial resistance, which recognizes the health of people closely connected to the health of animals, plants and their shared environment. Antibiotic awareness does not mean stopping the use of antibiotics. It means improving the way antibiotics are prescribed and used.

Each year, more than 2.8 million people in the United States contract AR infections, and more than 35,000 of those people die. Kansas is the 10th highest antibiotic prescribing state with 803 antibiotic prescriptions per 1,000 population and is the 11th worst in the nation for implementing antibiotic stewardship programs in our hospitals. Antibiotic stewardship (AS) is the effort to improve the prescription and use

of antibiotics. It is critical that not only health care providers include AS in their practice, but also that they all become stewards of appropriate use.

Here are ways Kansans can help:

Wash your hands. This is one of the best ways to prevent or stop the spread of infections.

Do not request that your doctor prescribe antibiotics.

Pet owners, try to keep your animals and pets healthy by keeping up with your pet’s vaccines, deworming and flea and tick control.

Only take antibiotics that are prescribed for you and take the whole course as prescribed. Do not share or use leftover antibiotics. Antibiotics treat specific types of infections. Taking the wrong medicine may delay correct treatment and allow bacteria to multiply.

To learn more about antibiotic resistance, visit [cdc.gov/antimicrobial-resistance/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/antimicrobial-resistance/index.html).

Keep Food Safety in Mind this Thanksgiving

WASHINGTON, November 12, 2024 – Turkey is the most popular dish during Thanksgiving celebrations, yet there are many inexperienced cooks who will be in the kitchen. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is encouraging consumers to practice food safety throughout the entire Thanksgiving process, from the grocery store to the dining table.

“On the most popular food holiday of the year, we’re reminding consumers to follow safe food handling practices starting at the grocery store and going all the way through enjoying your leftovers,” said Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Emilio Esteban. “Following these basic steps can help keep your family and friends safe this holiday season.”

To keep your Thanksgiving food safe, follow this guide:

Shopping

Bacteria can multiply to dangerous levels if perishables, like turkey, are left in the Danger Zone (temperatures between 40 F and 140 F) for too long. Pick up your turkey and other perishable products at the end of your grocery shopping so they stay cold as long as possible. Pack perishables in insulated bags with cold sources if the commute home is longer than an hour and place them in the refrigerator as soon as you get home.

Make sure the packaging of your turkey is not torn or leaking. Juices from raw poultry can cause cross-contamination of harmful bacteria that can get you sick. Place turkey, and other raw meat products, in plastic bags and in a separate part of your shopping cart to prevent harmful bacteria from spreading.

Thawing

A frozen turkey can be safely thawed in the refrigerator or in cold

water:

When thawing in a refrigerator at 40 F or below, allow roughly 24 hours for every 4 to 5 pounds. Consider putting the turkey in a container or dish to contain juices that may leak.

When thawing in cold water, allow roughly 30 minutes per pound. Submerge the wrapped turkey into the cold water and change the water every 30 minutes until the turkey is fully thawed. Once thawed, cook the turkey immediately.

diately.

Preparing

When it is time to prepare the turkey, keep in mind that turkeys may contain bacteria that cause foodborne illness. Keep the turkey and its juices separate from foods that won’t be cooked and fully clean and sanitize surfaces that come into contact with the turkey and its juices. A USDA study found that about 30% of consumers did not successfully clean and sanitize kitchen

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WALSH

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Please call 719-324-5262 Ext. 131, stop by 150 N. Nevada Street in Walsh or visit our website at [walshhealthcarecenter.com](https://www.walshhealthcarecenter.com) for an application. E.O.E.

Insight: Beware of Deer

Greg Doering, Kansas Farm Bureau

The other weekend I watched two deer wander out of a creek bed and meander through a meadow until they caught a scent they didn’t like and took off running. After a few strides, it was difficult to pick out their tan hides against the khaki grasses as they ran toward the tree line in the distance.

I was walking in a local park at the time so I could safely admire the quick, graceful escape. There’s been plenty of times where I wasn’t so happy to see a herd of deer galloping, mainly along the side of the road when I’m driving.

Thankfully I’ve never had the misfortune of hitting one with a vehicle, though there’ve been several close calls. Oddly, though, my close encounters have usually come during the summer months rather than this time of year when deer are more active when people are likely to be heading to and from work.

There are plenty of reasons for fall to be the peak season for vehicles to collide with deer, but the main ones are the animals are most active at dawn and dusk. In the fall, that activity coincides with most peoples’ commutes. It’s

also the time of year deer wander farther than normal and are less wary of potential hazards as they seek to find a mate, which increases the chances they cross paths with you.

The Kansas Department of Parks and Wildlife has the following advice on how to avoid deer collisions:

Watch for more than one deer, as they seldom travel alone.

Reduce speed and be alert near wooded areas or green spaces such as parks or golf courses and near water such as streams or ponds.

Deer crossing signs indicate where high levels of deer/vehicle crashes have occurred in the past.

Use your bright lights to help you detect deer as far ahead as possible.

Don’t swerve to avoid hitting a deer – the most serious crashes sometimes occur when drivers swerve and collide with another vehicle or run off the road and hit an obstacle.

Always wear a seat belt and use child safety seats for the kids.

If you’re driving in Kansas anytime of year, these tips will serve you well, but they’re especially important in the fall. Deer are also just one more reason to keep your eyes on

the road when traveling. In 2022, 37 percent of single-vehicle crashes in Kansas involved a deer. There were also 575 injuries reported and six deaths.

If you do hit a deer, pull

as far onto the shoulder as you can or off the road entirely if possible. Engage your emergency flashers and contact local law enforcement or Kansas Highway Patrol. Don’t attempt

to remove the animal from the roadway.

Beware of the deer. Remember slow and steady is the best course, and it’s always better to be late than never arrive.

Classified

S-D

SyracuseDairy

Syracuse Dairy Morton County location is now accepting applications for milking positions starting at \$14.00 an hour with a \$250.00 signing bonus. Benefits include 401K, health insurance, dental insurance, and life insurance. Please apply in person at our office (751 SE CR 36, Syracuse, KS 67878) or call 620-492-2525.

Public Health

The Morton County Health Department is currently accepting applications for **Full-Time: Community Health Worker/ Administrative Support position** If interested, please submit resume or pick-up an application and the job description at: **Morton County Health Department** 625 Colorado Street, Elkhart, KS 67950 Attn: Kendra Walsh Applications due by noon on Nov. 22, 2024 to MCHD EOE

First published in the Elkhart Tri-State News, Thursday, November 7, 2024, Thursday, November 14, 2024, Thursday, November 21, 2024.

Notice is hereby given, as per KSA 79-2001, that the amount of taxes charged for state, county, township, school, city and cemetery purposes on each \$1,000 of valuation are as follows for tax year 2024.

Vicki Peacock
Morton County Treasurer

								County Combined
SCHOOL DISTRICT #218	School	Recreation	State of Kansas	County	Cemetery District	Township	City	Total Rate
Cimarron	31.504	3.959	1.500	138.339	3.847			179.149
Jones	31.504	3.959	1.500	138.339	3.847			179.149
Richfield	31.504	3.959	1.500	138.339	1.874	3.279		180.455
Taloga	31.504	3.959	1.500	138.339	3.847			179.149
Westola	31.504	3.959	1.500	138.339	1.874			177.176
Elkhart	31.504	3.959	1.500	138.339	3.847		63.173	242.322
SCHOOL DISTRICT #217								
Richfield Twp & City	52.396	4.972	1.500	138.339	1.874	3.279		202.360
Rolla Twp	52.396	4.972	1.500	138.339	3.928			201.135
Rolla City	52.396	4.972	1.500	138.339	3.928		150.280	351.415

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