

For Immediate Release:

(Jefferson County, Kansas- March 15, 2021) **Mask Mandate now becomes a recommendation for Jefferson County, except in county offices.**

The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners in the regular Commission meeting Monday, March 15, 2021 voted 2-0 (1 commissioner abstained from voting) to change the Mask Mandate in Jefferson County from a Mandate to highly recommending that the public continue to wear masks, rescinding Governor Kelly's Executive Order 20-52. Public entering county office's will still be required to wear masks. Employees in the offices when able to social distance, do not have to wear a mask unless they are waiting on a customer. Schools, cities, and other businesses can have their own orders regarding the wearing of masks. Public health recommends that the public continue to wear masks while in public, social distance, wash hands, and stay home when sick.

Jefferson County continues to see a decreasing trend in the cases in the county for the week of February 28, 2021 and a decreasing trend in cases for the week of March 7, 2021 as reported by the Health Department. The Percentage Positive for the week of February 28 and the week of March 7 is 1.94% as compared to the previous reporting period which was 2.67 %.

This Mask Mandate for Jefferson County took effect on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 starting at 12:01 a.m. and continues until 11:59 p.m. on March 15, 2021. The Mask Mandate order will be rescinded at that time.

As of Monday, there has been one thousand, six hundred and thirty-two (1,632) total cases of COVID-19 in Jefferson County with sixty-five (65) hospitalized, five thousand four hundred and seventy-seven (5,477) negative tests and thirty-two (32) deaths have been reported. In the past ten (10) days there have been a total of 9 individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in Jefferson County.