

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Barbara Mitchell, Public Information Officer

barbara.mitchell@jocogov.org

Jody Hanson, Dir. Of Public Affairs and Communications

jody.hanson@jocogov.org

Media Line: (913) 477-8436

Johnson County Identifies First Workplace-Associated COVID-19 Cases

(JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS – May 14, 2020) The first workplace-associated cluster of COVID-19 cases has been identified in Johnson County, Kansas, at a distribution center in Olathe which is not accessed by the public.

A total of nine employees at the distribution center have initially tested positive for COVID-19. JCDHE is testing 200 additional employees at the facility. No further information is available at this time.

Johnson County Department of Health and Environment will continue to work with the employer to implement protocols and practices to contain and prevent the further spread of the virus at the facility. The employer has fully cooperated to mitigate additional cases.

In general, symptoms usually appear two to 14 days after exposure. We now know from recent studies that a portion of individuals with COVID-19 don't have symptoms (are asymptomatic) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (pre-symptomatic) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity - such as speaking, coughing or sneezing - even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms.

We encourage individuals to continue taking precautions to limit the spread of the disease; wash your hands, cover your cough, wear a face covering, and stay home and out of public spaces if you are sick.

###