REPUBLIC COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 2, 2020 **Contact:** Danielle Swanson Administrator/Health Officer 785-527-5671

Three Cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) identified in Republic County

Republic County Health Department is announcing three new cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Republic County. Testing sent to Republic County Hospital laboratory identified the positive cases. These cases bring Republic County COVID-19 case count to 15, with 11 currently active.

The first two cases involve two females, one in her 30's, and one in her teen's, with known travel history and no underlying health conditions. The third case is a male, in his 80's, with close contact to a positive case. The individuals are stable and recovering in their homes at this time. Republic County Health Department is working to identify any close contacts of the individuals and those who were exposed will be contacted as soon as possible. We will be monitoring these contacts for fever and respiratory symptoms. No further information about the patients will be released.

KDHE has released guidelines (<u>http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/COVID-19_Resource_Center.htm</u>) for quarantine and isolation of travelers who visited locations in the United States where large numbers of people have contracted the disease.

THE HEALTH OFFICER HAS ALSO STRONGLY RECOMMENDED:

- People avoid non-essential trips and stay home to the extent they can.
- If you don't live with them, don't visit them.
- Retirement communities and long-term care centers limit visitors.
- People avoid ANY gatherings.
- If you do need to go out in public, ensure you maintain six feet from other people.

Republic County Health Department has worked closely on these decisions with numerous community partners, including Republic County Government officials, Republic County Emergency Management and Republic County Hospital.

Republic County residents can stay informed by visiting , <u>www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus</u> or <u>http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus</u>.

For general information, contact the KDHE phone bank at 1-866-534-3463 (1-866-KDHEINF) or email COVID-19@ks.gov. You may also contact the Republic County Health Department at 785-527-5671 or email <u>rchdhha@nckcn.com</u>

Danielle Swanson, R.N/Administrator/Republic County Health Officer