COVID Statistics and Gating Criteria

Dave Trabert, Kansas Policy Institute
Kansas Policy Institute

• Non-profit research/education organization that protects constitutional liberty.

• Also own *The Sentinel* – news service holding media and government accountable – and *Kansas Justice Institute* – public interest litigation center.

• Overland Park and Wichita offices.
Kansas COVID-19 7-Day Rolling Average of Daily Cases Per 100,000 Population

Source: Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment COVID-19 Summaries; weekly change divided by 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Counties with mask mandates</th>
<th>Counties without mask mandates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 22</td>
<td>5.7</td>
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<td>June 29</td>
<td>11.2</td>
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<td>July 13</td>
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<td>July 20</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>9.2</td>
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<td>Aug. 3</td>
<td>15.9</td>
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<td>Aug. 10</td>
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<td>Aug. 17</td>
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Mandate goes into effect July 3
Kansas COVID-19 7-Day Rolling Average of Daily Cases Per 100,000 Population

Source: Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment COVID-19 Summaries; weekly change divided by 7

Mandate goes into effect July 3

Counties with mask mandates

Counties without mask mandates

Johnson County
New Weekly Johnson County COVID Cases, Deaths, and Rolling Mortality Rate

Aug. 17 confirmed infection rate = 1.1%

Source: KDHE, Johnson County Health Dept.
**Issues with Positivity Rate as Gating Criteria**

- Why positivity rate instead of case severity, which, measured by hospitalization and mortality rates is clearly declining?
- What’s the scientific basis of 5% positivity for in-person school?
- Dr. Christine White SMMC says testing data is skewed; vast majority tested have symptoms or known exposure. Last 3 months, 0.5% positive of 7,500 asymptomatic pre-op patients.
- How many new cases are false positives *(later found negative)*, positive for antibodies *(had the virus in the past)*, or probables?
Issues with Positivity Rate as Gating Criteria

• Why is school gating based on testing of the entire population?

• Did the county quantify the health benefits at 5%...10%?

• Did the county quantify the serious educational, economic, emotional, nutritional, and physical abuse consequences of not opening schools?

• What is the net positive or negative at 5%...10%...15%?
Johnson County needs a more balanced approach

• Revised risk assessment that balances health issues against devastating economic, educational, and multiple well-being consequences of efforts to mitigate COVID.

• Aggressively protect vulnerable, not one-size-fits-none orders.

• Much more data transparency.