

# STATE OF KANSAS



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**GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY**

May 22, 2026

Members of the Legislative Coordinating Council,

On May 12, 2026, I proclaimed a State of Disaster Emergency for all 105 counties in response to the confirmed international outbreak of Hantavirus Andes virus and the exposure of three Kansas residents to a symptomatic, laboratory-confirmed positive individual during international travel. As outlined in the proclamation, the Andes strain of the virus is the only hantavirus known to spread from person to person, and infection can lead to severe respiratory illness requiring rapid access to advanced medical care. State and local health authorities, including KDHE, are actively monitoring the exposed individuals and providing guidance on symptom monitoring, laboratory testing, and public health protection. The observation period for these individuals is forty-two days from the date of last exposure, and the final day of monitoring is June 7, 2026.

Extending the State of Disaster Emergency is necessary to ensure that Kansas maintains the ability to coordinate medical transport, isolation, and biocontainment should any of the monitored individuals develop symptoms. If a case emerges, the state must be prepared to arrange immediate transfer to the University of Kansas Health Systems in Kansas City, Kansas biocontainment unit and ensure access to specialized care, including life support if required. These actions cannot be supported through routine medical transport or standard local resources. The declaration also enables continued coordination between KDEM, KDHE, local health departments, and federal partners to maintain situational awareness and ensure that any potential case is managed swiftly and safely.

For these reasons, and pursuant to KSA 48-924, I respectfully request that the Legislative Coordinating Council extend the State of Disaster Emergency through June 7, 2026. This extension preserves the state's ability to respond effectively during the remaining monitoring period and ensures that Kansas is fully prepared to protect public health should any of the exposed individuals become symptomatic.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the safety and well-being of Kansans.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Kelly".

Laura Kelly  
Governor of Kansas