STATE OF KANSAS

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF DISASTER EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION

By the Governor

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Kansas Emergency Management Act, Chapter 48, Article 9, of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, to meet the inherent dangers of disasters to which the State and its citizens have been exposed, and upon advice of the State Adjutant General as the Director of the Division of Emergency Management, I hereby proclaim a State of Disaster Emergency as follows:

NATURE OF THE DISASTER:
On May 2, 2026, a cluster of passengers with severe respiratory illness aboard a Dutch cruse ship, the MV Hondius, experienced severe respiratory illness. Upon laboratory testing, it was identified as Hantavirus Andes virus strain, notable for being the only Hantavirus that can spread between people, particularly through close, prolonged contact. As a part of the Andes virus outbreak, there have been at least eight confirmed and suspected cases, including three deaths.
The outbreak prompted international monitoring efforts and evacuation and repatriation of passengers to their home countries. Currently, no cases of Andes virus related to this outbreak have been reported in the United States. Federal, state, and local health authorities, including the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state health departments, and local health departments are actively monitoring returning passengers and individuals who may have been exposed during travel or in public settings and providing guidance on symptom monitoring and isolation if necessary.
The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is providing guidance and taking measures to minimize risk of exposure and infection to the general public, while supporting public health and medical professionals with technical assistance, contact tracing, monitoring, laboratory testing, epidemiological surveillance, and other activities associated with control of the virus. The Kansas Division of Emergency Management is coordinating resources across the state government to support local public health and county emergency managers in alleviating the impacts to the public, property, and infrastructure.

DATE THAT DISASTER AFFECTED THE AREA:
May 12, 2026 and continuing

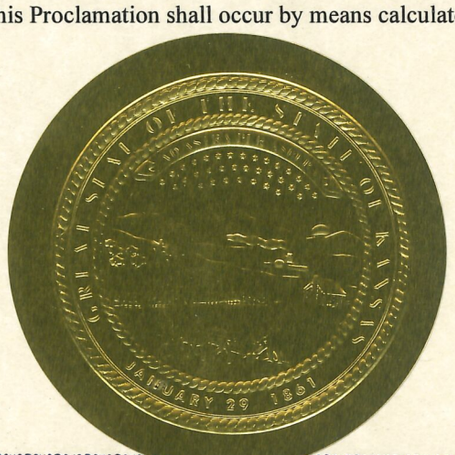
AREA AFFECTED BY THE DISASTER:
All 105 counties

I hereby proclaim, direct and order the Adjutant General of the State of Kansas to activate the disaster response and recovery portions of the Kansas Response Plan and to utilize all available resources of the state to cope with the disaster as necessary. The Adjutant General shall coordinate local and inter-jurisdictional disaster plans applicable to the political subdivisions of areas affected by this Proclamation.

Any or all of the powers conferred upon the Governor by the Kansas Emergency Management Act may be delegated to the Adjutant General as deemed appropriate during this period of proclaimed State of Disaster Emergency. This may be delegated by written orders, or oral orders subsequently reduced to writing with reference to this Proclamation.

I hereby suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business, or the order or rules and regulations of any state agency which implements such statute, if strict compliance with the provisions of such statutes, order or rule and regulation would prevent, hinder, or delay in any way necessary action in coping with the disaster as set forth in KSA 48-925(c)(1).

This Proclamation shall be filed promptly with the Division of Emergency Management, the Office of the Secretary of State and each city clerk or county clerk, as appropriate, in the area to which this Proclamation applies. Further dissemination of this Proclamation shall occur by means calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public.



PROCLAIMED under the Great Seal of the State the 12th day of May 2026,
and
MEMORIZLIED under the Great Seal of the State this 20th day of May 2026.

BY THE GOVERNOR: _____

Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State