

# TRANSLINES EXPRESS

Nov. 4, 2020

## Celebrating Turner Diagonal Interchange

By Kelly Kultala  
District One

The Turner Diagonal Interchange Project ribbon cutting ceremony on Oct. 28 in Wyandotte County celebrated the new interchange's ability to provide better access to businesses, improve safety and allow traffic to move efficiently through the corridor. Reconfiguring the interchange to a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) also allowed the release of KTA and KDOT right of way and opened 300 acres of land for economic development and job creation.

Speakers included Gov. Laura Kelly, Secretary Julie Lorenz and U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids. The event featured a project completion video that highlighted U.S. DOT Secretary Elaine Chao, Unified Government of Wyandotte County Mayor David Alvey and NorthPoint Development Chief Marketing Officer Brent Miles.

The Turner Diagonal Project was awarded a federal



*Gov. Laura Kelly speaks at the Turner Diagonal Interchange Project interchange event. Other speakers included U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids, left, and Secretary Julie Lorenz. By utilizing a design-build approach, this project was completed 20 months faster than it would have been using traditional methods, according to Secretary Lorenz. Photo by Multimedia Services.*

BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) grant for \$13 million, which made up 46% of the project funding. The remainder of the project costs consist of a public/private partnership funded by commitments from the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, KDOT and NorthPoint Development.

To see highlights of the event, click [here](#).

# Joint District effort takes place to mudjack bridge approaches



Crews from districts Four and Five perform mudjacking on a bridge approach along K-47 west of St. Paul. Photo by Wayne Nelson, District Four

By Priscilla Petersen  
District Four

Mudjacking, a procedure used to lift and level concrete pavement, actually involves “no more than hydraulics,” according to Wayne Nelson. “It will lift the whole road up” if done correctly, he added.

Nelson, the KDOT Area Superintendent at Pittsburg, stated that he is “really happy” with the results of a joint district partnering effort to mudjack on bridge approaches in Neosho County during the first week in October. The District Five Bridge Crew, led by Darren Bailey, worked with KDOT staff from the Pittsburg Area and Chanute District office to raise approaches on K-47 west of St. Paul and K-39 east of Chanute.

Crews first drilled holes about 3 to 4 feet apart in the concrete. A mixture of silt, cement dust and water was then pumped into the holes. “If it’s (the mixture) the consistency of Dairy Queen ice cream, that’s a good mudjack,” said Nelson, who previously directed mudjacking operations while serving with the District One Bridge Crew. “Everything worked out perfect,” he said.

Nelson credits the efforts of all involved. He gave special mention to District Four Maintenance Engineer John Hrenak, who reached out to District Five colleagues to use the mudjack pumper and coordinate the work.

## **TRANSLINES EXPRESS**

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Troy Whitworth



# Safety is a life decision at work and home

Director of Safety Troy Whitworth shares a personal story to help show that safety is a life decision, whether at home or at work.

My brother had asked me to cut down a locust tree that we had killed, which was dangerously close to one of our deer blinds. We recently had a deer blind that was destroyed by a tree that was blown down in a windstorm, and he thought this particular tree posed an immediate threat to another nearby blind.

As we assessed the work area, there were several things we considered.

- 1). We did a site assessment. Where would the tree fall? Could we fell the tree safely?
- 2). We assessed the tree. Was it leaning a certain way? Could we make it fall away from the blind? Were there other trees in the way that would keep it from safely coming down? Was there any wind that would affect how the tree would fall?
- 3). We checked the escape route. Was the path clear for an escape route?

After we assessed the tree, we proceeded to hook up a strap to the tree to help direct the fall of the tree away from the deer blind. We looked at the tree to decide where the cuts should be made to direct its fall. We also looked for broken or dead branches that could fall during the cutting.

Once we had evaluated all the issues identified in our site assessment, I donned my safety gear. I put on chain saw chaps, gloves, safety glasses and hardhat with face shield and ear protection. I then started the chain saw and began to cut a notch in the tree pointing in the direction I wanted the tree to fall.

Once the notch was cut, I carefully cut across the backside of the tree down toward the notch cut. The strap attached to the tree had to be



Above, this deer blind was destroyed by a tree that had blown over. Below, when a tree near a different deer blind needed to be removed, Director of Safety Troy Whitworth focused on safety throughout the process. Photos by Troy Whitworth, Headquarters



tightened to hold a bit of pressure, which would help guide its fall once cut.

As I made the cut along the backside of the base of the tree, the tree started to move. I shut off the saw then moved away from the tree using my escape route as the tree continued to fall to the ground in the planned direction. The deer blind escaped unscathed from the tree.

In this particular case, everything went as planned without incident. There also was a great potential for things to go wrong due to the work that was to be done. Formulating your plan when doing any work is important. Conducting a work site and hazard assessment are critical for any work that you do, each and every time.

So whether you are working at home or at KDOT - be safe, for your family and mine.

# Thank you KDOT veterans

By Priscilla Petersen  
District Four

**Edward “Eddie” Lewis:** An Equipment Operator at the Eureka Subarea for almost seven years, Edward “Eddie” Lewis also served in the U.S. Army National Guard for 20 years. He retired two years ago. “I was happy, but sad to get out,” he said.

Lewis began his military service as a high school junior in Mustang, Okla. His two brothers, Ben – a fellow KDOT employee working at Yates Center – and Daniel served as well, and were deployed on tours to Iraq. Although Lewis trained for a month in Germany, as the third brother he was kept back from deploying.

Much of his work with 2nd Battalion of Kansas City’s



137th Infantry Division was spent recruiting throughout the state. One year he even brought in over 120 recruits. “That was a lot of trips to and from Kansas City” where the Military Entrance processing station is located, he recalled.

Lewis also worked as a heavy equipment transport operator out of Topeka. “The trucks we drove actually hauled tanks” to various destinations in the United States, he said. In his eight-wheeler semi, he pulled a 40-wheel trailer to transport the tanks. Those previous hauls of massive equipment make his KDOT dump truck seem more like a station wagon, he joked.

He and his wife, Anne, live in Eureka. The couple has five children.



By Lisa Knoll  
District Six

**Clayton Grusing:** Clayton Grusing knew his junior year in high school he wanted to join the military. After visiting with an Army recruiter, he chose the Army.

He completed basic and advanced training. Then after graduating, he served as a cavalry scout from 1990-96. In 1996, he became a firefighter and was deployed to Kosovo to provide coverage for three airfields. Grusing extended his tour to serve as a liaison to senior advisors, between the U.S. forces and the village leaders in Kosovo.

He admits the military changed him. “I became a



desert first kind of guy. There’s so much death and destruction that you come back and live life,” he said.

Grusing returned to Syracuse and served with the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Department for two years. He returned to military service as a civilian contractor, serving in the Middle East and Hawaii for seven years before returning to Kansas. He has been an Engineering Technician Associate with KDOT for one year.

He insists that military service was good for him. “When people thank me, I thank them for my experiences, and for facilitating my travel to 20 countries,” Grusing said.

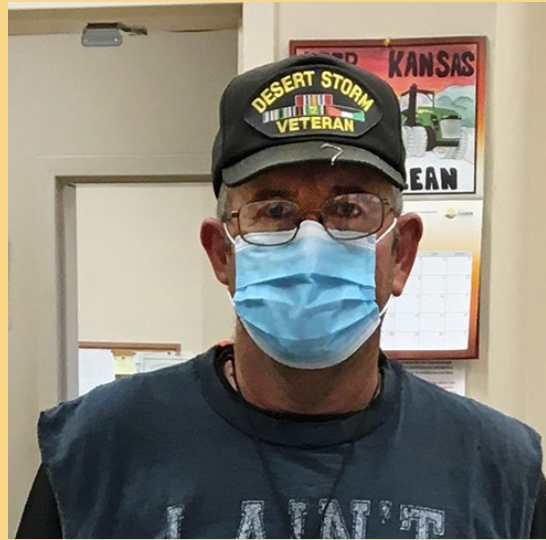


By Kelly Kultala  
District One

### Christopher Trundle:

Christopher Trundle, an Equipment Operator at the Oakland Subarea in District One, has the distinction of serving in two branches of the United States military - the Navy from 1983 to 1987 and the Army from 1987 to 1991.

While in the Navy, he was a Boatswain Mate 3 (BM3) on the USS Concord (an ammunition, food and storage ship) where he specialized in driving diesel powered boats.



In the Army, Trundle was a Specialist 4 (SP4), 88 MIKE truck driver for the 129th Transportation Unit, out of Osage City. He drove a 22 ½-ton truck, hauling big tanks, and was deployed to Operation Desert Storm in 1990-1991.

“The military is where I learned discipline,” explained Trundle. “I also learned a lot about other cultures and got to travel all over the world.”

He has worked for KDOT for 11 years, from 2002-2008 and 2015 to present, and has two adult

children, Akaylah and Jacob, who both live in Colby.



By Tim Potter  
District Five

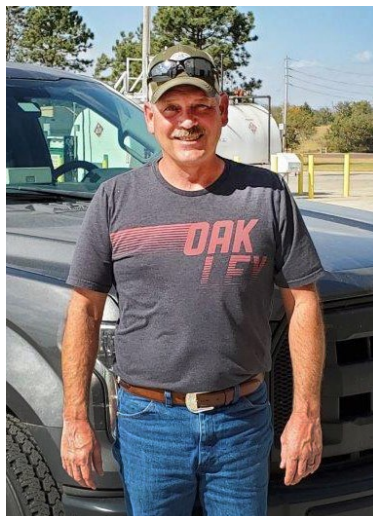
### Therone Askins:

There he was, from Winfield, Kan. – in rough seas, decks below in the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson.

For Therone Askins, it was like riding one heck of a roller coaster. “It seems like that carrier keeps going up, up ... seems like forever before it would go over. It was a pretty wild ride.”

Now, it’s around Veterans Day, a time to honor military service. Askins, Engineering Technician Senior at the Winfield Area Office, served in the U.S. Navy from 1986 to 1989, then in the active reserve to 1994.

He spent his active service on the carrier, stationed in



California, with missions and stops in Africa and across Asia. In one mission, he says, “We turned circles in the Persian Gulf for three months.”

Askins was part of a damage-control team. Their shop was five

decks down. He slept one deck below the shop.

Now, he says, “I have been married for 29 years to my loving wife, Lea.” They have two daughters, three grandchildren. He is an Engineering Technician Senior at the Winfield Area Office.

The photo above at left was taken recently, the photo at right was taken in 1986 at boot camp in Chicago.

*Veterans Day is Nov. 11, and this holiday honors all of those who have served our country in war or peace. On behalf of the agency, we are proud of our KDOT veterans and want to thank you for your service.*

# Agency continues UAS efforts in BEYOND program

By Kim Stich  
Headquarters

KDOT's Division of Aviation completed a field exercise recently in Rossville to demonstrate the capabilities of using drones for infrastructure inspections and disaster response.

Bridge inspectors, public safety officials, universities and UAS manufacturers worked with KDOT team members on a capabilities exercise to show how drones can –

- save time and money on infrastructure inspections;
- allow state agencies to examine disaster sites in emergency response situations;
- and expand economic opportunities through transportation using innovative technologies.

“Safety is our top priority and we seek every opportunity to employ better transportation solutions for citizens across our state,” said Secretary Julie Lorenz.

In October 2017, KDOT was selected as one of nine participants in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Pilot Program, a three-year program that concluded Oct. 25. The FAA decided to continue the partnerships to tackle remaining UAS integration challenges and further drone research with the BEYOND program. KDOT is one of eight participants to continue in the research effort.

The drone demonstration in Rossville was one of the first events to take place as part of BEYOND, “which will continue to advance the safe integration of drones into our national air space,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.



*Top: KDOT employees operate drones as part of the infrastructure inspections exercises that took place recently in Rossville. Above and left: Attendees view the screen to observe the views being shown from the drones during the emergency response exercises. Photos by Multimedia Services*



## District Three projects wrapping up

Crews from APAC Shears work on the mill and overlay on I-70 in Trego County. The project covers 16 miles starting at exit 127 at WaKeeney and ending at the Ellis County line. The project, which began in late August, is expected to be completed by the end of the month, weather permitting. Ben Ware's road squad designed the project. Photo by Josiah Jones, District Three



Work is nearing completion on a bridge replacement project on K-9 near Densmore in southern Norton County. The existing reinforced concrete Illinois bulletin slab bridge is being replaced with a prestressed concrete beam structure. The project began in April and required the closure of K-9 at the construction site. KDOT expects the bridge to reopen within the next week. Greg Gonzales' road squad and Paul Kulseth's bridge squad designed the project. Photo courtesy of King Construction

Construction began in June on the North Vine Street Corridor Project in Hays with the building of the first roundabout near 33rd Street. Work is complete on the southbound lanes and traffic recently switched for construction on the northbound portion. The roundabout is one of four that is being constructed between Mopar Drive north of I-70 and 32nd Street. Crews have also reconstructed the west frontage road adjacent to Vine Street and will be constructing two new city streets this winter to allow access to businesses that will be affected by the closure of streets during next year's construction season. KDOT is overseeing the \$13.2 million project, which is partially being funded by a \$6 million BUILD grant from the Federal Highway Administration. John Culbertson's bridge squad designed the project. Photo courtesy of Kirkham Michael



## Trivia!

### Heart

1. About how many times each day does a human's heart beat?
2. How much blood does the heart pump a day?
3. What year did the first open-heart surgery take place?
4. What year was the first implantable pacemaker used?
5. This has the smallest heart of any living creature.
6. The American pygmy shrew is the smallest mammal but has the fastest heartbeat. How fast is it?

## Deer-vehicle collisions highest in fall

KDOT, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and AAA Kansas are working together this fall to raise awareness and help drivers avoid collisions with deer.

While deer can be spotted near roadways any time of the year, motorists should be especially vigilant in the fall for deer crossing roadways due to the "rut," or mating season – a time when deer are frequently on the move and at all hours of the day.

"If you are unfortunate enough to have a deer enter the highway in front of your car, it is best to hit the animal and not swerve to avoid it, said KHP Lieutenant Candice Breshears. "Often, we find more serious crashes occur when you swerve to miss the deer, potentially losing control of your vehicle, leaving the road or veering into oncoming traffic."

Eight people were killed and 556 people were injured in deer-vehicle crashes on Kansas roadways in 2019.

"Of the animal strikes reported by AAA Insurance policy holders between 2016 and 2019, the average cost per



*More than 11,000 deer-vehicle crashes in Kansas last year.*

claim was nearly \$4,500," said Shawn Steward, with AAA Kansas.

If a driver has a collision, they should move their vehicle to the shoulder, if possible, and call law enforcement - KHP dispatch at \*47, the Kansas Turnpike at \*KTA and local law enforcement at 911.

## Trivia answers

1. Around 115,000.
2. About 2,000 gallons.
3. 1893.
4. 1958.
5. The fairy fly – a kind of wasp.
6. About 1,200 beats per minute.



# KDOT crews make repairs to I-70 in Dickinson County

By Ashley Perez  
District Two

Temperatures may be dropping, but that didn't stop workers in north central Kansas as they worked to replace concrete on I-70 in Dickinson County in October.

An asphalt overlay was placed on the bridge approach of eastbound I-70 at exit 275 in Dickinson County this summer to temporarily repair the road surface and prolong the life of the roadway. Over time, the asphalt overlay failed due to broken concrete underneath and needed a more permanent fix.

District Crew and Abilene Subarea employees worked together to remove the asphalt overlay, replace the broken concrete and pour new concrete. The project was completed on Oct. 14.



*Above: District Specials Supervisor Steve Schmidt operates the loader to remove the asphalt overlay while being assisted by Equipment Operator Specialist Donnie Burkholder. Left: The project was completed Oct. 14. Photos by Ashley Perez, District Two*

## KanDrive provides motorists more travel info

KDOT's traveler information website, KanDrive.org, has been updated to provide motorists more user-friendly and timely details so they can make the best decisions.

"Having access to the latest road condition information is important for travelers as it helps people get where they want to go and keeps the Kansas economy moving," said Secretary Julie Lorenz.

KanDrive users can now –

- Create personalized accounts to save routes/areas;
- Sign up for email alerts on specific highways;
- View a commercial vehicle mode for truck drivers;
- Share information or cameras through Facebook, Twitter or email.

The KanDrive site is updated 24/7 and is mobile-friendly as it adapts to screens of all sizes. In addition, the commercial vehicle mode for truck drivers allows companies to create text/email alerts designed around highly traveled routes, weigh stations, rest areas, etc.

Go to [www.KanDrive.org](http://www.KanDrive.org) and get started.





# Pavement preservation material used for first time

By Tim Potter  
District Five



*High Density Mineral Bond, or HA5, has been applied to existing shoulders on K-254 near El Dorado as seen in the photos on this page. Photos by Nick Squires, District Five*

A contractor has applied High Density Mineral Bond – for asphalt pavement preservation – to existing shoulders on K-254 between K-196 and the west city limits of El Dorado.

It is the first time that the material, applied by Andale Construction, has been used on a KDOT project, says Nick Squires, District Five Construction and Materials Engineer.

Squires describes the material as a “pavement preservation tool, hopefully to extend the life of shoulders on this project.”

Blair Heptig, KDOT Field Materials Engineer, says, “High Density Mineral Bond, or HA5, is a mixture of emulsified asphalt, fine aggregate, water and other additives that is applied to the roadway using a modified asphalt distributor. It prevents oxidative aging of the binder in the underlying asphalt mixture, ultimately delaying cracking.

“We will monitor performance and evaluate how it fits in our preservation toolbox,” Heptig says.





## KTA brief

The KTA has a new K-TAG for motorcyclists. This easy-to-use sticker tag is free and mounts horizontally to non-metallic surfaces on the motorcycle or helmet. Already have a hard-case K-TAG? You can still use it as you were. Learn more about the new motorcycle K-TAG by watching the video [here](#), and order a K-TAG by clicking [here](#).



## Thank you for your service

### Retirees

The following employees retired on Nov. 1.

#### District One

**Robert Pellettieri**, Engineering Technician, Bonner Springs

#### District Two

**Kwang Kim**, Engineering Technician, Junction City

#### District Four

**William Snyder**, Equipment Operator Senior, Sedan

### Kudos

*Email received by KDOT -*

We traveled from Florida to Canon City, Colorado, and back and your roads were by far the best. Maybe you should start a school for road repair. lol.

Thank you again.  
Shirley Matson

## In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Sheldon Caudell, who passed away on Oct. 23 in Kansas City. Caudell started at KDOT in 1963 and served for more than 41 years. He was the Area Superintendent in Iola prior to his retirement in 2004.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Frank Younger, who passed away on Oct. 24 in Westminster, Colo. Younger began at KDOT in 1983 and served for nearly 24 years. He retired in 2007 as an Engineering Technician.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Joseph Gintner, who passed away on Oct. 26 in Frontenac. Gintner served KDOT for many years. He retired in 1992 as the Highway Maintenance Supervisor at the Pittsburg Subarea.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Floyd McKie, who passed away on Oct. 9 in Norton. McKie started at KDOT in 1957 and served for more than 43 years. He retired in 2000 as the District Maintenance Superintendent in Norton.

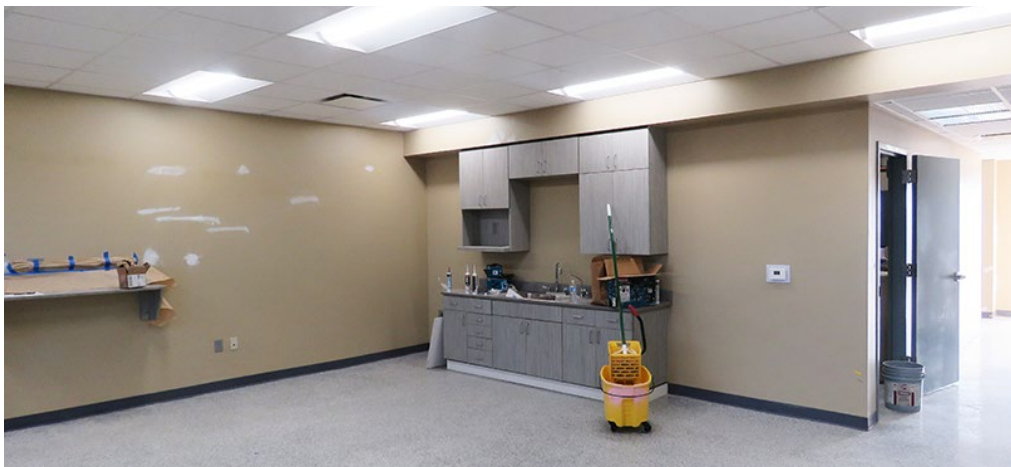
Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Vernon Roberts, who passed away on Aug. 10 in Norton. Roberts started at KDOT in 1945 and served as an Engineering Technician until his retirement in 1986.



## New Lakin Subarea ready to move in



*The Lakin Subarea crew members are expected to begin moving into their new building later this week. The former Lakin Subarea building was built in 1968. It was a 3,043-square-foot facility and housed a four-bay shop, office and breakroom. The new Subarea, as seen above, is a 6,064-square-foot facility that includes two heated drive-thru bays, two KDOT offices, a KHP office, new bathrooms, break area and new lockers. Finishing touches are taking place in the shop, at left, and the break room, below. Cedar Ridge of Woodward, Okla., is the contractor on the project. Photos by Lisa Knoll, District Six*





# KDOT Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form

| Year           | Quantity | Cost       | Total |
|----------------|----------|------------|-------|
| <b>2020</b>    |          | <b>\$5</b> |       |
| 2019           |          | \$3        |       |
| 2018           |          | \$3        |       |
| 2016           |          | \$3        |       |
| 2015           |          | \$3        |       |
| 2013           |          | \$3        |       |
| Total enclosed |          |            |       |



**Great Gift Ideas!**

Please Print -

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Best phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Retirees only - home address)

## How to Order:

HQ - email/call Jennifer to make arrangements.

Districts/Retirees - Mail form to -  
Jennifer Meyer, ESOB/6th Floor,  
700 SW Harrison, Topeka, KS 66603

Make checks payable to  
KDOT Employee Council

Contact  
Jennifer: (785)  
296-3661  
or [Jennifer.  
Meyer@ks.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Meyer@ks.gov)

2016



## Past Ornaments Available

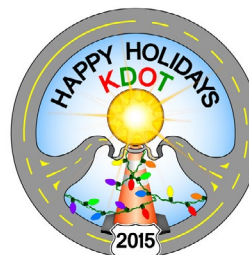
2019



2018



2015



2013





— FROM THE LAND OF —  
**KANSAS**

# Give the Gift of Kansas

Celebrate the special relationships in your life this holiday season by treating your family and friends to a heart-warming gift box filled with goods from around the Sunflower State! Your purchase directly supports small Kansas businesses and promotes local Kansas communities.

Each holiday gift box includes an array of delicious sweet and salty snacks, useful sunflower oil and so much more!

\$50



*Ad Astra Gift Box*

\$25



*Konza Gift Box*

\*\*Prices do not include tax and shipping.

\*\*If you are ordering a quantity of more than 10 gift boxes, please call 785-564-6759 to ensure your delivery can be fulfilled by December 25.


















Order online at  
[shop.fromthelandofkansas.com](http://shop.fromthelandofkansas.com)  
by December 10 for guaranteed holiday delivery!



# Symptoms in Adults

Provided by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment

## COVID-19 vs. COLD vs. FLU vs. ALLERGIES

| SYMPTOMS  | COVID-19*<br>(Gradual onset)                                | COLD<br>(Sudden onset)                      | FLU<br>(Sudden onset)                      | ALLERGIES<br>(Varies)                           |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  <b>Fever</b>                              | <b>Common</b><br>(measured at 100 F or higher)              | <b>Rare</b>                                 | <b>High (100-102 F), can last 3-4 days</b> | <b>No</b>                                       |
|  <b>General aches, pains</b>               | <b>Common, sometimes severe</b>                             | <b>Slight</b>                               | <b>Common, often severe</b>                | <b>No</b>                                       |
|  <b>Fatigue, weakness</b>                  | <b>Common</b><br>(can lead to unexplained falls in elderly) | <b>Slight</b>                               | <b>Common, often severe</b>                | <b>Sometimes</b>                                |
|  <b>Extreme exhaustion</b>                 | <b>Common</b>   | <b>Never</b>                                | <b>Common (starts early)</b>               | <b>No</b>                                       |
|  <b>Cough</b>                            | <b>Common</b>   | <b>Mild to moderate</b>                     | <b>Common, can become severe</b>           | <b>Sometimes</b>                                |
|  <b>Shortness of breath</b>              | <b>Common</b>   | <b>Rare</b>                                 | <b>Rare</b>                                | <b>Common</b>                                   |
|  <b>Chest pain</b>                       | <b>Common</b>   | <b>Rare</b>                                 | <b>Common</b>                              | <b>No</b>                                       |
|  <b>Poor appetite</b>                    | <b>Common</b>   | <b>Sometimes</b>                            | <b>Common</b>                              | <b>No</b>                                       |
|  <b>Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain</b> | <b>Common</b>   | <b>Rare</b>                                 | <b>Sometimes</b>                           | <b>No</b>                                       |
|  <b>Diarrhea</b>                         | <b>Common</b>   | <b>No</b>                                   | <b>Sometimes</b>                           | <b>No</b>                                       |
|  <b>Loss of smell or taste</b>           | <b>Often</b>  | <b>Rare (congestion could impact smell)</b> | <b>No</b>                                  | <b>Possible (congestion could impact smell)</b> |
|  <b>Chills</b>                           | <b>Sometimes</b>  | <b>Rare</b>                                 | <b>Common</b>                              | <b>No</b>                                       |
|  <b>Headache</b>                         | <b>Sometimes</b>  | <b>Rare</b>                                 | <b>Intense</b>                             | <b>Sometimes</b>                                |
|  <b>Sore throat</b>                      | <b>Sometimes</b>  | <b>Common</b>                               | <b>Common</b>                              | <b>No</b>                                       |
|  <b>Runny nose</b>                       | <b>Sometimes</b>  | <b>Common</b>                               | <b>Sometimes</b>                           | <b>Common</b>                                   |
|  <b>Stuffy nose</b>                      | <b>Rare</b>   | <b>Common</b>                               | <b>Sometimes</b>                           | <b>Common</b>                                   |
|  <b>Sneezing</b>                         | <b>Rare</b>   | <b>Common</b>                               | <b>Sometimes</b>                           | <b>Common</b>                                   |

For more information: [www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov](http://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov)

Sources: KDHE, CDC, CSTE, WHO, NIH, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

Revised 9/22/20