

**Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Responses to December 15, 2020, Questions**

**Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and  
KanCare Oversight**

On December 23, 2020, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment provided the following responses to questions posed on December 15, 2020, by members of the Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight regarding the labs doing the COVID-19 testing in Kansas.

- There are questions regarding false positives, are all seven regions using the same cycle thresholds?

*The cycle threshold for each PCR test is different for each test, as each has a different level of sensitivity depending on the design by the manufacturer. Our most commonly performed real-time PCR test has a cycle threshold of 42. Ct cutoffs are established by test manufacturers through evaluation of known positive and negative samples and are approved as part of the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) process. To reiterate, labs do not set their threshold cutoffs, they are predetermined by the manufacturer and FDA. You can find more information about Ct cutoff values here: <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1505/SARS-CoV-2-COVID-19-PCR-Ct-Cutoff-Values-PDF---10-5-20>*

- Are the labs open on the weekend?

Yes

- What is the accuracy of the rapid tests? Have heard that the results have a 50-50 accuracy and concerned if rapid test shows a negative but was wrong and was a positive, what kind of position are we putting nursing facilities under that are relying on the false negative?

*This will vary depending on the antigen test used. However, we know that the use of antigen tests on symptomatic persons is in good agreement with PCR results (85-95%). The use of antigen tests on asymptomatic persons results in less agreement with PCR testing (60-75%). The BinaxNow cards that have been distributed directly to nursing facilities by HHS have shown ~95% agreement with PCR results when used on symptomatic individuals and ~70% on asymptomatic individuals.*

- Has all of the money been sent to the labs that was agreed upon in the contract with the State? Where are we with regard to the spending of the \$52 million in SPARK funding? Please provide dollar amount paid to each lab and include start-up money provided to help labs get the capacity rolling.

*Payment terms stated in the contracts are net 30 days, as per K.S.A. 75-6403(b). Given the original CRF deadline of 12/30/20 for expenditure of CRF funds, KDHE has prioritized the payment processing of all invoices received from Labs. Most of the labs have been slow to invoice KDHE for services, however, we anticipate receiving invoices from all labs*

*by the end of December. Invoices received as of 12/20 are either paid or in the process of being paid. Prepayments were approved on an exception basis for WellHealth in the amount of \$4,725,000 and WSU in the amount of \$1,971,200. To date, KDHE received \$80 mil in Round 3 CRF for the Unified Testing Strategy. At this time, it appears that the CRF deadline will be extended. KDHE expects to spend \$50 - \$55 mil by the end of year, and the balance would be carried forward to continue the project into 2021, pending final outcome of the stimulus bill.*