



# KPHA E-NEWS UPDATE

Ph: (785) 233-3103  
Fax: (785) 233-3439  
Email: [director@kpha.us](mailto:director@kpha.us)  
<http://www.kpha.us>

February 25, 2005

Questions? [director@kpha.us](mailto:director@kpha.us)

## Table of Contents

[KPHA Legislative Update: Turn Around Week Occupies Legislature](#)

[Information on the new HHS Secretary in D.C.](#)

[Position open: Public Service Executive II Unclassified, Immunization Program Director State of Kansas](#)

[Intro to EPI Portion of the KS Public Health Certificate Program Is Now Open](#)

[New Poverty Guidelines](#)

---

## KPHA Legislative Update: Turn Around Week Occupies Legislature



Saturday, February 26, is the last day to consider bills in the house of origin, with the exception of bills in certain exempt committees. This is commonly known as "Turn Around Day," and it is preceded by several days during which both houses spend long hours working bills. The Legislature will not meet on Monday, February 28, but will begin on Tuesday working those bills that have moved from the first house into the second house.

In the Senate, the Senate Public Health and Welfare passed [SB 254](#) - which limits who is defined as practicing "healing arts." This bill went to the Senate Committee of the Whole on Thursday, and is on General Orders.

KPHA testified on [SB217](#) last week, which establishes a screening process for TB in schools and universities. The bill was Withdrawn from Public Health and Welfare and referred to Ways and Means. The differences between the proponents and opponents are being worked out. Of course, KPHA's President, Phil Griffin has been very involved with the bill. Below is KPHA's testimony:

KPHA stands in support of SB 217. It has clearly been a growing trend, nationally and in Kansas, that while the annual number of tuberculosis cases is on the decline overall groups the percentage of cases among the highest risk groups are increasing.

Highest risk groups include international individuals, those who are in congregate settings, those with lowered immune systems and those who are medically underserved. High schools, colleges and universities in Kansas are at

risk settings because of the growing number of international students, staff and faculty. International students and faculty are not screened in any manner for diseases when being issued student or work visas. This is unlike those who are immigrants here through refugee programs who are subjected to a full battery of health screenings.

Academic settings are high risk for large outbreaks and wide spread infectious diseases such as tuberculosis. Because of the general air-borne nature of the tuberculosis disease, one does not have to have intimate contact with the infected individual, they only have to share air space.

Kansas statute 72-5213 already requires all staff and teachers in elementary and high schools to be tested for tuberculosis before they can have contact with students. Why would we not want to protect our students in colleges as well? The college setting also has increased risks associated with it as a result of dormitory living, communal dining settings and longer exposure times of students and faculty working together in laboratories or study sessions often in close and confined quarters.

We believe this is sound public health policy as a measure to continue to protect our Kansas citizens and visitors in the academic setting. The long range effect of not passing this measure could prove to be very costly as the incidence of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis is increasing. We encourage passage of SB 217.

**SB 216** was passed in the Senate this week with 39 Yeas and 0 Nays. This bill would enact new provisions regarding the isolation or quarantine of persons with actual or potential exposures to potentially life threatening infectious or contagious diseases. In investigating such exposures, the local health officer or the Secretary of the Department of Health and Environment (health officials) could:

1. Issue an order requiring the exposed or potentially exposed person to seek appropriate and necessary evaluation and treatment;
2. Issue an order requiring exposed persons to go and remain in isolation or quarantine until they no longer pose a substantial risk of transmitting the disease to the public.
3. Issue an order requiring competent persons aged 18 or older who refuse testing or treatment, emancipated minors who refuse testing or treatment, or minors whose parent or guardian refuses them testing or treatment, to go and remain in isolation or quarantine until they no longer pose a substantial risk of transmitting the disease to the public. A minor's parent or guardian could accompany him or her into isolation or quarantine.

An individual or group of isolated or quarantined individuals could request a hearing in district court contesting the isolation or quarantine. The court would be required to hold a hearing within 72 hours after receipt of the request for a hearing. A request for hearing could neither stay nor enjoin isolation or quarantine order. An affected individual's authorized representative could appear before the court if the individual could not personally appear. Proceedings could be conducted through any means that allowed other individuals to fully participate. Counsel would be appointed for individuals or groups not otherwise represented. The court could consolidate individual claims under circumstances set forth in the bill.

The court would grant the affected person or group's request for relief unless it determined that the isolation or quarantine order was necessary and reasonable to prevent or reduce the spread of the disease or outbreak believed caused by the exposure. In determining if the order was necessary and reasonable for the purposes just mentioned, the court may consider the means of transmission, the degree of contagion, and, to the extent possible, the degree of public exposure to the disease.

The Kansas Supreme Court would have the power to develop emergency rules of procedure facilitate the efficient adjudication of any proceedings brought under this section.

In addition, the bill would prohibit an employer from discharging an employee solely because the employee or an immediate family member is under an order of isolation or quarantine. A violation would be punishable as a violation of K.S.A. 65-129, a class C misdemeanor.

In the House Health & Human Services bills that were heard included: [HB 2337](#) - illegal importation of drugs and [HB 2417](#) - establishing a council on obesity. [Back to top](#)

---

### Information on the new HHS Secretary in D.C.



If you haven't heard yet, Michael O. Leavitt is the new Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He manages the largest civilian department in the federal government, with more than 66,000 employees and a budget that accounts for almost one out of every four federal dollars. Prior to his current service, Leavitt served as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Governor of Utah. The people of Utah elected Mike Leavitt governor three times. Prior to leaving the statehouse to work in the Bush Administration, he was the nation's longest-serving governor. During his eleven years of service, Utah was recognized six times as one of America's best managed states. He was chosen by his peers as Chairman of the National Governors Association. Sec. Leavitt is widely recognized as a health care innovator. He was chosen by the nation's governors to represent the states in Congress on welfare reform, Medicaid and children's health insurance. Born February 11, 1951, in Cedar City, Utah, Leavitt graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics and business from Southern Utah University. He served as president and chief executive officer of a regional insurance firm. He is married and has five children. For more on Secretary Leavitt, go to the [DHHS website](#). [Back to top](#)

---

### Position open: Public Service Executive II Unclassified, Immunization Program Director State of Kansas

The Dept. of Health and Environment is seeking a Director for the State's Immunization Program, (Req. #146689) in the Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Prevention in Topeka. Plans, organizes, and directs the implementation and evaluation for a multifaceted, statewide Immunization Program. Provides advice to high-level policymakers regarding all vaccine-preventable disease issues. This Program includes staff who conduct vaccine-preventable disease investigations and provide advice to health-care providers across the State. Prefer MPH with knowledge of immunization/vaccines and public health issues; three years experience in health care administration; managing, administering, and/or supervising human, financial, physical or information resources. Must possess excellent interpersonal skills; be self-motivated, organized and able to communicate to individuals and groups effectively, both verbally and in writing. Salary commensurate with experience. Send KS Employment Summary, Employment Registration Form and a copy of college transcripts to KDHE Human Resources Management, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 580, Topeka, KS 66612, attention Linda Smith. Employment Summary may be obtained from <http://www.accesskansas.org>. Call (785) 296-1290 for a hard copy and additional required materials. Application Deadline: Open

Until Filled. [Back to top](#)

---

## Intro to EPI Portion of the KS Public Health Certificate Program Is Now Open

Intro to EPI portion of the KS Public Health Certificate Program is now being opened to all public health care workers on March 29: 10am - 5pm and March 30: 8am - 3pm.

Registration for the Intro to EPI portion of the KS Public Health Certificate Program is now being opened to all public health care workers in Kansas as space allows in Hays, Wichita, and Chanute.

This course will be offered free of charge and nursing CEU's will be offered for those attending both days.

The target audience includes professional public health staff involved in disease surveillance and investigation.  
(Multiple Live Locations)

To register, go to <http://ks.train.org>. You will need to create an account if you haven't done this yet. Go to "Course Search", then "Browse my State" to find "Introduction to Basic Epidemiology" and register for this course. [Back to top](#)

---

## New Poverty Guidelines

The US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) released the 2005 HHS Poverty Guidelines on February 18, 2005. Click to view the [guidelines](#).

There is additional content on the KRHS website that you can read by clicking [here](#). [Back to top](#)

**Copyright 2004. Kansas Public Health Association. All rights reserved.**