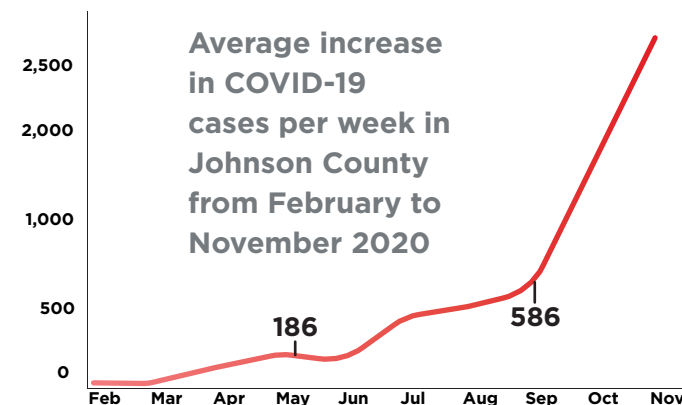


SARS-CoV-2 COVID-19 Coronavirus COVID 'Rona

From July to December 2020, COVID-19 dominated the news and affected students' lives



July

- July 22nd Kansas Governor Laura Kelly delayed the start of school until after Labor Day.
- Mask mandates are put in place by businesses and cities.

August

- College towns show large clusters of COVID-19 as students move in.
- The White House moves to categorize teachers as essential workers.

September

- Vaccines begin first phase testing around the globe.
- Classes begin online for SMSD high school students on Sept 8th.
- Unemployment falls to the lowest it has been since March.

November

- Cases, hospitalizations and deaths skyrocket as people decide to gather for the holidays.
- School goes back online for the rest of the semester.
- Vaccines end testing and begin to deploy

October

- The term "covid fatigue" starts being used.
- Experts predictions come true with a "fall surge" in cases
- Classes in SMSD begin in person, hybrid, on Oct. 26

December

- Cases continue to increase as holiday gatherings occur and reach an all time high.
- A new variant of the virus is discovered.
- Only 2.8 million people have been vaccinated as of December 2020.

North students follow COVID-19 guidelines and social distance to maintain relationships



Posing with their rackets, seniors on the girls tennis team soak up the last moments of their season during the pandemic. "This was our last practice for tennis and it was really sad because this was our last time playing together as a team," senior Natalie Medina said.

Smiling through masks, senior Skylar Freeman plays it safe while visiting her boyfriend in California. "It was kind of nerve wracking for me traveling during a pandemic because it was my first time alone," said Freeman. "It wasn't really that bad other than having to wear a mask for about 10 hours."

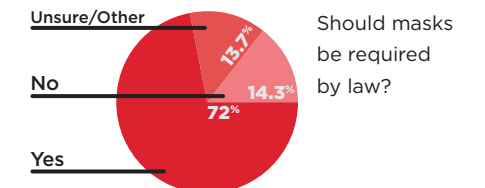


Coronavirus testing center in Overland Park shows what it takes to keep its employees and community safe

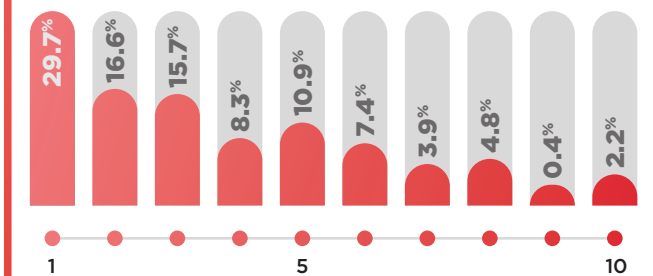


"Care Now," one of Overland Park's COVID-19 testing centers. Workers on the front lines are shown in personal protective equipment, or PPE for short. "Clinics right now are experiencing all time highs," said Drew Huffington, marketing coordinator for CareNow. "We're really proud of our staff and all they've done to keep the community safe." *photos provided by huffington*

North opinions on the virus



How well do you think the United States has responded to the pandemic on a scale of 1-10 (poor to good respectively)



*from a survey of 175 North students and staff in Oct. 2020

Freshmen at North give their take on the pandemic and how it has affected them.

I was really concerned with the loss of opportunity. I was thinking, 'oh now that I'm in high school I'll just join a bunch of clubs and have that high school experience.' But, that's not what it was at all."

Laurel Hanson, 9

"One thing I was kind of scared of is that I would fail all of my classes, I would fail high school, I would have to repeat grades and I wouldn't get into college. Luckily that didn't happen. I think now I'm expecting more of myself since I didn't put my best foot forward."

Addison Da'Silva, 9

"A lot of courses were toned down, I felt. So I think that colleges are going to see that I took this certain class during the pandemic so it won't be worth as much credit. I feel like a lot of people took advantage of the ability to look up answers online. But, I'm hoping by the end of this year I'll be where I need to be for next year."

Connor Eaton, 9