We experienced 2,597 new infections this week, deaths are up, and COVID-19 related hospital admissions are down. These three indicators are trending at what researchers at the University of Kansas Medical Center call a “fluctuating plateau” which, if models are correct, forecasts similar numbers in all three areas during the next few weeks.

For the third week running, hospital emergency departments are seeing an increase in the number of non-COVID-19 related visits. This additional strain on hospital staff and resources could reduce their ability to respond to new outbreaks.

Average daily tests this week rose slightly but fell short of our mitigation goal. We need to see significant increases in testing if we are to suppress this virus.

Each of us has a personal responsibility to both ourselves and to each other — follow guidelines for reducing transmission and infection. Be aware of yourself and respect those around you: wash your hands, wear a mask, maintain six-foot distance, and be an example for all.