



COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS

Health. Equity. Justice.

What We Know Now

March 1, 2021

A compilation of the latest news surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic from the Community Care Network of Kansas. Published on Mondays, Wednesdays and



Fridays. Visit our [COVID-19 Resources](#) page for complete, updated information.

Community Care Member Update

Today's Spotlight is on the **Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)'s COVID-19 vaccine** that received emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration on Saturday, was officially recommended for its safety and effectiveness by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Sunday, and began being shipped to states and local governments today. Select community health centers and pharmacies are on the distribution list as well.

The introduction of a third coronavirus vaccine (joining Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) is welcome news around the world, but particularly here in the United States where less than one week ago the number of COVID-19 deaths surpassed 500,000. And while new case rates had been decreasing across the country, Sunday marked the first time in more than a month that most states reported rising counts.

In a media statement, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said the new vaccine “is another milestone toward an end to the pandemic. As vaccination scales up, so too does our nation’s overall protection from serious outcomes due to COVID-19.”

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), said: “In addition to meeting the expectations of safety and effectiveness to support emergency use



COMMUNITY CARE
NETWORK OF KANSAS
Health. Equity. Justice.

www.communitycareks.org 3.1.2021

authorization, the Janssen vaccine has the advantage of requiring only a single injection and can be easily transported and stored without special refrigeration requirements.”

At some point, Kansas health centers and other vaccination providers might offer patients the option of which vaccine they would like. For now, with demand still vastly outstripping supply, providers simply must continue getting as many shots into arms as possible. We are pleased another effective vaccine has been added to the mix. With 13.5% of the state population having received at least one dose, there remains 86.5% yet to start the process.

Progress – one vaccine at a time.

From KDHE/Governor’s Office/Statehouse

Latest statistics: 294,302 positive cases, 4,743 deaths, 9,290 hospitalizations and 964,803 negative results. Since Friday, there have been 639 new cases, 8 deaths and 41 hospitalizations reported.

According to the Kansas WebIZ vaccination tracker ([here](#)), 584,468 doses have been administered in Kansas out of the 805,480 doses distributed. 393,860 people (13.5% of the population) have had their first dose and 190,587 received their second dose.

Listen live to Kansas Legislature floor proceedings and committee hearings [here](#). Archived meetings on YouTube [here](#).

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC will have a COCA Call, What Clinicians Need to Know About Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine, from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 2. To join the webinar, click [here](#).

The CDC has issued several updates, including:

- Cases in the U.S. ([here](#)),
- Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools and Homes ([here](#)), and
- Public Health Guidance for Community-Related Exposure ([here](#)).

From the U.S. Food & Drug Administration

FDA issued emergency use authorization for a third COVID-19 vaccine. The EUA allows the Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine to be distributed in the U.S. for use in individuals 18 and older. Read the news release [here](#).

FDA allows more flexible storage, transportation conditions for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, stating both can be done at conventional temperatures commonly found in pharmaceutical freezers for a period of up to two weeks. Read the news release [here](#).

From the National Institutes of Health

NIH to evaluate COVID-19 at-home testing system. The newly approved Quidel QuickVue diagnostic kit (see FDA authorization [here](#)) is paired with smartphone app. Read more at NIH [here](#).

From Media Reports

U.S. begins rollout of Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine; pharmaceutical company will ship close to 4 million doses today. Read more at ABC News [here](#).

Why has coronavirus testing slumped in the U.S.? It's complicated. Read more at The New York Times [here](#).

People who've had COVID-19 might only need to get one dose of vaccine, studies suggest. Read more at USA Today [here](#).