



COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS

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What We Know Now

March 3, 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 **Konza Prairie Community Health Center**, which hosted a visit from Governor Laura Kelly today. The Governor, who was joined in Junction City by Community Care CEO Denise Cyzman, was there to tour the facility and formally announce how the state allocated \$3 million of Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to increase access to care through telehealth. (Pictured are Governor Kelly, CEO Cyzman, Konza Prairie CEO Lee Wolf and Dr. Taylor Pratt, Konza Dental Director.)



Eighteen health centers in the Community Care Network benefitted from the CRF dollars, including Konza Prairie. Konza Prairie received 1,011 of the more than 44,000 remote monitoring devices distributed by Community Care. Devices such as blood pressure monitors, glucometers, pulse oximeters, thermometers and electronic scales are being put in the hands of low-income and otherwise underserved patients in order for providers to monitor adverse health outcomes due to COVID-19 or



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other chronic conditions while patients remain in the comfort and safety of their own home. These include patients over age 65, from racial and ethnic minority communities, and with chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, COPD or hypertension.

“While COVID-19 underscored the importance of increasing telehealth capabilities, growing these services will benefit Kansans long after the pandemic is over,” Governor Kelly said. “I’m pleased that Community Care has used these Coronavirus Relief Funds to bolster telehealth services and increase access to care for all Kansans. My administration is committed to supporting these efforts now and into the future.”

Wolf said the devices will be provided free of charge to patients with a diagnosis of diabetes, obesity, congestive heart failure, pregnancy, hypertension or other conditions deemed clinically necessary by a provider. The devices will transmit user data securely into a patient’s electronic health record or patient portal – and can be reviewed during a telehealth visit.

“This important data will help Konza providers to ensure quality care and improved health outcomes for our patients who are at greatest risk due to COVID-19 and other chronic conditions,” Wolf said. “Our providers will ensure these devices make it into the hands of patients who need it the most, tracking changes and improvement in health outcomes through our electronic health record and data-visualization dashboards.”

Cyzman said the initial statewide goal with this initiative was to benefit 10,000 Kansans.

“Based on the blood pressure monitor order alone, 21,147 patients could benefit,” she said. “And we know our health centers can make a positive impact in the lives of many Kansans.”

Konza Prairie has that impact each and every day. The remote monitoring devices will be yet another way for the health center “to provide quality, comprehensive, affordable care to our community,” Lee said.

From KDHE/Governor’s Office/Statehouse

Latest statistics: 295,109 positive cases, 4,816 deaths, 9,355 hospitalizations and 969,651 negative results. Since Monday, there have been 807 new cases, 73 deaths and 65 hospitalizations reported.

According to the Kansas WebIZ vaccination tracker ([here](#)), 614,166 doses have been administered in Kansas out of the 939,890 doses distributed. 411,379 people (14.1% of the population) have had their first dose and 202,787 received their second dose.

At today’s press conference, Governor Kelly noted the approval of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine being approved for emergency use authorization. There are two more vaccines expected in the near future. More than 23,000 J&J doses will come to Kansas this week, adding to the 130,000+ from Moderna and Pfizer. Even more are coming in to community health centers and pharmacies. The Governor said the addition of the J&J vaccine will help the state on its way to herd immunity. More than 14% of Kansans

are reported as vaccinated. By the end of this week, all school personnel should receive at least one dose.

KDHE reported eight new cases of the UK variant (B.1.1.7) have been identified in Sedgwick County. The total of UK identified variants in the state is now at 10. Read the press release [here](#).

The next COVID-19 Update for Local Partners webinar will be from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. (CST) Thursday, March 4. Dial-in: (312) 626-6799; ID: 349 823 849; Password: KDHECOVID.

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

From HRSA/Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC)

Highlights from Tuesday's Today with Macrae: Health Center Program Update include:

- 9.1 million COVID-19 tests have been performed by health centers nationwide (47.6% racial and/or ethnic minority patients). 976,153 patients have tested positive (56.1% were patients from racial and/or ethnic minorities). 1.1 million immunizations have been started; approximately 325,000 completed
- The Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program began direct federal shipments of vaccines last week to 25 health centers (63,000 doses). This week, 113 health centers will receive 157,700 vaccines (Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson). Expect to have the initial phase of 250 health centers fully implemented by next week and a projected 289,000 vaccines. Selected health centers will need to order a minimum of 100 doses for each participating site.
- While supply availability will drive everything, health centers will be able to coordinate with HRSA and set allocation amounts several weeks into the future. HRSA and CDC will analyze vaccine data to assess onboarding of additional health centers and to inform future vaccine allocation efforts.
- Health Center COVID-19 Survey Operational Capacity offers interactive dashboards on various measures. It can be accessed [here](#).
- Health centers have completed all activities with their COVID-19 Supplemental Funding. COVID funding for more than 1,400 awards (33%) and nearly 61% of COVID funding has been drawn down.
- There are funding opportunities for school-based service sites (\$5 million to support 25 grants) and optimizing virtual care funding opportunities will be out "soon and shortly."
- The American Rescue Plan (COVID-19 relief bill) could be voted on in the Senate as early as Friday. Once finalized, HRSA will make the resources available as quickly as possible.
- 77% of HRSA-funded health centers have been recognized as Patient-Centered Medical Homes (74% in Kansas). Also, the field testing for the 2021 Health Center Patient Survey (HCPS) has begun. Especially during the pandemic, HRSA wants to collect valuable patient input.
- When visiting bphc.hrsa.gov, take the survey that pops up.

- A lot of health centers are taking advantage of the 15-minute waiting period for patients after receiving vaccinations. Services, scheduling future appointments, signing people up for the marketplace.
- Health centers are encouraged to consider HRSA’s COVID-19 claims reimbursement program for uninsured patients as they might be eligible. Click [here](#) for more information.

HRSA updated its weekly COVID-19 survey to reflect the emergency use authorization granted for the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine:

- Questions about “initiating” the vaccine should include only administration of the first shot for Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Janssen vaccines are counted in questions 15 and 17 (and 22, 24 and 26 in the addendum for Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program participants who received vaccine in the past week).
- Questions about “completing” the vaccine should include administration of the Janssen vaccine as well as the second shot of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. These are questions 16 and 18 (and 23, 25 and 27 in the aforementioned addendum).

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC released an early MMWR, First Identified Cases of SARS-CoV-2 Variant P.1 in the United States – Minnesota ([here](#)). A second MMWR, Travel from the United Kingdom to the United States by a Symptomatic Patient Infected with the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 Variant – Texas, also was released ([here](#)).

The CDC has issued several updates, including:

- Frequently Asked Questions about v-safe ([here](#)),
- Different COVID-19 Vaccines ([here](#)),
- How CDC is Making COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations ([here](#)),
- COVID-19 Forecasts: Cases ([here](#)),
- COVID-19 Forecasts: Hospitalizations ([here](#)),
- COVID-19 Forecasts: Deaths ([here](#)),
- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ Interim Recommendation for Use of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine – United States ([here](#)), and
- Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Questions ([here](#)).

From the U.S. Food & Drug Administration

Are there “FDA Registered” or “FDA Certified” medical devices? How do I know what is FDA approved? Read answers in the FDA news release [here](#).

From the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Biden administration announces historic manufacturing collaboration between Merck and Johnson & Johnson to expand production of COVID-19 vaccines. Read the HHS news release [here](#).

From the National Association of Community Health Centers

For board chairs, board officers and committee chairs who might hold new or more involved leadership roles as the pandemic continues, NACHC provides tips and ideas [here](#).

From the National Institutes of Health

NIH halts trial of COVID-19 convalescent plasma in emergency department patients with mild symptoms. Read more [here](#).

Antibody response affects COVID-19 outcomes in kids and adults. Read NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins' blog post [here](#).

From Media Reports

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is coming to Kansas. Here's what you need to know. Read more at The Topeka Capital-Journal [here](#).

Biden expects U.S. to have COVID-19 vaccines for all adults by end of May. Read more at The Wall Street Journal [here](#).

Rural Americans in pharmacy deserts hurting for COVID vaccines. Read more at Kaiser Health News [here](#).