



COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS

Health. Equity. Justice.

What We Know Now

April 16, 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 **First Care Clinic**, which continues piling up impressive COVID-19 vaccination numbers in Ellis County. As of this morning, close to 12,000 injections have been given at the local mall.

“We stepped up in a time of need,” said First Care CEO Bryan Brady, “and worked with the healthcare community in Ellis County to make sure the most vulnerable received the vaccine in a timely and efficient manner.”

The health center is collaborating with other providers to amass these numbers. First Care was able to take full advantage of its close relationship with the Ellis County Health Department. HaysMed, the local hospital, also pitched in by sending over volunteer nurses to help with the vaccination clinics.

Brady said the community reaction has been very positive. Aside from the gratitude expressed by patients simply for receiving the vaccine, staff has heard multiple compliments on the set-up at the mall, the flow and minimal wait times.



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First Care Operations Manager Danielle Windholz explained that the health department set up a website for patients to enter their demographic information if they wanted to receive a vaccine. From that list, First Care scheduled the patients.

“There was also a link within the text/email that allowed them to complete their forms ahead of time,” Windholz said, “which helped tremendously getting patients moved through quickly once they showed up at the mall.”

She said the process allowed the health center to prevent high-risk and elderly patients from having to stand in a long line. Staff also monitored no-shows and had other patients to call so no vaccines were wasted.

“Our system seemed to work pretty well,” Windholz said.

Not surprisingly, her boss agreed.

According to Brady: “Our staff demonstrated how incredible they are by helping to administer nearly 12,000 vaccines and continue to see patients in the clinic.”

The number of community members seeking vaccines has begun to slow down, and the health department is going to manage the remaining patients on their own.

“However,” Windholz said, “if they have busier days, we will still send nurses over to help them inject if needed.”

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The **Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas** has topped 30,000 vaccines administered as of this morning, making it one of the Top 10 immunizers in the state!

From KDHE/Governor’s Office/Statehouse

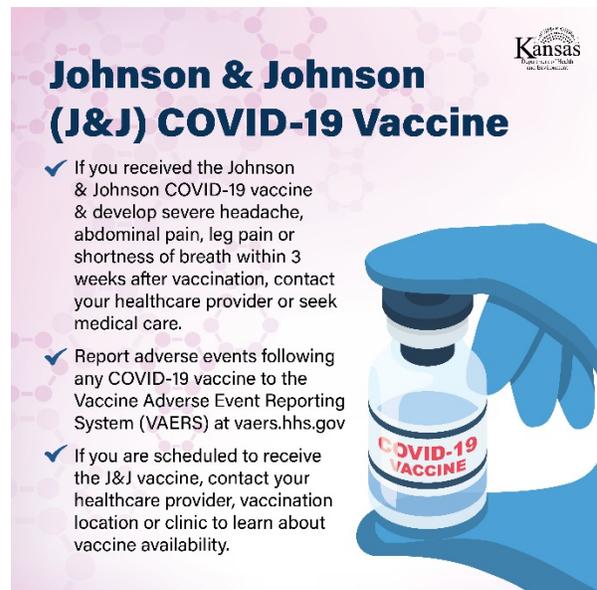
Latest statistics: 305,861 positive cases, 4,953 deaths, 9,944 hospitalizations and 1,348,960 individuals tested. Since Wednesday, there have been 541 new cases, 9 deaths and 33 hospitalizations reported.

According to the Kansas WebIZ vaccination tracker ([here](#)), 1,682,276 doses have been administered in Kansas out of the 2,192,800 doses distributed. 1,046,211 people (35.9% of the population) have had their first dose and 636,068 received their second dose.

Highlights from Thursday’s COVID-19 Update for Local Partners webinar include:

- Secretary Norman said Friday will mark 450 days for the state’s COVID-19 command post, and he hoped that everyone working to end the public health emergency takes time to replenish themselves on a regular basis.
- The trend line for new cases is up slightly, hospitalizations are increasing, and deaths continue decreasing.

- There have been 1,891 outbreaks statewide since the pandemic began, with 44 currently active clusters (one in a healthcare setting).
- KDHE has updated its dashboard to include Social Vulnerability Index (SVI Explorer [here](#)), which allows you to layer race or ethnicity data with COVID-19 testing and vaccination rates. Data is county-specific and data sets are downloadable. The dashboard also includes information on SARS-CoV-2 Variants found in Kansas ([here](#)), which will be updated every Friday.
- The state is scheduled to receive 42,120 Pfizer prime vaccine doses next week, along with 31,300 Moderna prime doses. There will be 0 Johnson & Johnson doses. KDHE encourages providers to consider Pfizer and Moderna as viable options in all settings to avoid missed opportunities to get somebody vaccinated. KDHE continues to recommend providers not use the J&J vaccine until the CDC and FDA review is complete. The emergency meeting on Wednesday did not result in any formal recommendations. Another emergency meeting will take place next week. KDHE will follow their guidance as it is released.
- Clinicians should not treat patients with thrombotic events and thrombocytopenia following receipt of J&J vaccine with heparin, unless HIT testing is negative. Ensure all adverse reports are reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System at vaers.hhs.gov ([here](#)). Advise patients who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks of receiving the J&J vaccine to contact their provider.
- There are new social media messaging regarding the J&J vaccine situation that are available in English and Spanish [here](#) providers are encouraged to share.
- The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Public Health on Call series has a new podcast, Making Safe Decisions During the Race of “Infections vs. Injections,” that can be accessed [here](#).



Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 Vaccine

- ✓ If you received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine & develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain or shortness of breath within 3 weeks after vaccination, contact your healthcare provider or seek medical care.
- ✓ Report adverse events following any COVID-19 vaccine to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at vaers.hhs.gov
- ✓ If you are scheduled to receive the J&J vaccine, contact your healthcare provider, vaccination location or clinic to learn about vaccine availability.

From HRSA/Bureau of Primary Health Care

HRSA developed two fact sheets to help both patients and providers better understand their rights and responsibilities regarding access to COVID-19 vaccines. To access the Patient Fact Sheet ([Spanish](#) or [English](#)); to access the Provider Fact Sheet ([Spanish](#) or [English](#)).

Highlights from Thursday’s Today with Macrae webinar include:

- A reminder that all HRSA-funded health centers and Health Center Program look-alikes are eligible for the Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program. If you cannot locate your emailed

invitation and would like to sign up, contact Health Center Program Support [here](#). For a list of participating health centers, click [here](#). More than 1 million vaccines have been administered by 625 health centers through the program, and approximately 70% have gone to racial and/or ethnic minority patients. There is a HRSA vaccination dashboard that displays health center vaccinations (regardless of dose source) broken down by racial/ethnic minority patients [here](#).

- Participating health centers must fill out the weekly Health Center COVID-19 Survey, which recently had two questions removed and the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) question was simplified. A new question asks whether your health center utilizes mobile vans and/or host pop-up clinics to enhance access to vaccination sites. Preview the survey questions [here](#).
- The COVID-19 Community Corps is a nationwide grassroots network of local voices people know and trust who will encourage family, friends and neighbors to get vaccinated. The campaign aims to increase vaccine confidence while reinforcing basic prevention measures. For more information, click [here](#).
- The HHS Mask Distribution Program currently is being piloted, and will be sent to all health centers that requested them in late April. The free COVID-19 rapid testing supplies, including point-of-care analyzers and test kits, also will be shipped in late April. Health centers and look-alikes need to respond by April 21 to the survey that was sent out Wednesday.
- The Health Center Program Compliance Manual is now available in Spanish [here](#).
- Slides from the presentation can be found [here](#).

From the National Association of Community Health Centers

Health centers considering using H8F funding to open their first in-house pharmacy should consider sitting in on a NACHC webinar from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Thursday, April 22. Log-in information will be shared once received.

NACHC's COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Toolkit is available in the following languages: Haitian Creole, Hmong, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Somali, Spanish, Tagalong, Traditional Chinese and Vietnamese. Available for health centers to build vaccine confidence and encourage staff and community members to get vaccinated. Access the toolkit [here](#).

From the Federal Communications Commission

FCC announced that the seven-day window to submit applications for funding under Round 2 of its COVID Telehealth Program will run from 11:00 a.m. (CST) Thursday, April 29, through 11:00 a.m. Thursday, May 6. The program supports the efforts of providers to continue serving their patients by providing reimbursement for telecommunications services, information services, and connected devices necessary to enable telehealth during the pandemic. The news release is [here](#).

From the National Institutes of Health

Experimental antiviral for COVID-19 effective in hamster study. Read the news release [here](#).

NIH-funded COVID-19 testing initiative aims to safely return children to in-person school. Read the news release [here](#).

NIH closes enrollment in trial comparing COVID-19 treatment regimens. Read more [here](#).

Immune response to vaccination after COVID-19. Read more [here](#).

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The CDC released several updates, including:

- Cases in the U.S. ([here](#)),
- Overall U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration ([here](#)),
- What You Should Know About the Possibility of COVID-19 Illness After Vaccination ([here](#)), and
- COVID-19 Science Update ([here](#)).

From the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

The CMS Office of Minority Health will host The Road to Equity: Examining Structural Racism in Health Care, a two-day virtual forum April 27-28 to explore the advancement of health equity, efforts to address structural racism, and how COVID-19 has impacted health disparities. Access the formal agenda [here](#). You must register for each day separately. The forum will be from 12:00 – 3:30 p.m. (CST) Tuesday, April 27 (register [here](#)), and 12:00 – 3:45 p.m. (CST) Wednesday, April 28, (register [here](#)).

From Media Reports

COVID-19 variants are taking hold nationally. How prepared is Kansas to cope? Read more at The Topeka Capital-Journal [here](#).

The shock and reality of catching COVID after being vaccinated. Read more at Kaiser Health News [here](#).

Booster shots and re-vaccinations could be needed. Drug companies are planning for it. Read more at The New York Times [here](#).

The White House details a nearly \$2 billion plan to enhance the tracking of variants. Read more at The New York Times [here](#).