



COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS

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What We Know Now

May 14, 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 **CDC's New Guidance on Masks and Social Distancing**, which say fully vaccinated individuals have little need for either COVID-19-prevention tactic any longer. The CDC relied on recent studies that demonstrated the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines against two variants that are known to be circulating in the United States. The findings all add to a growing body of evidence that the vaccines are effective at preventing severe illness and death from COVID-19 and that they help prevent people from spreading the virus to others.

While it is possible for a fully vaccinated individual to get infected, such instances are rare. Out of more than 117 million people in the United States who have been fully vaccinated, there have only been 9,245 who later tested positive for COVID-19. In addition, the CDC has said those so-called breakthrough infections are typically mild.



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Following Thursday’s announcement, many states adopted the CDC position. Kansas was one of the first, as Governor Kelly issued this statement:

“Effective immediately, Kansas will adopt the CDC’s latest guidance that fully vaccinated Kansans are no longer required to wear masks indoors or outdoors or physically distance, except in circumstances such as those required by businesses, public transportation or healthcare facilities. Should fully vaccinated Kansans feel more comfortable wearing a mask, they are welcome to continue doing so.

“This announcement is welcome news, and a testament to the sacrifices Kansans have made over the last year. I can think of no better reason for all Kansans to get vaccinated. The sooner we are vaccinated – the sooner we get back to normal.”

We all could use a little more normal.

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Community Care members are invited to participate in “Roll ‘em Up ... Show ‘em You Care” vaccination effort during the month of June. There are no requirements to participate, but we will ask members to share their vaccination numbers for the month. Network-branded logos and marketing material for vaccination efforts will be available. For more information, contact Director of Development and Training Mel Martin [here](#).

From KDHE/Governor’s Office/Statehouse

Latest statistics: 311,705 positive cases, 5,038 deaths, 10,488 hospitalizations and 14 MIS-C cases (Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children associated with COVID-19). Since Wednesday, there have been 367 new cases, 9 deaths and 28 hospitalizations reported.

According to the Kansas WebIZ vaccination tracker ([here](#)), 2,065,404 doses have been administered in Kansas out of the 2,695,630 doses distributed. 1,162,646 people (39.9% of the population) have had their first dose and 902,758 received their second dose.

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

- The trend lines for new cases, hospitalizations and deaths all are decreasing.
- The state has had 2,030 COVID-19 clusters, and 64 remain active (2 in healthcare facilities).
- KDHE updated its travel related guidelines ([here](#)) to only impose quarantines on unvaccinated individuals who visit counties in Colorado that have new case rates three times greater than Kansas.
- KDHE significantly reduced the number of providers who need to submit a Snapshot report. New providers will need to submit a weekly snapshot.
- The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and FDA will pause distribution of bamlanivimab and etesevimab, which when used together are not active against the P.1 variant (originally identified in Brazil). They are recommending Regen-Cov, an alternative monoclonal antibody therapy. Read more [here](#).

- KDHE no longer is publishing the provider dashboard on kansasvaccine.gov because of reduced submissions.
- KHEL, the state lab, has sequenced over 3,500 samples to date and identified 105 different lineages, most which are not of interest or significance.
- Next week, Kansas will receive 42,120 Pfizer prime doses, 32,060 Moderna prime doses and 0 J&J doses.

From HRSA/Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC)

New HHS funding for rural health clinics (RHCs) to strengthen COVID-19 testing and mitigation and increase vaccine confidence. The availability of nearly \$1 billion to assist the rural response to COVID was announced last week ([here](#)); HRSA advises interested RHCs to watch for the upcoming funding opportunity ([here](#)) and start the process to register to apply for a HRSA grant ([here](#)).

From the U.S. Food & Drug Administration

The FDA’s Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update can be accessed [here](#). The FDA has authorized 498 revisions to Emergency Use Authorizations.

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC published two early release MMWRs, Interim Estimates of Vaccine Effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines Among Health Care Personnel ([here](#)), and The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ Interim Recommendation for Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine in Adolescents Aged 12-15 Years – United States ([here](#)).

The CDC also released two other Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWRs) in addition to several updates, including:

- MMWR, Diagnostic Performance of an Antigen Test with RT-PCR for the Detection of SARS-CoV-2 in a Hospital Setting – Los Angeles County, California ([here](#)),
- MMWR, Community-Based Testing for SARS-CoV-2 – Chicago, Illinois ([here](#)),
- Largest CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness Study in Health Workers Shows mRNA Vaccines 94% Effective ([here](#)),
- Underlying Medical Conditions Associated with High Risk for Severe COVID-19: Information for Healthcare Providers ([here](#)),
- COVID-19 Data Tracker: Integrated County View ([here](#)),
- COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States ([here](#)), and
- Cases in the U.S. ([here](#)).

From the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

CMS data shows vulnerable Americans forgoing mental health care during COVID-19 pandemic. This finding was among many outlined in a presentation released today, Medicaid & CHIP and the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (which can be accessed [here](#)).

During National Minority Health Month, the CMS Office of Minority Health hosted a forum to highlight CMS' renewed focus on health equity, address structural racism in healthcare, and establish federal agencies' roles as equity partners. Speakers focused on the impact of COVID-19 on health disparities as well as solutions to promote equity. View Day 1 [here](#); view Day 2 [here](#).

CMS will have a National Stakeholder Call to discuss the continued impact the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency is having on Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries and utilization of health services at 10:00 a.m. (CST) Tuesday, May 18. To register, click [here](#).

From Media Reports

COVID-19 live updates: Newly reported U.S. infections edge up. Read more at The Wall Street Journal [here](#).

"It's not over yet": Uncertain protection from COVID vaccines leaves cancer patients in limbo. Read more at STAT News [here](#).

An abrupt U.S. change on mask guidance has set off a confusing scramble for states and cities. Read more at The New York Times [here](#).

Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are powerfully effective against COVID-19, a CDC analysis confirmed. Read more at The New York Times [here](#).