



## COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS

Health. Equity. Justice.

### What We Know Now

December 8, 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 **Agape Clinic**, which took advantage of National Handwashing Awareness Week (December 1-7) to remind patients that handwashing prevents 1 in 5 respiratory infections, including COVID-19, cold and flu.

Thanks for the healthy reminder!

To learn more about how clean hands save lives, visit the CDC website [here](#).

#### From KDHE/Governor's Office/Statehouse

Latest statistics: 482,232 positive cases, 6,768 deaths, 16,087 hospitalizations and 20 MIS-C cases (Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children associated with COVID-19). Since Monday, there have been 4,443 new cases, 25 deaths and 116 hospitalizations reported.

According to the Kansas WebIZ vaccination tracker ([here](#)), 3,625,754 doses have been administered in Kansas out of the 4,573,230 doses distributed. 1,786,383 people (57.5% of the population) have had their first dose; 1,430,778 (49.8%) have had their second doses; and 408,594 have had their third dose of the vaccine series.



**DON'T FORGET TO  
WASH YOUR HANDS**

-  Handwashing prevents 1 in 5 respiratory infections, including cold & flu.
-  Scrub for 20 seconds - the time it takes to sing the ABCs.
-  No soap or water? Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

**Kansas**  
Department of Health and Environment



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[www.communitycareks.org](http://www.communitycareks.org) 12.8.2021

The next COVID-19 Update for Local Partners webinar will be from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. (CST) Thursday, December 9. Dial-in: (312) 626-6799; ID: 349 823 849; Password: KDHECOVID.

### **From the White House COVID-19 Team**

The latest state profile report from Washington shows Kansas:

- In the red zone for new case rate with 267 per 100,000 population, ranked 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation;
- In the light red zone for test positivity with 14.0%, ranked 43<sup>rd</sup>;
- In the orange zone for hospitalizations with 8.1 confirmed and suspected admissions per 100 beds, ranked 34<sup>th</sup>;
- In the orange zone for rate of COVID-19 deaths with 1.1 per 100,000 population, ranked 11<sup>th</sup>;
- 1,937,423 people received at least one vaccine dose (66.5% of total population);
- 1,598,864 people fully vaccinated (54.9% of total population, 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation); and
- With a “high” community transmission level.

### **From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

CDC issued several updates, including:

- Self-Testing ([here](#)),
- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) ([here](#)),
- COVID-19 Forecasts: Deaths ([here](#)),
- Previous COVID-19 Forecasts: Hospitalizations ([here](#)),
- COVID-19 Forecasts: Cases ([here](#)),
- Cases in the U.S. ([here](#)), and
- Overall U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration ([here](#)).

### **From the U.S. Food & Drug Administration**

FDA authorizes new long-acting monoclonal antibodies for pre-exposure prevention of COVID-19 in certain individuals. An emergency use authorized was issued for AstraZeneca’s Evusheld (tixagevimab co-packaged with cilgavimab and administered together) for use in certain immune compromised individuals who may not mount an adequate immune response to COVID-19 vaccination, or those who have a history of severe adverse reactions to a COVID-19 vaccine. Read more in today’s Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update [here](#).

FDA’s Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update ([here](#)) on Tuesday noted the agency had updated the SARS-CoV-2 Viral Mutations: Impact on COVID-19 Tests web page to share the latest recommendations for clinical laboratory staff and healthcare providers, such as the impact of genetic mutations, specifically those found in the Omicron variant, has on tests. Visit the website [here](#).

### **From Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**

SAMHSA announces unprecedented \$30 million harm reduction grant funding opportunity to help address the nation’s substance use and overdose epidemic. With overdose deaths exceeding 100,000

over a 12-month period for the first time, this funding opportunity (authorized by the American Rescue Plan) will provide support to those working in their communities to reduce the harms of drug use. To read the news release, click [here](#). Application deadline is Monday, February 7, 2022. To apply to this grant funding opportunity, click [here](#).

### **From Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

CMS is encouraging states to take advantage of the American Rescue Plan's option to provide 12 months postpartum coverage to pregnant individuals who are enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Extending the coverage can improve health outcomes during the postpartum period and mitigate health disparities for individuals served by Medicaid and CHIP. Read more in an HHS news release [here](#).

### **From U.S. Department of Health & Human Services**

U.S. Surgeon General issues advisory on youth mental health crisis further exposed by COVID-19 pandemic. Read the news release [here](#) and the full advisory [here](#).

HHS, through HRSA, awarded \$82 million in American Rescue Plan funding to expand home visiting assistance for families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the 56 states, jurisdictions and nonprofit organizations that received funding was KDHE, which was awarded a little over \$1 million. Read the news release [here](#).

### **From Media Reports**

"Pretty stubborn population:" Kansas health officials worry about vaccination rates as COVID worsens. Read more at The Topeka Capital-Journal [here](#).

Following an early period of high demand, vaccination for children ages 5-11 has significantly slowed. Read the Kaiser Family Foundation analysis [here](#).

Data science proved what Pittsburgh's Black leaders knew: Racial disparities compound COVID risk. Read more at Kaiser Health News [here](#).

Gen Z most stressed during COVID pandemic, citing toll on mental health. Read more at The Washington Post [here](#).

Omicron v. Delta: Battle of coronavirus mutants is critical. Read more at The Associated Press [here](#).

New COVID pills offer hope as the Omicron threat looms. Read more at The New York Times [here](#).

Blood samples of people who received three Pfizer doses showed robust antibody levels against Omicron. Read more at The New York Times [here](#).

Growing use of home COVID-19 tests leaves health agencies in the dark about unreported cases. Read more at STAT News [here](#).