



# COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS

Health. Equity. Justice.

## What We Know Now

January 12, 2022

*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 National Association of Community Health Centers and the Morehouse School of Medicine's National COVID-19 Resiliency Network (NCRN). The two entities released findings from a joint analysis that showed there are fewer COVID-19 deaths and infections in areas of the country where there is a community health center.

Health centers, which serve nearly 29 million Americans in nearly 1,400 communities, are a critical component of the national vaccination strategy launched by the Biden Administration to ensure equity in the fight against COVID. Health centers have been vaccinating people disproportionately affected by the pandemic – essential workers, agricultural and migrant workers, public housing residents, the elderly and people experiencing homelessness. To date, health centers have provided more than 19 million COVID-19 vaccinations, with over two in three shots at a health center administered to people of color.

**Health Centers Fighting COVID-19**  
December 2021

Since the onset of COVID-19, health centers have been on the front lines fighting the pandemic.<sup>1</sup> They have tested, treated, and vaccinated hundreds of thousands of people each week while continuing to provide crucial preventative care. Thanks to their efforts, areas with health centers have experienced fewer COVID infections and COVID deaths compared to areas without them.<sup>2</sup>

**Compared to areas without a health center, those with them to date have:**

- 200 fewer cases per 100,000 people (a 2 percentage point reduction)
- 9 fewer deaths from COVID per 100,000 people (a 4 percentage point reduction)

Source: NACHC analysis of National COVID-19 Resiliency Network Data Platform. November 2021.  
1. 'Health Centers' refers exclusively to Federally Qualified Health Centers. For more information, please visit <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/>  
2. Area refers to the zip code-based geolocation.



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The joint analysis from NACHC and NCRN compared the rate of infection and mortality from COVID in areas with a health center and areas without, determining that there are 200 fewer cases of infection and 9 fewer deaths per 100,000 people.

“We’re proud that health centers have met the challenge of the COVID-19 public health emergency,” said Dr. Ron Yee, Chief Medical Officer at NACHC. “They have saved lives and provided a trusted and safe place for families to get vaccinated and gets answers and facts. Health centers have been out in force, knocking on doors and administering the vaccines in farm fields, in mobile units, laundromats, schools, beyond the walls of the centers themselves, in the places where people congregate, live and work. This unprecedented effort is making a difference in the two-year battle being waged against the spread of COVID and emerging variants.”

“Collaborative data analyses like these are possible through key partnerships like outs between NCRN and NACHC; these insights can be a catalyst for improved public health planning and COVID-19 mitigation strategies,” said Dr. Dominic Mack, Director of the National Center for Primary Care and NCRN at Morehouse School of Medicine.

\* \* \*

Health Partnership Clinic is partnering with the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas and the Kansas City Medical Society to present Medicaid Expansion in Kansas: The Path Forward from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (CT) Thursday, January 13. The virtual lunch with Lt. Gov. David Toland and Kansas Senator John Doll is aimed at engaging health leaders from around the state in this important conversation. To register, click [here](#).

### **From KDHE/Governor’s Office/Statehouse**

Latest statistics: 601,859 positive cases, 7,141 deaths, 17,502 hospitalizations and 20 MIS-C cases (Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children associated with COVID-19). Since Monday, there have been 22,240 new cases, 27 deaths and 139 hospitalizations reported.

According to the Kansas WebIZ vaccination tracker ([here](#)), 3,970,980 doses have been administered in Kansas out of the 5,048,240 doses distributed. 1,876,876 people (60.1% of the population) have had their first dose; 1,501,195 (51.8%) have had their second doses; and 592,910 have had their third dose of the vaccine series.

The next COVID-19 Update for Local Partners webinar will be from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. (CST) Thursday, January 13. 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 darkest red zone for new case rate with 1,036 per 100,000 population, ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> in the nation;
- In the darkest red zone for test positivity with 26.2%, ranked 24<sup>th</sup>;

- In the light red zone for hospitalizations with 11.8 confirmed and suspected admissions per 100 beds, ranked 20<sup>th</sup>;
- In the light red zone for rate of COVID-19 deaths with 2.0 per 100,000 population, ranked 19<sup>th</sup>;
- 2,038,378 people received at least one vaccine dose (70.0% of total population);
- 1,671,918 people fully vaccinated (57.4% of total population, 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation); and
- With a “high” community transmission level in all 105 counties.

### **From HRSA/Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC)**

The HRSA National Health Service Corps and HRSA Nurse Corps are accepting applications now for loan repayment awards. With \$1 billion in additional funding through the American Rescue Plan, HRSA is prepared to make a record number of awards. Health centers are asked to encourage their eligible clinicians to apply, and to complete employment verifications for clinicians with applications in progress. Application closes Thursday, January 27, for the Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program (click [here](#) for more information). Application closes Thursday, February 3, for the NHSC Loan Repayment Program (more information is [here](#)).

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

CDC issued several updates, including:

- COVID-19 Forecasts: Deaths ([here](#)),
- Previous COVID-19 Forecasts: Hospitalizations ([here](#)),
- COVID-19 Forecasts: Cases ([here](#)),
- Key Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines ([here](#)),
- Selected Adverse Events Reported after COVID-19 Vaccination ([here](#)),
- V-safe COVID-19 Vaccine Pregnancy Registry ([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 announced revisions to the Janssen COVID-19 Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine ([here](#)) and the Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers ([here](#)). The revisions are in response to new safety information regarding the risk of Immune Thrombocytopenia (ITP), a disorder that can cause easy or excessive bruising and bleeding due to very low levels of platelets following administration of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine. More details available in the FDA Roundup news release [here](#).

### **From Washington**

The U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions held a full committee hearing Tuesday to discuss Addressing New Variants: A Federal Perspective on the COVID-19 Response. CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky, NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci, FDA Acting Commissioner Dr. Janet Woodcock and HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Dawn O’Connell all testified. To view a recording of the hearing, click [here](#).

## **From the National Association of Community Health Centers**

As the Omicron variant continues having a significant impact on health center operations and the networks and associations that support them, NACHC has decided to shift this year's Policy & Issues (P&I) Forum to an all-virtual platform. Dates for P&I (February 14-16) will not change. Those already registered will have their registration moved to the virtual conference. Health centers should cancel reservations and travel plans accordingly. Those still wishing to register for the forum can click [here](#).

## **From the Johns Hopkins University of Medicine**

U.S. COVID cases, hospitalizations set record. An analysis of Coronavirus Resource Center data summarizes the rapid spread of COVID-19 across the United States. Read the analysis [here](#).

## **From Media Reports**

COVID-19 cases forces Wichita's largest testing site to close. Read more at KSN.com [here](#).

Omicron-specific vaccine is coming but "may not matter – everybody's going to be infected," says expert. Read more at CNBC [here](#).

Is my cloth mask good enough? The 2022 edition. Read more at Kaiser Health News [here](#).

The highly contagious Omicron variant will "find just about everybody," Fauci says, but vaccinated people will still fare better. Read more at CNN Health [here](#).