



COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS

Health. Equity. Justice.

What We Know Now

January 26, 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 **Swope Health**, whose Chief Information Officer Thurston Smith (pictured) was featured recently in Toggle magazine, a digital trade journal highlighting the vital role that technology plays in companies and organizations – and the men and women who make it possible.

“While the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted people’s physical health, it’s also taken a toll in other ways,” the article begins.

“People with a history of mental illness were among the first people we reached out to because we can’t let them fall through the cracks,” Smith said. “Just because COVID is happening and we can’t provide services like we used to, doesn’t mean people have to suffer.”

Smith pointed out that since the health center is relying more on virtual care during the pandemic, it is using data to identify and provide services to vulnerable patients.

“These analytics help change what’s going to happen in our world,” Smith said. “We’re using this information to improve access to healthcare, build new efficiencies, and enhance our patient services through technology.”

He couldn’t be more correct. The future of healthcare is upon us all, and health centers everywhere are responding to the call via better utilization of data.

Discover more about Swope Health and its Chief Information Officer in the Toggle article [here](#).



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www.communitycareks.org 1.26.2022

From KDHE/Governor's Office/Statehouse

Latest statistics: 709,838 positive cases, 7,388 deaths, 18,079 hospitalizations and 20 MIS-C cases (Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children associated with COVID-19). Since Monday, there have been 14,163 new cases, 52 deaths and 141 hospitalizations reported.

According to the Kansas WebIZ vaccination tracker ([here](#)), 4,074,558 doses have been administered in Kansas out of the 5,205,980 doses distributed. 1,906,755 people (61.0% of the population) have had their first dose; 1,523,795 (52.4%) have had their second doses; and 644,008 have had their third dose of the vaccine series.

This week's What's Happening Wednesday newsletter from KDHE includes clarifications about different vaccine doses, upcoming training on the proper use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, and information about the KSWebIZ Immunization Information System being upgraded the week of February 7. See the newsletter [here](#).

KDHE announced Deputy State Health Officer Dr. Joan Dowve has been named the Acting State Health Officer. Read the news release [here](#).

The next COVID-19 Update for Local Partners webinar will be from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. (CST) Thursday, January 27. 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 2,016 per 100,000 population, ranked 45th in the nation;
- In the darkest red zone for test positivity with 32.9%, ranked 36th;
- In the red zone for hospitalizations with 16.2 confirmed and suspected admissions per 100 beds, ranked 16th;
- In the red zone for rate of COVID-19 deaths with 5.1 per 100,000 population, ranked 37th;
- 2,094,864 people received at least one vaccine dose (71.9% of total population);
- 1,708,028 people fully vaccinated (58.6% of total population, 30th in the nation); and
- With a “high” community transmission level in all 105 counties.

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

An early-release MMWR from CDC, Trends in Disease Severity and Health Care Utilization During the Early Omicron Variant Period Compared with Previous SARS-CoV-2 High Transmission Periods – United States ([here](#)), which found that despite Omicron seeing the highest reported number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations during the pandemic, disease severity indicators, including length of stay, ICU admission, and death, were lower than during previous pandemic peaks.

CDC also issued several updates, including:

- Customizable Contact Tracing Notification Letters ([here](#)),

- COVID-19 Forecasts: Deaths ([here](#)),
- Previous COVID-19 Forecasts: Hospitalizations ([here](#)),
- COVID-19 Forecasts: Cases ([here](#)),
- Reporting COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States ([here](#)),
- Staffing Resources ([here](#)),
- Handwashing ([here](#)),
- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) ([here](#)),
- Free N95 Respirator Manufacturers ([here](#)),
- How to Use Your N95 Respirator ([here](#)),
- Cases in the U.S. ([here](#)), and
- Overall U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration ([here](#)).

From the National Institutes of Health

Mix-and-match trial finds additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine safe, immunogenic. NIH-sponsored study assessed dose in adults fully vaccinated with any EUA or approved COVID-19 vaccine. Read the news release [here](#).

From the U.S. Food & Drug Administration

FDA limits use of certain monoclonal antibodies to treat COVID-19 due to the Omicron variant. Authorizations were revised for bamlanivimab and etesevimab (administered together) and REGEN-COV (casirivimab and imdevimab) to limit their use to only when the patient is likely to have been infected with or exposed to a variant that is susceptible to these treatments. Read more in the latest Coronavirus Update [here](#).

FDA has updated its In Vitro Diagnostics EUAs – Molecular and Antigen Diagnostic Tests for SARS-CoV-2 web pages ([here](#)) to add details about which authorized tests are designed with single or multiple viral targets. Tests with single targets are more susceptible to changes in performance due to viral mutations, meaning they are more likely to fail to detect new variants. Tests with multiple targets are more likely to continue to perform well when new variants emerge. Read more [here](#).

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

HHS announced it was distributing \$2 billion more in Provider Relief Fund (PRF) payments to healthcare providers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. With this funding, more than \$18 billion will have been distributed from the PRF and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Rural Provider funding in the last three months. To date, \$116.2 million in PRF Phase 4 payments have been distributed to 791 providers in Kansas. ARP Rural payments to date total \$135.1 million going to 693 Kansas providers. Read the news release [here](#).

From the U.S. Department of Labor

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is withdrawing the vaccination and testing emergency temporary standard it issued on November 5, 2021, to protect unvaccinated employees of

large employers (100 or more employees) from workplace exposure to coronavirus. The withdrawal is effective today. Read more [here](#).

HRSA/Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC)

This week's Health Center COVID-19 Survey will have questions about the N95 mask distribution program added to it. The questions will be similar to questions 7, 7a and 7b on the current survey.

During Tuesday's Today with Macrae: Health Center Program Updates, various HRSA programs were highlighted:

- Health Center Vaccine Program, which administered 7,919,397 doses in 2021.
- HRSA COVID-19 Testing Supply Program, which has invited all HRSA-supported health centers to receive free, FDA-authorized testing supplies – including Quidel QuickVue At-Home OTC COVID-19 tests. To enroll in the program, visit the quick reference guide [here](#).
- HRSA COVID-19 Therapeutics Program, which currently is supplying oral antiviral therapeutics (Molnupiravir and Paxlovid) to a limited number of health centers. The program will be expanded as therapeutics supply increases.
- Health Center COVID-19 N95 Mask Program, which allows eligible health centers to receive the respirator masks from HHS. Interested health centers need to complete their invitation today. More information can be found [here](#).

From the Johns Hopkins University of Medicine

The Johns Hopkins International Vaccine Access Center is offering a new course to educate individuals as “Vaccine Ambassadors” – people capable of promoting vaccinations to parents and others in their communities with a fully informed understanding of the science, respectful strategies for addressing doubters, and credible sources for debunking false claims. The free online, self-paced course is called “COVID Vaccine Ambassador Training: How To Talk To Parents.” To register on Coursera, click [here](#).

From the American Academy of Pediatrics

Reported child COVID-19 cases have spiked dramatically across the United States during the Omicron variant surge. More than 1.1 million cases were reported during the past week, nearly five times the rate of the peak of last winter's surge. Read more [here](#).

From the American Public Health Association

APHA's weekly show, “That's Public Health,” simply is titled “How can we prepare for the next pandemic?” Watch Episode 6 [here](#).

From Media Reports

FDA halts use of most monoclonal antibodies for COVID treatment. Read more at MedPage Today [here](#).

Highly touted COVID-19 antiviral treatments in short supply. Read more at CBS Los Angeles [here](#).

Biden administration drops vaccine-or-test workplace rule. Read more at the Kansas Reflector [here](#).

COVID-19 vaccine booster drive is faltering in the U.S. Read more at The Associated Press [here](#).

Researchers identify biological factors that may increase a person's chances of having long COVID. They include the level of coronavirus RNA in the blood early in the infection, the presence of certain antibodies that mistakenly attack tissues in the body, the reactivation of Epstein-Barr virus, and Type 2 diabetes. Read more at The New York Times [here](#).

