



COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS

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What We Know Now

November 20, 2020

A daily compilation of the latest news surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic from the Community Care Network of Kansas. Visit our [COVID-19 Resources](#) page for complete, updated information.



Community Care Member Update

Today’s Spotlight is on the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, which issued an early release of a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) focused on Kansas. The report examined new COVID-19 case rates by county following Governor Kelly’s July 3 mask mandate Executive Order, from which counties had the ability to opt out. The 24 counties with mask mandates saw a collective 6% decrease in new cases while the 81 counties without mandates experienced a 100% increase. “Community-level mitigation strategies emphasizing use of masks, physical distancing, staying at home when ill, and enhanced hygiene practices can help reduce the transmission of SARS-CoV-2.” Contributing authors from Kansas represented KDHE, the Kansas Army National Guard and the Kansas Health Institute. The MMWR can be accessed [here](#).

From KDHE/Governor’s Office/Statehouse

Latest statistics: 134,533 positive cases, 1,410 deaths, 4,682 hospitalizations and 629,360 negative results. There were 5,939 new cases, 84 deaths and 121 hospitalizations reported since Wednesday.

The State Finance Council approved recommendations from the Strengthening People and Protecting Kansans (SPARK) task force to spend \$38.5 million from the CARES Act funding pool. A total of \$18.5 million will be dedicated to public health response at safety net clinics, local health departments, hospitals and nursing homes. The remaining \$20 million was earmarked for business resiliency and



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workforce support. The council agreed that any unspent money would be transferred into the state's unemployment trust fund.

From the National Association of Community Health Centers

In the wake of the 2020 general election, members of Congress are returning to previous conversations concerning the [FY21 budget](#), an additional [COVID-19 relief package](#), and re-authorization of funding for health extender programs. NACHC is monitoring the progress of these negotiations as the December 11, 2020, deadline of the [previously passed Continuing Resolution](#) approaches.

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

HHS is providing \$25 million to Siemens Healthineers to develop and produce COVID-19 antigen diagnostic tests. Read the news release [here](#).

The Indian Health Service (IHS) released its COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccine Plan to provide guidance to prepare for and operationalize a vaccine when it becomes available. In Kansas, federally recognized tribes include the Ioway, Kickapoo, Prairie Band Potawatomi and the Sac and Fox. Read the plan [here](#).

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

New updates from CDC include:

- Early release MMWR, COVID-19 Outbreak Associated with a 10-Day Motorcycle Rally in a Neighboring State ([here](#)),
- Cases in the U.S. ([here](#)),
- Cases & Deaths by County ([here](#)),
- How CDC is Making COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations ([here](#)),
- Vaccines ([here](#)), and
- Coronavirus Disease 2019 ([here](#)).

From the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

FDA published new information about the vaccine development and review process. Read Vaccine Development 101 [here](#) and Emergency Use Authorization for Vaccines Explained [here](#).

From Johns Hopkins University of Medicine

Johns Hopkins' Coronavirus Resource Center released its first in a series of bi-weekly webcast briefings titled 30-Minute COVID-19 Briefing: Expert Insights on What You Need to Know Now. The inaugural webcast can be viewed [here](#).

From the World Health Organization

In a review published in the journal The BMJ, a panel of WHO experts have determined remdesivir "has no meaningful effect on mortality or on other important outcomes for patients, such as the need for mechanical ventilation or time to clinical improvement." The report, which concluded there is no evidence to support recommending its use, can be accessed [here](#).

From Our Partners

The Kansas Public Health Association named Governor Laura Kelly the recipient of its 2020 Public Health Policy Maker of the Year Award, which she said was accepted on behalf of the true public health heroes – the health officials working to keep Kansans safe and keep businesses and schools running.

Mental Health America of the Heartland will present two mental health webinars addressing COVID-19 issues and stressors that are open to the general public. Envisioning Your Post-COVID Future will be from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Monday, November 23. For more information and to register, click [here](#). Grief During COVID will be from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Monday, November 30. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

From Media Reports

Pfizer seeking emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine in U.S. Read more at the Associated Press [here](#).