



COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS

Health. Equity. Justice.

What We Know Now

December 2, 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 **National Handwashing Awareness Week**,

which is recognized the first

week of December. In the year of a pandemic, the designated week is particularly noteworthy. For CDC guidance, click [here](#).

Health Forward Foundation awarded \$4.5 million in grants to 28 nonprofit organizations through its 2020 Safety Net funding. Member clinics receiving grants included: **Duchesne Clinic, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, Health Partnership Clinic, Mercy and Truth Medical Missions, Sharon Lee Family Health Care** and **Vibrant Health**. The press release is [here](#).

The Wichita Business Journal featured outstanding health care professionals in administration, including **Hunter Health** CEO Amy Feimer, **GraceMed Health Clinic** CEO Venus Lee and **HealthCore Clinic** President/CEO Teresa Lovelady. The article can be found [here](#).

Salina Family Healthcare Center announced it has purchased a new community mobile health unit that will be used for mobile COVID-19 testing, as a COVID-19 care area separate from non-COVID-19 positive patients, and other uses. Read more at KSAL.com [here](#).

From KDHE/Governor's Office

Latest statistics: 162,061 positive cases, 1,679 deaths, 5,290 hospitalizations and 669,121 negative results. There were 4,615 new cases, 119 deaths and 185 hospitalizations reported since Monday. The



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state is monitoring 1,373 clusters; 493 of which remain active. Healthcare facilities have experienced 78 outbreaks; 30 of which are open.

At today's press conference, Governor Kelly thanked all public health professionals across the state for their tireless efforts. While discussing the latest statistics, she noted there were zero staffed ICU beds in southwest Kansas and that most officials believe things will get worse in the next 7-10 days. She singled out the Kansas Hospital Association, Kansas Chamber of Commerce, Kansas Farm Bureau and other partners for releasing the Stop the Spread Kansas campaign (resources are available at www.stophespreadkansas.org).

The governor announced the first of a planned weekly vaccine distribution plan update. Vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna vaccines could be approved by December 10 and 13 respectively. A third vaccine from AstraZeneca is close as well. The state expects to start receiving shipments by mid-month and approximately 150,000 doses total by the end of December. Distribution will take place in three phases, based on maximizing benefit, minimizing harm and striving for equity, justice and fairness:

- Phase 1, high-risk healthcare workers and nursing home residents (others are expected to be added),
- Phase 2, non high-risk individuals 65 and older, and
- Phase 3, non high-risk under 65.

Dependent on actual availability of vaccines, the state hopes to get all Phase 1 groups vaccinated by the end of December, with phases 2 and 3 distributed on a rolling basis through the end of spring. More than 200 healthcare providers have agreed to distribute and administer the vaccine; the Governor expects more to sign up. The pre-positioned storage sites with appropriate cold storage capacity will not be disclosed for security reasons. Vaccines will be free; providers can charge an administrative fee. However, nobody will be turned away for not being able to afford that fee. Governor Kelly reminded that having a vaccine closer to reality does not mean we can reduce common-sense strategies of masks, hand washing and social distancing.

There will be a strong marketing push to help overcome vaccine hesitancy. Also, because federal CARES Act funding ends December 30, the Governor said it was imperative Congress pass more relief quickly. She also said vaccines thus far are not approved for children.

The KDHE COVID-19 Vaccine Update for December 2 can be found [here](#).

The next COVID-19 Update for Local Partners webinar will be from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. (CST) Thursday. To register, click [here](#). Dial-in: (312) 626-6799; ID: 349 823 849. Webinar Password: KDHECOVID.

From the White House Coronavirus Task Force

The latest state COVID-19 report (November 29) shows Kansas:

- In the red zone for new cases with the ninth highest rate (628 per 100,000 population) in the country,
- In the red zone for test positivity with the third highest rate (19.6%) in the country,

- In the red zone for deaths with the 18th highest rate (4.1/100,000) in the country,
- With 93% of all counties having moderate or high levels of community transmission,
- With hospitals reporting critical staffing shortages, but the state is managing. The state emergency operations center is working on a staffing contract.

On the recommendations list it was noted:

- The COVID risk to all Americans is at a historic high. We are in a very dangerous place due to the current, extremely high COVID baseline and limited hospital capacity; a further post-Thanksgiving surge will compromise COVID patient care, as well as medical care overall.
- If state and local policies do not reflect the seriousness of the current situation, all public health officials must alert the state population directly.
- Cases may be reaching a plateau in Kansas, although the percent of nursing homes with at least one positive staff member and positive residents continues to be at very high levels, indicating virus spread is still broad.
- Ensure compliance with public health orders, including wearing masks.

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC provided new guidance on quarantine options shorter than 14 days in certain situations. Quarantines can end after 10 days without a COVID-19 test if the person has reported no symptoms or after seven days with a negative test result if the person has reported no symptoms. Read more [here](#).

Other updates released include:

- COVID-19 Published Science and Research ([here](#)),
- Cases in the U.S. ([here](#)).

From Media Reports

Health care workers and residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities would be the first people in the U.S. to receive COVID-19 vaccines under recommendations approved Tuesday by a federal advisory committee. Read more at the Kansas Reflector [here](#).

U.K. authorizes emergency uses of Pfizer and BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Read more at USA Today [here](#).

Kansas counties struggling to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing. The CDC says that's OK. Read more at The Topeka Capital-Journal [here](#).