



COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS

Health. Equity. Justice.

What We Know Now

February 22, 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 **HealthCore Clinic**, which is using the pictured Boys and Girls Club of America gymnasium for a multi-day vaccination site. The gym allows for a socially distanced high volume of patients to get their first vaccine doses in a safe environment. Last week's frigid weather interrupted the event, and delayed the conclusion until today.

HealthCore offered COVID-19 vaccinations to patients in the Wichita community who met the state's Phase 2 criteria. Patients that were able to attend already said they were grateful for the opportunity to be vaccinated by a team of healthcare providers they know and trust. The community health center is able to reach the most vulnerable by working with patients who already are connected to the clinic through existing services.

"HealthCore Clinic provides a culturally responsive level of care for its community," said President and CEO Teresa Lovelady.

Lovelady said the health center has served Wichita's most vulnerable populations before and during the pandemic, and will continue to serve long after. As the coronavirus exposed inequities in health outcomes among minority communities, HealthCore has worked non-stop to help address them.



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www.communitycareks.org 2.22.2021

HealthCore was one of the first organizations to provide large-scale COVID-19 testing in the area. During a three-week period in May 2020, tested more than 1,700 individuals. One of its testing sites was a mobile clinic set up at the Wichita State University metroplex, located in the heart of the neighborhoods most disproportionately affected by the pandemic. HealthCore also opened a respiratory clinic and worked with other community health centers to provide sick patients a safe environment to receive treatments at the height of the lockdown.

The community health center, like other providers throughout the state, simply need more vaccines to continue serving vulnerable groups with the care, protection and services they direly need. Lovelady said this is crucial to ending the pandemic.

From KDHE/Governor's Office/Statehouse

Latest statistics: 291,715 positive cases, 4,643 deaths, 9,103 hospitalizations and 951,784 negative results. Since Friday, there have been 883 new cases, 29 deaths and 32 hospitalizations reported.

According to the Kansas WebIZ vaccination tracker ([here](#)), 483,205 doses have been administered in Kansas out of the 600,700 doses distributed. 339,190 people (11.6% of the population) have had their first dose and 144,015 received their second dose.

The Kanas Health & Environmental Laboratories (KHEL) has Rapid Antigen Tests available to facilities with a CLIA certificate. These tests can be provided to your facility free of cost, however facilities cannot charge for the testing done. Results of these rapid tests need to be reported KDHE Epidemiology. For guidance, click [here](#). Clinics interested in receiving the tests should contact their local County Emergency Manager. A list of the Kansas County Emergency Managers can be found [here](#).

Listen live to Kansas Legislature floor proceedings and committee hearings [here](#). Archived meetings on YouTube [here](#).

From the National Association of Community Health Centers

NACHC will present America's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan: A Discussion with Dr. Bechara Choucair, White House Vaccinations Coordinator at 1:00 p.m. (CST) Tuesday, February 23. The webinar is the first in its "Propelling Our Mission Forward in NACHC's 50th Year" series. To register, click [here](#).

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC released early its latest Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), Clusters of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Elementary School Educators and Students in One School District – Georgia, which said educators might play a central role in in-school transmission networks. Read the MMWR [here](#).

The CDC has issued several updates, including:

- Cases in the U.S. ([here](#)),
- Overall U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration as of Monday, February 22 ([here](#)),
- Resources Page ([here](#)),

- Vaccines ([here](#)), and
- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) ([here](#)).

From the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

FDA has issued policies to guide medical product developers addressing virus variants. Read the news release [here](#).

From Johns Hopkins University of Medicine Coronavirus Resource Center

More than 180 state and local public health workers (many from Kansas) have left their jobs since the COVID-19 public health emergency began, citing attacks, harassment and even death threats. To learn more about the extent of the problem and what can be done to protect them, join the We Stand with Public Health webinar at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 24, by clicking [here](#).

From the Kansas Health Institute

KHI will present A Shot at Vaccine Policy, a discussion of both the state and federal components of vaccine policy decision-making, particularly as it relates to COVID-19, from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 23. To register, click [here](#).

From Media Reports

“A loss to the whole society:” U.S. COVID-19 death toll reaches 500,000. Read more at NPR [here](#).

Countless homebound patients still wait for COVID vaccine despite seniors’ priority. Read more at Kaiser Health News [here](#).

Want to improve COVID-19 vaccination rates in rural America? Start local ... Read more at the Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care website [here](#).