What We Know Now
March 15, 2021


Community Care Member Update

Community Care and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Office of Regional Operations Region 7 presented a webinar recently on Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy. A recording of the discussion with Dr. Marwan Haddad, medical director of the Center for Key Populations, Community Health Center Inc. in Connecticut, can be viewed here.

From KDHE/Governor’s Office/Statehouse

Latest statistics: 298,218 positive cases, 4,835 deaths, 9,519 hospitalizations and 990,945 negative results. Since Friday, there have been 470 new cases, 11 deaths and 16 hospitalizations reported.

According to the Kansas WebIZ vaccination tracker (here), 854,997 doses have been administered in Kansas out of the 1,173,280 doses distributed. 567,801 people (19.5% of the population) have had their first dose and 287,021 received their second dose.
Listen live to Kansas Legislature floor proceedings and committee hearings here.

From Washington

The Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce will hold a hearing at 9:00 a.m. (CST) Wednesday, March 17, to discuss “Leading the Way Forward: Biden Administration Actions to Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations.”

From the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

CMS announced it is updating the Medicare payment rates for COVID-19 vaccine administration. Effective for services furnished on or after March 15, 2021, the new rate will be approximately $40 to administer each dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. This represents an increase of approximately $28 to $40 for a single-dose vaccine, and $45 to $80 for vaccines requiring two doses. Exact payment rates depend on the type of entity furnishing the service and will be geographically adjusted based on where the service is furnished. To read more, click here.

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC issued two early MMWR releases, Effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Among Residents of Two Skilled Nursing Facilities Experiencing COVID-19 Outbreaks (here), and COVID-19 Vaccine Second-Dose Completion and Interval Between First and Second Doses Among Vaccinated Persons (here).

The CDC has issued several updates, including:

- Cases in the U.S. (here),
- Overall U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration Update (here), and

From HRSA/Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC)

Changes to HRSA’s COVID-19 FAQ page (here) include:

- Adjustments to a health center’s patient target only can be made through the SAC application process. The patient target cannot be adjusted retroactively. HRSA recognizes the significant impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on health center operations and does not anticipate adjusting funding prior to any FY 2022 SAC announcements based on past performance relative to patient targets.

From Media Reports

The boom in out-of-state telehealth threatens in-state providers. Read more at Kaiser Health News here.

Vaccinated Americans have been getting their second doses on time, the CDC says. Read more at The New York Times here.