



## COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS

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### What We Know Now

May 3, 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 the **Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas**, which broke ground today on its new John Parolo Education Center.

The center will house CHC/SEK's University of Kansas family practice rural residency program and will help education the "next-generation healthcare professionals" with the hope that those that graduate will continue their careers in rural Kansas.



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[www.communitycareks.org](http://www.communitycareks.org) 5.3.2021

CHC/SEK Executive Vice President Jason Wesco said this is southeast Kansas' opportunity to "grow our own."

"We can't keep providers here, we can't get providers here, we can't recruit enough providers here," Wesco said. "We have to start at grade school level and we've got to start growing our own providers."

"This is more than just a building," said Dr. Dan Minnis, Chair of the health center's board of directors, "It's a mission. We're building health, we're building lives, we're saving lives. We're building hope for a stronger and brighter future for all of us that call this home."

In addition to CHC/SEK executives and community members that donated to the project, the groundbreaking was attended by Kansas Senator Jerry Moran and Community Care Network of Kansas CEO Denise Cyzman.

A video of the event can be viewed [here](#).

### **From KDHE/Governor's Office/Statehouse**

Latest statistics: 309,645 positive cases, 4,985 deaths, 10,279 hospitalizations and 13 MIS-C cases (Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children associated with COVID-19). Since Wednesday, there have been 515 new cases, 3 deaths and 31 hospitalizations reported.

According to the Kansas WebIZ vaccination tracker ([here](#)), 1,930,872 doses have been administered in Kansas out of the 2,588,320 doses distributed. 1,124,554 people (38.6% of the population) have had their first dose and 806,318 received their second dose.

### **From the Department of Health and Human Services**

HHS launches new reimbursement program for COVID-19 vaccine administration fees not covered by insurance. Read the news release about the COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund (CAF) [here](#).

### **From the U.S. Food & Drug Administration**

FDA revoked the emergency use authorization (EUA) of the Battelle CCDS Critical Care Decontamination System used on N95 respirators for multiple-user reuse by healthcare personnel. Battelle had requested voluntary withdrawal of the EUA. Earlier in April, the FDA and CDC said they believe there is adequate supply of new respirators to transition away from use of decontamination and bioburden reduction systems. Read the news release [here](#).

### **From Washington**

Kansas Senator Jerry Moran teamed up with Senator Jon Tester and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee members for a bipartisan video in which they encourage veterans to get the COVID-19 vaccine. See the video [here](#).

## From the Federal Communications Commission

FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit is designed to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing discounts to eligible recipients. Eligible households can begin enrolling May 12 by visiting [getemergencybroadband.org](https://www.getemergencybroadband.org) [here](#). An FAQ page about the program can be found [here](#). An outreach toolkit can be accessed [here](#).

## From the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas

AHK will present Medicaid Expansion: An Insider's Look at 12:00 p.m. (CST) Tuesday, May 4. Sen. John Doll, R-Garden City, and Rep. Brett Parker, D-Overland Park, will discuss why Kansas hasn't joined the 38 other states in increasing access to Medicaid. The event can be accessed on the AHK Facebook page [here](#).

## From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The CDC released several updates, including:

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

## From Media Reports

Reaching "herd immunity" is unlikely in the U.S., experts now believe. Read more at The New York Times [here](#).

Detecting rare blood clots was a win, but U.S. vaccine safety system still has gaps. Read more at Kaiser Health News [here](#).

Pfizer to offer smaller shipments of COVID vaccine. Read more at Axios [here](#).

There's not just one kind of vaccine hesitancy. Read more at Axios [here](#).