



COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS

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What We Know Now

July 30, 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 **Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas**, which included in an exhibit on Fort Scott area COVID-19 workers. The exhibit, "Fort Scott's Frontline Workers" is on display at the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes in Fort Scott. It highlighted agencies, healthcare workers, and educators in the region.

You can read more about the exhibit [here](#).



From KDHE/Governor's Office/Statehouse

Latest statistics: 332,933 positive cases, 5,255 deaths, 11,685 hospitalizations and 17 MIS-C cases (Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children associated with COVID-19). Since Wednesday, there have been 2,001 new cases, 8 deaths and 68 hospitalizations reported.

According to the Kansas WebIZ vaccination tracker ([here](#)), 2,545,828 doses have been administered in Kansas out of the 3,024,250 doses distributed. 1,407,211 people (48.3% of the population) have had their first dose and 1,138,618 (42.2%) have completed the vaccine series.

Highlights from Thursday's COVID-19 Update for Local Partners webinar include:

- The vaccination rate appears to have picked up slightly. 56.6% of adults (18 years of age or older) are fully vaccinated, with 65.8% having received at least one dose. For the eligible population (adults plus youth 12 and older) 53.5% are fully vaccinated, with 62.8% having received at least one dose. For the total population, 45% are fully vaccinated and 52.9% have



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received at least one dose. The state is “very much targeting” school age children who are eligible for the vaccine.

- There is a relationship between county population size and vaccination rate. Larger, urban and suburban counties tend to have higher vaccination rates. Of the counties with populations of 6,000 persons or fewer, only one county, Mitchell county, has a vaccination rate at least as high as the statewide rate.
- Kansas has an average of 632 new cases per day, which is 82% higher than 14 days ago. By comparison, Missouri, with twice the population, has a daily average of 2,434 new cases. While this is 56% higher than two weeks ago, the rate of growth has slowed down.
- Hospitalizations show similar trends. Kansas averages 384 hospitalizations, which is 85% higher than 14 days ago, but the rate of growth has actually fallen. Missouri has a daily hospitalization average of 1,767, 39% higher than two weeks ago.
- The majority of hot spots in Kansas are on the Missouri border and west of the Kansas City metropolitan area, but moving west. Dr. Norman described this movement as “something to really pay attention to.”
- Dr. Norman feels that the small uptick in vaccinations is an indication that “people are starting to take it seriously.”
- There are 108 active clusters in Kansas, up from 71 last week. Outbreaks were responsible for 12.4% of new cases, 17.7% of hospitalizations, and 41.6% of total deaths. The largest type of cluster were long-term care facilities (28), camps (19), and private businesses (16).
- KDHE has sequenced 6.8% of all positive specimens in July, and has identified 3,047 variants of concern in 77 counties. The Delta variant makes up about 28% of all the specimens sequenced to date (since the beginning of sequencing). For the week of July 18, 104 samples were sequenced, and 99.1% of those were the Delta variant. Nationally, the Delta variant accounts for about 80% of the new cases in July.
- Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C) is a separate condition. Every suspected case should be reported to KDHE by submitting the Kansas Reportable Disease Form within four hours of suspicion and calling the KDHE Epi Hotline at 1-877-427-7317.
- The updated CDC guidance for fully vaccinated people makes the following recommendations: 1) in areas of high or substantial transmission, everyone should wear a mask in public indoor settings; 2) universal masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, and 3) fully vaccinated and exposed people should be tested 3-5 days after exposure, even if asymptomatic. Those testing positive should isolate themselves for 10 days.
- CDC released a new MMWR article, “Guidance for Implementing COVID-19 Prevention Strategies in the Context of Varying Community Transmission Levels and Vaccination Coverage.” You can view it at this [link](#). Local decision-making should take into account 1) the local community transmission level, 2) the health system capacity, 3) community vaccination rate, 4) capacity for early detection of increases, and 5) the local population’s risk for severe outcomes.
- KDHE is seeing a significant uptick in vaccine orders. It currently has all three vaccines available, but supplies of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are limited.
- The ACIP met last week concerning Guillan-Barre Syndrome (GBS) and additional doses for immunocompromised patients. No votes were taken, largely because data on both issues were



too limited. The limited data did not show evidence of a greater risk for GBS from the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Similarly, limited studies show a third dose of vaccines boosts protection for immunocompromised individuals with no additional side effects, but the evidence was too limited to support a formal recommendation.

- The FDA has authorized an extension on the shelf life for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine from 4.5 months to 60 months (an additional 45 days). Providers can check the latest expiration dates of vaccines by visiting <https://vaxcheck.jnj/>.
- KDHE is receiving far more samples than they can sequence, so they will be prioritizing their sequencing based on the following criteria: 1) specimens from cases of vaccine breakthrough, 2) specimens from hospitalized COVID patients, 3) specimens from fatalities caused by COVID, 4) specimens from counties with insufficient or no sequencing, and 5) specimens from counties with increasing case rates and low vaccination rates. When submitting positives, if at all possible, submit an extract from a PCR prep that you've already done with a CT less than 30.
- Stanford Medicine researchers specializing in health education have been studying the most effective messages to address vaccine hesitancy. Some of their findings are in this Stanford SCOPE [blog entry](#). The group also has developed [two guides](#) for having conversations with friends, family members, patients, or others who are hesitant to get vaccinated.
- New CDC graphics about the Delta variant are available on the CDC Twitter page: @CDCgov.
- NACCHO has a resource library for conversations with schools and child care centers about keeping their facilities safe.
- The National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants (NRC-RIM) has translated materials for several different languages [at this site](#).

From the White House

President Biden announced that federal workers would be required to provide evidence that they're vaccinated or be subject to frequent testing, mask requirements, and social distancing. ([Associated Press](#)).

Separately, through the Treasury Department, the Biden Administration is urging states and local governments to use American Rescue Plan funds to provide a \$100 payment to newly vaccinated residents. ([Reuters](#))

From the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

HRSA reminds health centers that as the CDC's moratorium on evictions expires on July 31, many patients may be facing housing crises. HRSA encourages clinics to share information on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) [Rental Assistance Finder](#) tool in your communities. HRSA also provided a link to an [Emergency Rental Assistance toolkit](#) with graphics and other information to help promote the site and the rent assistance resources.

In Kansas, programs are managed by the City of Wichita and by the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC). KHRC's program is the [Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance](#) program. It has

engaged community action agencies as local partners to assist with the application process. A list of [these agencies](#) and the areas they serve is here.

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

new

The CDC released several updates, including:

- An updated MMWR was released with data from Massachusetts demonstrating that Delta infection resulted in similar viral loads among vaccinated and unvaccinated people, suggesting that both can transmit the virus more easily. Read the [MMWR](#) and CDC Director Walensky's [statement](#) about it.
- A [report](#) summarizing the data from preauthorization vaccine trials of incidents of myocarditis in 12-17 year-olds.
- The [COVID-19 Science Update](#) for July 30, 2021 (Edition 100).
- [Guidance](#) for Implementing COVID-19 Prevention Strategies in the Context of Varying Community Transmission Levels and Vaccination Coverage (previously posted as an MMWR Early Release).
- Updates to the COVID Data Tracker include a [vaccine confidence](#) tab tracking national and state trends in vaccine confidence, [vaccination trends](#) by state and jurisdiction, and data on the [share of pregnant women](#) receiving at least one dose.

From Media Reports

A CDC internal memo obtained by the *Washington Post* and other media outlets states that the Delta variant is more contagious than Ebola or the common cold, and may be transmitted as easily by vaccinated people as by those not vaccinated. Read the *Post's* story [here](#).

A bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced legislation to extend the deadline for spending Provider Relief Fund dollars. For details, [click here](#).

The U.S. is now approaching the same number of COVID hospitalizations that it saw at the same time last year, according to [ABC News](#).

Following the president's new requirements for federal workers, the Pentagon is [requiring indoor mask wearing](#) regardless of vaccination status and is reportedly preparing to [require all military personnel to be vaccinated](#).

More employers are requiring their workers to be vaccinated, [led by major tech companies](#).

New [research](#) suggests a link between mental illness and higher risk of COVID hospitalization and death.