



## COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS

Health. Equity. Justice.

### What We Know Now

December 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 **Salina Family Healthcare Center**, which celebrated receiving the COVID-19 Vaccination Award from Community Care. The award recognizes all of the health center team's work to administer vaccinations to more than 70% of their patient population.

Salina Family Healthcare gave a big shoutout to Jessica and Genell, who have been leading the charge. Pictured are the official photo of the celebration (top) as well as one that represents the day-to-day chaos they've been through to make this happen (bottom).

The health center gave a big thanks to the entire team. So do we!

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

Latest statistics: 474,479 positive cases, 6,730 deaths, 15,894 hospitalizations and 20 MIS-C cases (Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children associated with COVID-19). Since Wednesday, there have been 4,712 new cases, 25 deaths and 112 hospitalizations reported.



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[www.communitycareks.org](http://www.communitycareks.org) 12.3.2021

According to the Kansas WebIZ vaccination tracker ([here](#)), 3,559,150 doses have been administered in Kansas out of the 4,560,460 doses distributed. 1,770,252 people (57.0% of the population) have had their first dose; 1,414,805 (49.4%) have had their second doses; and 374,094 have had their third dose of the vaccine series.

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

- Riley County is the only county that doesn't have "high" community transmission; it is "substantial."
- The latest 7-day rolling average of new cases is 870/day. For deaths, it is 3/day.
- State has had 2,966 outbreaks since the pandemic began with 157 currently active (3 in healthcare facilities).
- The Travel Related Quarantine list ([here](#)) has no changes for U.S.; small number of international countries are changing. Dr. Ahmed did note that the federal government is examining changes to quarantining in response to the Omicron variant's presence.
- Omicron has been classified as a Variant of Concern (VOC), the highest level. CDC did issue a statement ([here](#)) on the first Omicron variant being detected in the U.S. (California). Omicron has infected fully vaccinated persons as well as persons who've recovered from Delta variant infection. No systematically collected data has been gathered for a spectrum of signs, symptoms and severity. There should be a better picture of the clinical impact of Omicron in 2-4 weeks.
- Omicron has a very unusual constellation of mutations, including 45-52 amino acid changes. Multiple mutations associated with resistance to neutralizing antibodies (and therapeutic monoclonal antibodies). The effects of vaccines on cellular immunity is unknown, although experts expect vaccines to remain effective against severe illness and death.
- CDC MMWRs referenced included:
  - Risk for Stillbirth Among Women With and Without COVID-19 at Delivery Hospitalization – United States ([here](#)), which found increased risk for women with COVID-19 that became even more pronounced during the Delta surge.
  - COVID-19-Associated Deaths After SARS-CoV-2 Infection During Pregnancy – Mississippi ([here](#)), which found an increased risk for both death and severe illness for those infected with SARS-CoV-2 during pregnancy.
- The next CDC COCA Call, Molecular Approaches for Clinical and Public Health Applications to Detect Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Viruses, will be at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, December 9. The weblink is [here](#); webinar ID: 160 292 4315; Passcode: 274605.
- Moderna vaccines are now in 10 packs of 10 doses for full direct shipment orders or 10 doses per vial. Be sure to receive orders in WebIZ when transferred.
- Pfizer 12+ vaccine with printed expiry dates of August 2021 through February 2022 all have been updated and are three months later (i.e., August 2021 now is November 2021, February 2020 now is May 2022).
- To find updated expiration dates for Moderna, click [here](#). For J&J, click [here](#).
- On Monday, CDC strengthened its recommendation on booster doses. Everyone ages 18 and older should get a booster shot either when they are 6 months after their initial Pfizer or

Moderna series or 2 months after their initial J&J vaccine. Omicron's emergence further emphasizes the importance of vaccination, boosters and prevention efforts needed to protect against COVID-19.

- KDHE has resumed publishing its What's Happening Wednesday. It is published every other Wednesday and includes COVID updates, immunization updates, influenza surveillance summary, WebIZ information, tuberculosis information, training and education opportunities, and other timely related information. If you'd like to receive the publication, send an email with your name, organization and email address to [John.Alejos@ks.gov](mailto:John.Alejos@ks.gov).
- Similar to the Alpha variant, Omicron has an S-gene dropout due to the presence of  $\Delta$ 69-70 deletion in the spike protein. Neither FDA nor KHEL has evidence that test results will be impacted. Please submit any S-gene dropouts to KHEL for sequencing. Send samples first, notify the lab immediately after. The longer you wait, the less viable the sample will be. Send notifications to [KDHE.KHEL\\_Help@ks.gov](mailto:KDHE.KHEL_Help@ks.gov).
- Potential impacts of mutations of Omicron include resistance to neutralizing antibodies, increased infectivity, enhanced cell entry and transmissibility, and innate immune evasion. KDHE emphasized it's unclear if these mutations will collectively enhance transmission, infectivity, and immune evasion.
- KHEL will bring on an assay that will screen all SARS-CoV-2 specimens for the  $\Delta$ 69-70 deletion. To see the latest sequencing update from the Network for Genomic Surveillance South Africa, click [here](#).
- Use of expired supplies are subject to rejection. Reagents, solutions, culture media, control materials, calibration materials, and other supplies must not be used when they have exceeded their expiration date, have deteriorated, or are of substandard quality.
- About two-thirds of vaccine doses in the state being administered are booster and additional doses.
- This is a critical CDC document ([here](#)) that includes the most current updates :
- Helpful contacts:
  - General laboratory information, [KDHE.KHELINFO@ks.gov](mailto:KDHE.KHELINFO@ks.gov),
  - CLIA certification questions, [KDHE.CLIA2@ks.gov](mailto:KDHE.CLIA2@ks.gov),
  - School testing program, [Sarah.allin@ks.gov](mailto:Sarah.allin@ks.gov),
  - Courier service, [Chad.Yamashita@ks.gov](mailto:Chad.Yamashita@ks.gov).
- Vaccine graphics for parents to encourage pediatric vaccines can be found [here](#).
- A good booster graphic from the Public Health Collaborative can be found [here](#). (Holiday mental health graphics can be found in the same location.)
- Public Health on Call has a bonus podcast, The Omicron Variant, that can be heard [here](#).

## From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

A new MMWR, Notes from the Field: COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Persons Experiencing Homelessness – Six U.S. Jurisdictions, which found relatively low vaccination rates for these individuals. Read the MMWR [here](#).

CDC corrected and republished an earlier MMWR, Symptoms of Depression, Anxiety, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Suicidal Ideation Among State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Public Health Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic – United States. The MMWR can be accessed [here](#).

CDC also issued several updates, including:

- Cases in the U.S. ([here](#)),
- Overall U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration ([here](#)),
- Overview of COVID-19 Isolation for K-12 Schools ([here](#)),
- COVID-19 Published Science and Research ([here](#)),
- COVID-19 Vaccines that Require 2 Shots ([here](#)),
- Science Brief: Omicron (B.1.1.529) Variant ([here](#)),
- Preparing for Your COVID-19 Vaccination ([here](#)),
- Pregnant and Recently Pregnant People ([here](#)),
- Information about the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine ([here](#)),
- Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination ([here](#)),
- COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review ([here](#)), and
- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) ([here](#)).

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

FDA expands authorization of two monoclonal antibodies for treatment and post-exposure prevention of COVID-19 to younger pediatric patients, including newborns. Read the news release [here](#).

### **From the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services**

New HHS study shows 63-fold increase in Medicare telehealth utilization during the pandemic. Report also highlights 32-fold increase in behavioral healthcare through telehealth. Read more [here](#).

Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on release of department's division-level COVID-19 vaccination data. Read the news release [here](#).

### **From the U.S. Surgeon General's Office**

The Surgeon General's office has published a Community Toolkit for Address Health Misinformation, which provides specific guidance for healthcare professionals and others to understand, identify and stop the spread. The toolkit can be accessed [here](#).

### **From the Greater Than COVID Project**

The Project, led by the Kaiser Family Foundation, released a new video, The Top 5 Things Parents Want to Know About the COVID-19 Vaccine for 5-11 Year Olds, which can be viewed [here](#).

### **From Media Reports**

U.S. health officials brace for Omicron's spread as more states detect the variant. Read more at The New York Times [here](#).

At-home COVID tests to be covered by insurance – but details still to come. Read more at the Kansas Reflector [here](#).

Is it time to change the definition of “fully vaccinated?” Read more at Kaiser Health News [here](#).

Biden calls for patriotic unity, pitches plan to fight omicron. President seeks to avoid a winter shutdown by increasing COVID-19 testing, vaccinations and boosters. Read more at Roll Call [here](#).

“The fire that’s here:” U.S. is still battling Delta variant. Read more at The Associated Press [here](#).