



# COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS

Health. Equity. Justice.

## What We Know Now

August 4, 2022

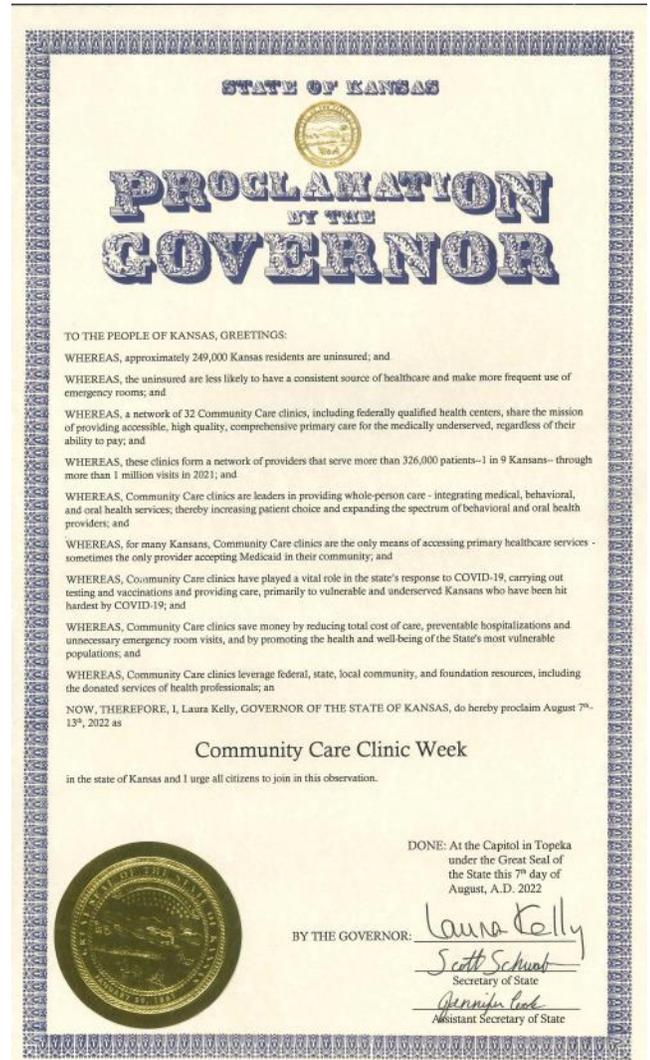
*A compilation of the latest news surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic from the Community Care Network of Kansas. Published on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Visit our [COVID-19 Resources](#) page for complete, updated information.*

### Community Care Spotlight

Today's Spotlight is on **Community Care Clinic Week**, which kicks off next week, running from August 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. Governor Laura Kelly signed a proclamation honoring the week, highlighting the role that Community Care clinics play in serving 1 in 9 Kansans, making up more than 326,000 individuals. Additionally, Community Care clinics have played a vital role in the state of Kansas' response to COVID-19 through their efforts testing, vaccination, and providing care to the primarily vulnerable and underserved Kansans who are most affected by the pandemic.

**Community Care Clinic Week** in Kansas is celebrated in concurrence with National Health Center Week – the recognition of Community, Migrant, Homeless, and Public Housing Health Centers nationwide.

Please join Community Care next week in honoring the network of 32 Community Care clinics by [visiting our website](#) to find additional resources and social media tools to help you celebrate your local clinics.



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[www.communitycareks.org](http://www.communitycareks.org) 8.4.2022

## From KDHE/Governor's Office/Statehouse

As of 8/3/22:

[Latest statistics](#): 841,542 positive cases, 8,970 deaths, and 49 MIS-C cases (Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children associated with COVID-19). There were 6,722 new cases and -1 new deaths reported since 7/27/22. The negative number of deaths is due to data validation checks with the Office of Vital Statistics.

According to the [Kansas WebIZ vaccination tracker](#), 4,594,209 doses have been administered in Kansas. 2,006,272 people have had their first dose; 1,636,653 have had their second doses; and 951,285 have had their third dose of the vaccine series.

For the week of 7/23/22-7/29/22, 93 of the 105 counties were considered to be [areas of high transmission](#), with at least 100 cases per 100,000 residents. Six have substantial rates of transmission (50-99 cases per 100,000), while four had moderate transition rates (10-49 cases per 100,000). Two counties had low transmission rates, with fewer than 10 cases per 100,000.

KDHE COVID-19 Partners Update:

- Lab
  - KDHE has a limited number of Cue OTC PCR kits available for providers
    - Can be observed and used as a point of care test, positive results can be uploaded through LabXchange. To do this, you would need to add to your CLIA certificate of waiver. Can also be utilized as an OTC test.
    - To access these tests and limited readers, email [KDHE.KHEL\\_Help@ks.gov](mailto:KDHE.KHEL_Help@ks.gov)
  - Updates to classifications of Omicron lineages
    - New lineages BC, BD, BE, BF, and BG
    - Will mostly be seeing BE and BF, as they are sublineages of BA.5
  - Lineages in Kansas
    - Samples collected recently are mostly BA.4 and BA.5
    - No BA.2.75, predominantly in India currently, has been detected in Kansas
  - Lineages BA.4 and BA.5 have been found to evade immunity induced by other variants
    - Data from cases in Kansas also show an increase in the proportion of BA.4/BA.5 cases that are reinfections. Vaccination and prior infection reduce the likelihood of hospitalization/death.
- Vaccination
  - Kansas has seen a slight increase of vaccination in July, mostly due to an increase in individuals receiving their second dose
  - KDHE reminds providers that Novavax is a recommended vaccine for adults ages 18 and older. This vaccine is a good tool for patients who may be hesitant to mRNA vaccines as it is a more “typical” vaccine formulation.
    - Novavax can be used to complete a primary series.
    - Novavax does not have a booster recommended at this time, and is currently not approved for use as a booster.
  - KDHE recommends providers continue to stay up to date with the [COVID vaccination schedules](#) for immunocompromised and non-immunocompromised individuals.

- KDHE **DOES NOT** recommend that providers hold doing boosters until updated boosters come out in the fall. KDHE recommends providers give boosters as they are available to patients who are eligible currently.
- Phil Griffin is retiring 8/5/2022. The new KDHE Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention Director will be Lauren Swensson, effective 8/8/2022.
  - [Lauren.Swensson@ks.gov](mailto:Lauren.Swensson@ks.gov)
- Therapeutics
  - HHS announced that in an effort to increase oral antiviral dispensing in vulnerable areas, they will be sending emails to targeted providers for a one-time distribution request of 20 courses of Paxlovid.
  - The US Government anticipated the government supply of Bebtelovimab will be depleted either the week of August 22<sup>nd</sup> or August 29<sup>th</sup>, depending on ordering activity. The product is expected to be available for purchase through the manufacturer on the commercial market the week of August 15<sup>th</sup>.
    - Immediate access to Bebtelovimab will be granted to all existing AmerisourceBergen accounts
    - Sites without an AmerisourceBergen account will need to register for one. Contact [asdaaccountsetup@amerisourcebergen.com](mailto:asdaaccountsetup@amerisourcebergen.com)
  - ASPR has partnered with AstraZeneca to establish an additional pathway for providers to access Evusheld for use with eligible patients. Individual providers and smaller sites of care that don't currently receive Evusheld through HPOP distribution can now order small quantities of product (1-3 patient courses) directly from the manufacturer.
    - Contact the Evusheld helpline at 1-833-388-7453 to learn more.
  - Reporting compliance
    - If you have not administered any therapeutics, you must report it as ZERO, do not leave it blank.
    - Both administered and available are required fields
    - Ensure you are getting your reports in by 11:59 PM, **NOT** 12 AM. Those are technically counted as reported the next day.
    - The federal government reminds providers that reporting of Evusheld should be done by carton
  - Due to high ordering demand and limited availability of Renal Paxlovid and Bebtelovimab, these products will be adjudicated on Fridays.
  - KDHE reminds providers that the antiviral drugs Paxlovid and Veklury (remdesivir) are the preferred treatments for eligible adult and pediatric patients with positive results of direct COVID-19 viral testing and who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19.
- Communications
  - CML Collective (CMLC) is offering through the end of December 2022, free communications support for COVID-19 outreach efforts and related activities.
  - Providers should complete the Google request form detailing design requirements for up to three materials at a time. Processing time is 2 weeks for digital and 3-4 weeks for print.
  - Visit <https://www.cmlcollective.com/kdhe> for more information and to submit a request.

## From HHS

HHS Assistant Secretary for Health Rachel Levine is going to be the Biden administration's new long COVID coordinator. The [announcement](#) and [release of two reports](#) on the agency's vision for long COVID research are part of a plan the administration announced in April,

## From NACHC

As the spread of the monkeypox virus continues, marginalized groups are having difficulty accessing tests and vaccines. In response NACHC has joined a coalition of more than 30 organizations [in sending a letter to congressional leadership](#) calling for more resources and support. The letter calls for a robust federal response, including additional resources to ramp up efforts on the ground to contain the spread in communities. Community Health Centers, often the canary in the coal mine of public health threats, are responding to monkeypox cases in the US while still fighting the spread of COVID variants in underserved communities.

## From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

A [new report](#) released by the CDC found that in patients 0-17 years, those with a previous COVID-19 infection had higher rates of acute pulmonary embolism, myocarditis and cardiomyopathy, venous thromboembolic event, acute and unspecified renal failure, and type 1 diabetes compared to those who had not been infected with COVID-19.

Additional updates included:

- [Cases in the US](#)
- [COVID-19 Forecasts: Deaths - 2022](#)

## From Media/Scientific Reports

Three new studies show that recipients of three or four mRNA COVID-19 vaccine doses received substantially better protection against infection with the Omicron variant than those who received only two. Read them at the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy [here](#).

Eli Lilly & Co. plans to begin commercial sales of bebtelovimab to states and providers this month, as the federal government's supply of the drug nears depletion. Read more at Reuters [here](#).

CDC expected to ease COVID-19 recommendations potentially as soon as this week. Read more at CNN [here](#).