

What We Know Now

September 16, 2022

A weekly compilation of the latest news surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic from the Community Care Network of Kansas. If developments happen that require immediate attention, Community Care will provide special updates as needed. We will also continue to monitor monkeypox, influenza, and others to include information about them in What We Know Now, as conditions warrant. We remain committed to keeping you informed with the latest information to help you respond to current and changing conditions.

Community Care Spotlight



September 14, 2022 was National Food is Medicine Day. Sunflower Foundation reported about the Kansas *Food is Medicine* initiative that raises awareness about the important role nutrition plays in preventing and treating chronic health conditions, as well as the challenges many families face in accessing nutritious foods.

Together with six Kansas Federally Qualified Health Clinics - **Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas** in Pittsburg, **Genesis Family Health** in Dodge City, **HealthCore Clinic** in Wichita, **Health Ministries Clinic, Inc.** in Newton, **Heartland Community Health Center** in Lawrence, and **Hoxie Medical Clinic** in Sheridan County, along with the Kansas Food Bank and Harvesters - The Community Food Network, Sunflower Foundation recently launched its own *Food is Medicine* initiative.

The foundation will work with the clinics and food banks to implement programs at each clinic that target patients with chronic conditions who are lacking proper nutrition. Through *Food is Medicine*, these patients will be provided such items as medically tailored groceries, nutritious food and meal ingredients, and cooking educational opportunities – all with the purpose of helping them better manage their chronic disease.

Click [here](#) to watch a video of Davna Gould showing the amazing food pantry and Food is Medicine program at HealthCore Clinic. <https://fb.watch/fzpgTQKeJE/>

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From KDHE/Governor's Office/Statehouse

As of 9/14/22:

Latest statistics: 873,075 positive cases, 9,072 deaths, and 49 MIS-C cases (Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children associated with COVID-19). There were 4,164 new cases and 45 new deaths reported since 9/7/22.

According to the [Kansas WebIZ vaccination tracker](#), 4,662,853 doses have been administered in Kansas. 2,020,392 people have had their first dose; 1,652,134 have had their second doses; and 990,328 have had their third dose of the vaccine series.

For the week of 9/3/22 - 9/9/22, high areas of transmission have decreased. 70 of the 105 Kansas counties were considered to be [areas of high transmission](#), with at least 100 cases per 100,000 residents. 23 have substantial rates of transmission (50-99 cases per 100,000), while 7 had moderate transition rates (10-49 cases per 100,000). Five counties had low transmission rates, with fewer than 10 cases per 100,000.

From CMS

CMS reported that [Updated COVID-19 Vaccines Providing Protection Against Omicron Variant Available at No Cost](#). On 9/12/22 the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that people with Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage, private insurance coverage, or no health coverage can get COVID-19 vaccines, including the updated Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines, at no cost, for as long as the federal government continues purchasing and distributing these COVID-19 vaccines.

From NACHC

NACHC published new guidance about how health centers and others can more effectively communicate about pediatric COVID-19 vaccines. In the article [Communicating About the New Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines](#), Dr. Lisa M. Costello, MD, MPH, FAAP, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, West Virginia University School of Medicine and Immediate Past President, American Academy of Pediatrics stated, "We want to do what is best to protect your child. Vaccination is our strongest tool." Dr. Costello added that COVID-19 is now one of the leading causes of death in children. Dr. Costello further encouraged health centers to promote pediatric COVID-19 vaccines.

Some pediatric COVID-19 resources for health care providers:

- [NACHC's COVID-19 resources web page](#) provides a communication toolkit, webinar recordings that address misinformation, COVID-19 vaccine developments, guidance on talking to parents etc.
- [American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Campaign Toolkit](#) contains articles, videos and social media messages to help families understand the science behind the vaccine and make informed decisions about protecting their children with the COVID-19 vaccine.
- [CDC Resources to Promote COVID-19 Vaccines for Children & Teens](#) offers a suite of digital and downloadable resources to help promote COVID-19 vaccination for children and teens.
- [HHS We Can Do This](#) is a national initiative which includes a new toolkit for pediatricians and other health care providers to have access to parent education materials on all the pediatric COVID-19 vaccines.

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC changed the recommendations for isolation and quarantine. Click [here](#) to find the CDC recommendations on isolation and quarantine. You can find more updated information about the new CDC recommendations from KDHE [here](#). Click [here](#) for more detailed information on the changes.

The CDC reported on 9/12/22 that the [United States confirmed as country with circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus](#). CDC is working with WHO, PAHO, and other public health organizations to track poliovirus samples in New York. Last week, the New York State Governor issued an Executive Order declaring a State Disaster Emergency. While no additional polio cases have been found, this action helps the state expand vaccination efforts and surveillance. Improving vaccination coverage is the key to preventing additional cases of paralytic polio in the United States.

Additional updates included:

- [Cases in the US](#)
- [COVID-19 Forecasts: Deaths](#)
- [Reporting COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States](#)

From Media/Scientific Reports

A study on [Long COVID after breakthrough SARS-CoV-2 infection](#) found the findings suggest that vaccination before infection confers only partial protection in the post-acute phase of the disease; hence, reliance on it as a sole mitigation strategy may not optimally reduce long-term health consequences of SARS-CoV-2 infection. The findings emphasize the need for continued optimization of strategies for primary prevention of BTI and will guide development of post-acute care pathways for people with BTI.

AP reported on 9/15/22 that the head of the World Health Organization, Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, responded to reports that [COVID deaths worldwide are the lowest reported in the pandemic since March 2020](#). Director-General Ghebreyesus stated, “We are not there yet, but the end is in sight.” The optimistic statement was followed by encouragement to keep the course of getting vaccines and following preventative safety protocols to keep the decline in motion. “If we don’t take this opportunity now, we run the risk of more variants, more deaths, more disruption, and more uncertainty,” Tedros said.