

What We Know Now

November 17, 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

****Due to the Thanksgiving holiday next week, What We Know Now will not go out on November 24, 2022.***

Community Care Spotlight

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Happy National Rural Health Day: November 17, 2022

National Rural Health Day (NRHD) is an opportunity to “Celebrate the Power of Rural” by honoring the selfless, community-minded and determined spirit that prevails in rural America. NRHD showcases the efforts of rural healthcare providers, organizations and cooperatives, State Offices of Rural Health, and stakeholders from various industry sectors dedicated to addressing Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and the unique healthcare challenges that rural citizens face today and into the future. More than 900,000 people call rural Kansas home. These small towns, farming communities and frontier areas are places where neighbors know each other, listen to each other, respect each other and work together to benefit the greater good.



First Place: “Power of Rural”

For National Rural Health Day, KDHE hosted a “Power of Rural” photo contest. **Genell Heimer from Salina Family Healthcare Center** was awarded 1st place with a photo titled “Rural Health Matters.” Genell also was awarded Honorable Mention with another photo titled “Filling Papa’s Boots.”



Honorable Mention: “Filling Papa’s Boots”

CHC/SEK begins operations of CareVan transportation services:



On November 1st Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas assumed operations of Ascension/Via Christi’s CareVan transportation service, which had operated since 1992. CHC/SEK continues the CareVan’s name and mission to provide rides to and from the hospital and area physician offices on a scheduled basis. There is no charge to patients for the service. To support this venture CHC/SEK was awarded a \$1-million-dollar Kansas Department of Transportation grant to set up the regional transportation hub with CareVan.

Overseeing the transportation service is Karlea Abel, Executive Director of Building Health, Inc., an offshoot of CHC/SEK dedicated to transportation, food stability, and housing. Plans are in place to expand the service in the coming months, including extending the hours of operation to 7 p.m. With the addition of more drivers and wheelchair accessible vans, CHC/SEK will reach a broader population to provide a solution to the barrier of transportation.

KDHE/Governor’s Office/Statehouse

As of 11/16/22: KDHE COVID DATA

Latest statistics: 894,768 positive cases, 9,652 deaths, and 49 MIS-C cases (Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children associated with COVID-19). There were 2,574 new cases and 26 new deaths reported since 11/9/22.

According to the Kansas WebIZ vaccination tracker, 4,991,440 doses have been administered in Kansas. 3,694,176 people have had their first dose; 1,035,551 have had their second dose; and 261,714 have had a bivalent booster dose.

For the week of 11/5/22 – 11/11/22, high areas of transmission have continued to increase. 44 (increase 4 weeks in a row) of the 105 Kansas counties were considered to be areas of high transmission, with at least 100 cases per 100,000 residents. 40 have substantial rates of transmission, (50-99 cases per 100,000), while 14 had moderate transition rates (10-49 cases per 100,000). 7 counties had low transmission rates, with fewer than 11 cases per 100,000.

Moderna10 COVID-19 Vaccine Expiration Date Extension - ACTION REQUIRED

The expiration dates of the Moderna10 monovalent products (listed below) *have been extended*. This extension is for an additional 3-month shelf life and have been updated on the Moderna Vial Expiration checker:

<https://modernacovid19global.com/vial-lookup?#vialLookUpTool>.

Count	Lot	Old Expiry (9-month from date of manufacture)	New Expiry
1	054A22A	2022-11-01	2023-02-01
2	055A22A	2022-11-02	2023-02-02
3	057A22A	2022-11-06	2023-02-06
4	056A22A	2022-11-07	2023-02-07
5	059A22A	2022-11-09	2023-02-09
6	058A22-2A	2022-11-10	2023-02-10
7	060A22A	2022-11-10	2023-02-10
8	014B22A	2022-11-11	2023-02-11
9	015B22A	2022-11-12	2023-02-12

10	016B22A	2022-11-13	2023-02-13
11	017B22A	2022-11-14	2023-02-14
12	011B22A	2022-11-18	2023-02-18

Assess all Moderna monovalent COVID-19 vaccine inventory and adjust the expiration date accordingly. The updated expiration date must be updated in your on-hand inventory in KSWebIZ and all existing inventory in the storage unit needs to be labeled with the new expiration date.

Multiple-dose vials are stored frozen between -50°C to -15°C (-58°F to 5°F). During storage, minimize exposure to room light and avoid exposure to direct sunlight and ultraviolet light. Unpunctured vials can be stored refrigerated between 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F) for up to 30 days prior to first use. Never refreeze once thawed.

For more information visit [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling](#).

- [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Letter of Authorization 10122022 \(modernatx.com\)](#)
- [Federal Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine website](#)

If you need assistance updating the expiration date in KSWebIZ, please contact the Helpdesk at 877-296-0464.

KSWebIZ will be undergoing an upgrade to version 22.10 of the application.

The system will be down from **5:00 pm – 10:00 pm on Thursday, November 17, 2022** while the upgrade is being performed. Any HL7 messages received during this time will be placed in a queue until the upgrade is complete and then released.

A few notable changes include the legacy "Flat File Import Report" is no longer available. The "Flat File Import (Transform to HL7) Report" should be used for all flat file uploads. This does require all provider/clinics who upload a file, to have a HL7 facility created in the "HL7 Management module."

A document describing the new features and updates to the application is available on KSWebIZ. This document is titled "KSWebIZ 22.10 Release Contents" and can be found in the "News Section" or in the "Report's Module" under the "Document's Section."

COVID Vaccine Holiday Shipping

COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery					
November 2022 Holiday Delivery Schedule					
	Monday, Nov 7	Tuesday, Nov 8	Wednesday, Nov 9	Thursday, Nov 10	Friday, Nov 11
Week of 11/7			Ordering closes 5pm for delivery Wk of 11/14 - LAST DAY TO ORDER FOR DELIVERY BEFORE HOLIDAY		
	Monday, Nov 14	Tuesday, Nov 15	Wednesday, Nov 16	Thursday, Nov 17	Friday, Nov 18
Week of 11/14			Ordering closes 5pm - Orders to be delivered Wk of 11/28		
	Monday, Nov 21	Tuesday, Nov 22	Wednesday, Nov 23	Thursday, Nov 24	Friday, Nov 25
Week of 11/21	No KDHE Distro/Direct Ship	No KDHE Distro/Direct Ship	No KDHE Distro/Direct Ship Ordering closes 5pm - Orders to be delivered Wk of 11/28	Thanksgiving - Closed	Thanksgiving - Closed
	Monday, Nov 28	Tuesday, Nov 29	Wednesday, Nov 30	Thursday, Dec 1	Friday, Dec 2
Week of 11/28	KDHE Distro/Direct Ship Resumes		Ordering closes 5pm for delivery Wk of 12/5		

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Sociodemographic Variation in Early Uptake of COVID-19 Vaccine and Parental Intent and Attitudes Toward Vaccination of Children Aged 6 Months–4 Years — United States, July 1–29, 2022

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report published an [article](#) today examining rates of COVID-19 vaccination coverage among children. Although COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, administrative data reported to CDC indicate that COVID-19 vaccination coverage among children aged <5 years is low. Find a link to the article [here](#).

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective for infants and young children, and on June 18, 2022, CDC recommended COVID-19 vaccination for infants and children (children) aged 6 months–4 years. As of November 9, 2022, based on administrative data reported to CDC, 5.9% of children aged <2 years and 8.8% of children aged 2–4 years had received ≥1 dose. To better understand reasons for low coverage among children aged <5 years, CDC analyzed data from 4,496 National Immunization Survey–Child COVID Module (NIS-CCM) interviews conducted during July 1–29, 2022, to examine variation in receipt of ≥1 dose of COVID-19 vaccine and parental intent to vaccinate children aged 6 months–4 years by sociodemographic characteristics and by parental beliefs about COVID-19; type of vaccination place was also reported. Among children aged 6 months–4 years, 3.5% were vaccinated; 59.3% were unvaccinated, but the parent was open to vaccination; and 37.2% were unvaccinated, and the parent was reluctant to vaccinate their child. Openness to vaccination was higher among parents of Hispanic or Latino (Hispanic) (66.2%), non-Hispanic Black or African American (Black) (61.1%), and non-Hispanic Asian (Asian) (83.1%) children than among parents of non-Hispanic White (White) (52.9%) children and lower among parents of children in rural areas (45.8%) than among parents of children in urban areas (64.1%). Parental confidence in COVID-19 vaccine safety and receipt of a provider recommendation for COVID-19 vaccination were lower among unvaccinated than vaccinated children. COVID-19 vaccine recommendations from a health care provider, along with dissemination of information about the safety of COVID-19 vaccine by trusted persons, could increase vaccination coverage among young children.

Additional COVID updates include:

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

HRSA

Health Centers Invited to Participate in #VaxUpAmerica Efforts

HHS is working with national and community-based organizations to reach families where they are with information on COVID-19 vaccines. HHS will host pop-up vaccination events and distribute toolkits at venues such as Head Start provider locations, nursing homes, and health centers around the country.

If you'd like to partner with HHS to host a new or already planned #VaxUpAmerica Family Vaccine Day event in your community, let us know by 5:00 p.m. ET on Friday, November 18. HHS's involvement might bring a local or national HHS official to support and promote the event. Contact us at healthcenterstories@hrsa.gov with details about your event, including:

- Health center name and address.
- Event point of contact name, phone number, and email.
- Brief description of the event and location.

If HHS is available to partner with you, someone from the Department will reach out.

The #VaxUpAmerica Family Vaccine Tour is a nationwide push to encourage families to get the updated COVID-19 vaccine for maximum protection going into the winter and holiday season. It followed President Joe Biden's announcement of Additional Efforts to Help Americans Get Their Free, [Updated COVID-19 Vaccine This Fall](#).

If you missed it, ACF, CMS, and HHS hosted a kickoff event featuring HHS principals and special presentations from trusted messengers on the updated COVID-19 vaccinations and department-wide efforts. You can [watch and share the recording](#). HHS also provides [resources that can support](#) your efforts to get your community vaccinated against COVID-19.

Pfizer COVID-19 Webinar Training

Medical Updates & Immunization Site Training for All Healthcare Providers led by Pfizer Vaccines US Medical Affairs

Goal: Educate providers and immunization staff personnel on the proper use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. To access dates and links for upcoming training sessions visit: pfizermedicalinformation.com/en-us/medical-updates

Section Topics Include:

- Emergency Use Authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent (Original and Omicron BA.4/BA.5) as a single booster dose for individuals 5 through 11 years of age.
- Use of each vaccine presentation, including storage, handling, preparation and administration.
- Question and answer session.

Sessions will be updated to reflect the latest information. Emergency uses of the vaccines have not been approved or licensed by FDA, but have been authorized by FDA, under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in individuals aged 6 months and older for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and 12 years and older for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent. The emergency uses are only authorized for the duration of the declaration that circumstances exist justifying the authorization of emergency use of the medical product under Section 564(b)(1) of the FD&C Act unless the declaration is terminated or authorization revoked sooner.

Before administration, please see full Prescribing Information: 12 years of age and older or appropriate EUA Fact Sheet for Vaccination Providers. For the most recent prescribing information and fact sheets [here](#).

*Starting November 1, 2022, Presentation Platform will be Microsoft Teams:

How to Join the Session via Teams:

1. Click the Meeting link.
2. It is recommended to click "Watch on the web instead".

Mac Users: For the best training experience, please be sure to have the most updated Operating System.

Media/Scientific Reports

Becker's Hospital Review

An omicron subvariant 'cheat sheet'

Since omicron first appeared in the U.S. nearly a year ago, the variant has maintained dominance, splintering into an increasingly complicated patchwork of sublineages. Here is a breakdown of the five most prevalent omicron subvariants, listed in order of their estimated case proportions for the week ending Nov. 12: [Link Here](#).

The original omicron variant was first detected in the U.S. in early December 2021, and by Dec. 18, it had grown to account for more than 70 percent of cases. In late June, the BA.5 sublineage emerged and quickly rose to dominance. But now, BA.5 is receding as other omicron relatives take over, accounting for less than 30 percent of cases for the week ending Nov. 12, according to CDC variant proportion estimates.

In what appears to be a good sign, U.S. cases have remained relatively stable since October, despite new omicron relatives' growth, according to HHS data compiled by The New York Times. The nation's seven-day case average was 39,414 as of Nov. 15, though this is likely an undercount since it does not include at-home test results.

Due to a high level of variant diversity, experts say a potential uptick in COVID-19 cases this winter would likely be driven by several different lineages, rather than just one. Helix, a lab that helps the CDC track variants, said BQ.1, BQ.1.1 and BF.7 are on its watchlist because of their potential for immune escape.