

## What We Know Now

December 1, 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

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#### Health Ministries Clinic hosts four Free Flu Vaccine events:



December 5-9 is National Flu Vaccine Week. In preparation, Health Ministries Clinic in Newton, Kansas is hosting four free community flu vaccine events beginning the end of November into December. These free community flu vaccine clinics are free for everyone regardless of ability to pay. The events are taking place in a community event space in Newton, the Newton public library, Whitewater, KS, and Peabody, KS. With the rise in flu infections and other respiratory rates, these events are a great opportunity for

community members to receive their flu vaccines without a financial barrier. You can find the events on Health Ministries Clinic Facebook page [here](#).

#### Vibrant Health highlights their awesome Immunization Team and daily COVID testing and vaccines:



Vibrant Health is ensuring access to care, COVID testing, COVID vaccines, and other healthcare resources that are essential to a healthy community. Vibrant Health's Immunization Team offers daily rapid COVID testing and vaccines for ages 5 and older. Bivalent boosters are also available for ages 12 and older! Please check out Vibrant Health's Immunization Team on their Facebook page [here](#). You can also check out their events calendar and daily COVID testing and vaccine clinics [here](#).

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

##### As of 11/30/22: KDHE COVID DATA

[Latest statistics](#): 901,422 positive cases, 9,679 deaths, and 49 MIS-C cases (Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children associated with COVID-19). There were 3,609 new cases and 22 new deaths reported since 11/30/22.

According to the [Kansas WebIZ vaccination tracker](#), 5,032,183 doses have been administered in Kansas. 3,702,619 people have had their first dose; 1,037,031 have had their second dose; and 292,534 have had a bivalent booster dose. Only 9.8% of Kansans have been vaccinated with the bivalent booster.

For the week of 11/19/22 – 11/25/22, high areas of transmission have continued to increase. 60 (increased 6 weeks in a row with 16 more counties at high transmission since last week) of the 105 Kansas counties were considered to be [areas of high transmission](#), with at least 100 cases per 100,000 residents. 35 have substantial rates of transmission, (50-99 cases per 100,000), while 3 had moderate transition rates (10-49 cases per 100,000). 7 counties had low transmission rates, with fewer than 11 cases per 100,000.

**The Kansas Immunization Program will be transitioning COVID-19 KDHE courier vaccine deliveries to every other week and implementing a 10-vial minimum for each order.**

Why:

- Upcoming changes to COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution
- Commercialization of COVID-19 vaccine is around the corner (no set date from CDC)
- Commercial bulk orders plan to be in smaller quantities (possibly 50)
- Cost of same day delivery and smaller quantities (<10 per order) is not sustainable
- Will help with transition to commercialization

When:

- Continue every other week beginning week of December 1

How:

- Providers still place orders through Shopify site
- KIP will provide schedule of vaccine distribution days

## **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

### **Effectiveness of Bivalent mRNA Vaccines in Preventing Symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infection — Increasing Community Access to Testing Program, United States, September–November 2022:**

In the November 22<sup>nd</sup> publication of MMWR, a study found bivalent mRNA vaccines to be significantly effective against reinfection of COVID-19. You can read the study [here](#). In this study of vaccine effectiveness of the U.S.-authorized bivalent mRNA booster formulations, bivalent boosters provided significant additional protection against symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection in persons who had previously received 2, 3, or 4 monovalent vaccine doses. Due to waning immunity of monovalent doses, the benefit of the bivalent booster increased with time since receipt of the most recent monovalent vaccine dose.

**Additional COVID updates include:**

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

## **HRSA**

**Additional Product Available through the HRSA COVID-19 Testing Supply Program:**

Cepheid multiplex POC cartridges ([Xpert® Xpress](#)) are now available to order through the HRSA COVID-19 Testing Supply Program. These POC cartridges will test for COVID-19, flu, and RSV.

If you are not participating in the program and would like to begin ordering at-home self-test kits or testing supplies, submit a request through the [BPHC Contact Form](#) so that we can assist you.

HRSA is not offering the Cepheid analyzers (GeneXpert®) that use these multiplex cartridges. We do not anticipate that changing.

Additional information about Cepheid analyzers is available on [Cepheid's website](#). Health centers may be able to use their H80 and/or American Rescue Plan (H8F) funds to purchase these devices. Contact your Grants Management Specialist for additional information.

### **Expanding COVID-19 Vaccination Funding:**

Last week, [HRSA announced](#) a new \$350 million initiative for HRSA-supported health centers and look-alikes to increase COVID-19 vaccines in their communities, with a specific focus on underserved populations. This funding supports the [Biden Administration's efforts to get more Americans their updated COVID-19 vaccine](#) before the end of the year.

Health centers can use these one-time funds to expand outreach and education, community engagement, and coordinated events to increase COVID-19 vaccinations through mobile, drive-up, walk-up, or community-based vaccination events, including working with community- and faith-based organizations. The goal is to raise awareness and increase the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations, especially among the hardest hit and highest risk populations.

[Read our recent bulletin](#) for more information about the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Expanding COVID-19 Vaccination (ECV) funding.

### **COVID-19 Bivalent Vaccines for Patients Ages 5 and Under Available for Pre-Order:**

Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program participants\* may now pre-order Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent vaccine for children ages 6 months through 4 years and Moderna bivalent vaccine for children ages 6 months through 5 years. Health centers may order 100 doses per site. **Submit your order as soon as possible, but no later than Monday, December 5, at noon ET.**

If this product is authorized by the FDA and recommended by CDC's ACIP, pre-ordered doses will be processed for delivery. If the appropriate approvals and guidance are issued, ordering will follow the vaccine program's weekly cadence. The updated [COVID-19 Vaccination Program Operational Guidance](#) includes more information about bivalent vaccines for patients ages 5 and under. HRSA will share information when available.

Questions? Use the [BPHC Contact Form](#) to let us know. Under the COVID-19 section click "View More" to select the "COVID-19 Vaccine Program" option.

\*Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program participants may pre-order this product through the Health Partner Order Portal (HPOP) vaccine module. If your health center has not yet participated in the Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program or wants to renew participation and is not sure how to do that, use the [BPHC Contact Form](#) to let us know. Under the COVID-19 section click "View More" to select the "COVID-19 Vaccine Program" option.

### **Next Week is National Flu Vaccination Week**

December 5-9 is [National Flu Vaccination Week](#). There's still time to get a vaccine this year! We hope you will join us in encouraging everyone aged 6 months and older to protect themselves and their loved ones by getting a flu vaccine. As a reminder, [here are CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' \(ACIP\) recommendations for flu vaccination](#).



As mentioned in the [November 22 Digest](#), the incidence of COVID-19, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), flu, and other viruses has recently increased. **To support community needs, your health center may consider expanding office hours and adjusting telehealth protocols to increase your capacity.** Submit any questions regarding a health center's scope of service via the [BPHC Contact Form](#). [Program Assistance Letter 2020-01](#) (PDF) highlights issues to consider when using telehealth to increase access for health center patients.

## **Media/Scientific Reports**

### **Mental Health News:**

#### **Kansas Health Institute: Youth and Young Adult Mental Health: Challenges & Opportunities in the Sunflower State:**

Both nationally and in Kansas, suicide rates for youth and young adults have risen over the last two decades. The rising suicide rates and mental health challenges exacerbated by COVID-19 have further emphasized the importance of understanding suicide and mental health among youth and young adults, and the options available for policy makers and local organizations. This event will look at the current challenges and opportunities for meeting the growing mental health needs of youth and young adults in Kansas. It will include two engaging panel discussions. The first, *Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Youth & Young Adults at the Local Level*, will focus on the organizations and institutions in our local communities working to meet the needs of youth and young adults. The second panel, *Statewide Efforts and Strategies to Support Youth & Young Adult Mental Health*, will take a systems view of the behavioral health services and resources across our state.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@khi.org](mailto:info@khi.org).

When: Wednesday, December 7, 2022, from 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. CST (Includes a break for lunch)

Where: This event will be presented in a hybrid format, with in-person and virtual attendance options available.

Registration Option 1: Kansas Health Institute at 212 S.W. 8th Avenue, Topeka, KS. Lunch will be provided for in-person attendees - Seating is limited. Follow link [here](#).

Registration Option 2: Virtual participation through Zoom (link will be sent after registration). Follow link [here](#).

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988.

#### **HRSA: Anxiety and Depression: Screening and Intervention within an Integrated Care Setting**

Depression and anxiety disorders are among the most common illnesses in primary care. This webinar will discuss the prevalence of anxiety and major depressive disorder in the United States with respect to gender, ethnicity, and age, review recent recommendations regarding anxiety screening, identify comorbidities associated with anxiety and major depression, orient participants to the PHQ-9 and GAD-7, and identify intervention strategies within an integrated care setting.

Wednesday, December 21

1:00-1:30 p.m. ET

[Registration page](#)

**\*\*0.5 CE available\*\***