January 10, 2022

Good afternoon:

Welcome to the immunizations listserv update. These updates will continue to come out on Monday afternoons at 4 p.m. throughout 2022. If you have suggestions for the update, please reach out to Shelby Ostrom at [shelby.ostrom@kalhd.org](mailto:shelby.ostrom@kalhd.org).

a vaccine preventable disease each week. If you have a disease suggestion, please let me know.

***2022 KALHD Dues***

KALHD has sent out dues letters to all health departments. To continue receiving this update, please consider renewing your membership by March 31, 2022. For questions, please contact Dennis Kriesel and [dennis.kreisel@kalhd.org](mailto:dennis.kreisel@kalhd.org)

**PANDEMIC UPDATES**

***Early studies report vaccines prevent Omicron***

According to early research from Stronger and the Public Good Project, mRNA vaccines are still effective against variants of the COVID-19 virus including Omicron. While the pandemic and conspiracy theories continue to spread, boosters will be important in preventing disease. For more information about this study, links to the reports are included below.

[Fact check: Boosters are safe for kids - Stronger](https://stronger.org/blog/covid-19-booster-safety-vaccine-hiv)

[What early studies tell us about the Omicron variant - Stronger](https://stronger.org/blog/omicron-covid-19-variant-studies?emci=7d3bff63-0a6f-ec11-94f6-c896650d923c&emdi=75aadc2c-246f-ec11-94f6-c896650d923c&ceid=20617714)

[Fact check: Vaccines are not ineffective against Omicron - Stronger](https://stronger.org/blog/omicron-vaccine-heart-risk-natural-immunity)

***Vaccine Boosters for COVID-19 are now available for children 12-15 years old and booster recommendations have been lowered to 5 months.***

The ACIP met last Wednesday to approve the use of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine as a booster for children 12 years and older. CDC Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky gave her approval of the decision late Wednesday afternoon. To view more information about the booster doses, please bookmark the Interim Clinical Considerations page on CDC’s [website here](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#considerations-covid19-vax-booster).

***Yes, you can get Influenza and COVID-19 at the same time***

While it is rare, it is possible for individuals to have co-infections of both influenza and COVID-19. Cases of this co-infection have already been reported in the United States. These cases highlight the importance of being vaccinated against both COVID-19 and the flu. For more information on what people are calling “Flurona” please view this [article here](https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/01/05/flurona-coronavirus-flu-symptoms/?utm_campaign=wp_to_your_health&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl_tyh&wpmk=1&pwapi_token=eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJjb29raWVuYW1lIjoid3BfY3J0aWQiLCJpc3MiOiJDYXJ0YSIsImNvb2tpZXZhbHVlIjoiNjFjNjA3N2FhZGU0ZTIzYzE0NjY1Y2E2IiwidGFnIjoiNjFkNjE0MDY5ZDJmZGEzZjhiODJkZjYwIiwidXJsIjoiaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cud2FzaGluZ3RvbnBvc3QuY29tL2hlYWx0aC8yMDIyLzAxLzA1L2ZsdXJvbmEtY29yb25hdmlydXMtZmx1LXN5bXB0b21zLz91dG1fY2FtcGFpZ249d3BfdG9feW91cl9oZWFsdGgmdXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPW5ld3NsZXR0ZXImd3Bpc3JjPW5sX3R5aCZ3cG1rPTEifQ.zzSSqtIXiU2LGFUMutLZqSwWp-B_fL_25r0N34eGxww).

***Studies show the masks are the most effective public health measure against COVID-19***

Besides vaccination, studies have suggested that masks are the best public health measure against COVID-19. [A recent analysis conducted by BMJ suggests notes that masks have reduced COVID-19 infection rates by 53%.](https://www.bmj.com/content/375/bmj-2021-068302) Besides their effectiveness, there is also analyses of what types of masks are most effective. The Wall Street Journal released this graphic for the [public to use here](https://www.wsj.com/articles/cloth-face-mask-omicron-11640984082).

**KDHE Important Links**

***Isolation Recommendations Updated***

In accordance with CDC’s recommendations, KDHE has updated isolation guidance for both healthcare workers and the general population. If you missed the KS-HAN notification from 2 weeks ago, I’ve included it below:

[KS-HAN 12/30/2021 Isolation/Quarantine for General Population](C://Users/denni/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/RNAQ1CN9/HAN+-+KDHE+General+Population+Updated+Isolation+Guidance.pdf)

[Press Release: Updated Isolation and Quarantine Guidance](C://Users/denni/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/RNAQ1CN9/12.30.21%20-%20KDHE%20Updates%20Isolation%20and%20Quarantine%20Guidance.pdf)

[KS-HAN 12/30/2021 Isolation/Quarantine for Health Care Workers](C://Users/denni/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/RNAQ1CN9/HAN+-+KDHE+HCW+Updated+Isolation+Guidance.pdf)

[Isolation/Quarantine Guidance – Hospital Setting](C://Users/denni/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/RNAQ1CN9/KDHE%20Recommendations%20for%20Isolation%20and%20Quarantine%20Guidance.pdf)

***Vaccine Ordering & KHEL Testing***

If you plan to order vaccine this week from KDHE, please fill [out this form](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3QY82P6) by Wednesday at 5 p.m. Orders will be scheduled for delivery the following week. Additionally, you can route testing to KHEL through the courier. Priority will continue to be placed on Omicron tests.

There is a lot of feedback that vaccines are not being delivered or emails responded to, if you have any additional questions or concerns, please reach out to Dennis or me.

***Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Orders & Attestations***

KDHE has uploaded the current standing orders and attestations for all COVID-19 vaccines, including the Pfizer 5-11 vaccine. These documents have also been uploaded to KALHD’s website. [You can find all the documents here](https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/166/Guidance-Documents-Resources).

***KDHE Custom Marketing Materials***

KDHE has partnered with the CML Collective to provide health departments with design and communications support for COVID-19 vaccination and testing. This service is being provided at no-cost to organizations and health departments. [You can submit a request for materials here.](https://www.cmlcollective.com/kdhe)

***Updated KDHE Website***

KDHE has updated their main website at kdhe.ks.gov. The vaccine and COVID-19 resource sites have remained the same. [You can find information about immunization on this updated page](https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/214/Immunization).

**NEW RESOURCES & TRAINING**

***Resources for Discussing Omicron Variant***

The Public Health Collaborative has updated their resources and [FAQ page to include guidance to hard questions about the omicron variant.](https://publichealthcollaborative.org/faq/) These resources have also been uploaded to KALHD’s website.

***Updated Pfizer Training Schedule***

The updated training schedule for January is included below. The webinars will continue to include updates regarding the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for both adults and children, including the new grey cap formula. These webinars are 1 hour. Please make plans to attend as you can.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [Attendee link – Tues January 11 - 3pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e6a650d380bf601fe4f83159ca28053ed) | cKXFZSiW634 |
| [Attendee link – Wed January 12 - 12pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=ed1dfe0c1fe2a76d3603f5a307677ed3b) | v9MUab6Yrd6 |
| [Attendee link – Thurs January 13 - 12pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=ebfb83ee19be10dd12738a5e3e1b30987) | BXke23nMVD3 |
| [Attendee link – Tues January 18 - 3pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e6bdf22fc3dd121a235e5d3e591c08eca) | FJjvmeG327W |
| [Attendee link – Wed January 19 - 12pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=eb053f206b2980c48a7e317a0aa8e6c50) | kMapPATn986 |
| [Attendee link – Thurs January 20 - 12pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e051c506c22b17b63dd1bfda9dfed47bf) | grB3WCzru23 |
| [Attendee link – Tues January 25 - 3pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e7b50b1d2c769d384edf160c198286e6a) | AQqwYfKE522 |
| [Attendee link – Wed January 26 - 12pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e8821d0597d810bfbd1683349fc9e313d) | 2pSQT324TdC |
| [Attendee link – Thurs January 27 - 12pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=edc467e8af49fac298cfacdb850069992) | yVDHYiaF828 |

***Other webinars***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Webinar | Webinar |
| Reducing Missed Opportunities with Routine Vaccination and Incorporating Preventative Screening Strategies | Influenza in The Time of COVID-19 |
| Tuesday, January 11 | Thursday, January 20 |
| 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. CST | 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. CST |
| [Join webinar here](https://applauncher.gotowebinar.com/#notStarted/8517396930629417232/en_US) | [register here](https://vaccinateindiana.clickmeeting.com/influenza-in-the-time-of-covid-19/register?_ga=2.267638926.1051256198.1639596510-1992495841.1635166407) |
|  |  |
| Webinar | Webinar |
| Variants 101: How Viruses Mutate | COVID-19 & Social Media: Best Practices to Reach Your Communities |
| Tuesday, January 11 | Thursday, January 20 |
| 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. CST | 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. CST |
| [Join webinar here](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5133441416) | [register here](https://healthleadsusa-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3jmf3gxtSJu6u9kj4TlRTQ) |

**Vaccine Preventable Disease of the Week: SARS-CoV 1**

This week, we will be discussing the history and vaccine development of COVID-19’s “sister” disease SARS-CoV 1, often called SARS.

***What Is It?***

Like COVID-19, SARS stands for severe acute respiratory syndrome and is a strain of Coronavirus that is an enveloped, single strand RNA virus which effects the lungs. It enters the body through binding to cells through enzymes. The strain can affect humans, bats, and other mammals including pets. There are many different strains of Coronavirus, including the one that causes the common cold. Symptoms of the SARS virus include cough, sore throat, fever, and loss of taste or smell.

SARS strain coronaviruses typically spread to humans from animals (such as bats) through infected animals and bad hygiene in close quarters. Many attributes China’s wet market culture for the spread of coronaviruses. SARS can be spread through human-to-human contact including sneezing, coughing, and respiratory droplets spread in the air. Coronavirus can be prevented similarly to other viral diseases.

***History***

Discovered in China in November 2002, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) effected both mainland China and areas of Hong Kong. The outbreak quickly spread to healthcare workers and the food industry. By February of 2003, China reported 405 cases of SARS, including 105 healthcare workers. China kept information about the epidemic private, discouraging press from reporting on it and going as far to delay reporting to the World Health Organization. This provided many conspiracies that have followed during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. While the virus did not have a vaccine, the outbreak slowed to 3 or more cases a week by May 2004 and was no longer a threat.

In 2016, the WHO identified SARS related coronaviruses as a likely cause for future epidemics and urged research for testing and vaccination. However, due to the difficultly of vaccine development for mRNA vaccination, it was not a priority due to the Ebola outbreak.

***Vaccination***

Current COVID-19 mRNA vaccinations prevent both SARS-CoV 1 and SARS-Cov 2 (Pfizer and Moderna). This vaccine has been in development for over 20 years due to research for other viral diseases. The mRNA vaccination gives the body instructions on building the protein needed to ward off cell-binding enzymes. mRNA vaccines are much safer and more effective than traditional vaccines.

Sources

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severe_acute_respiratory_syndrome%E2%80%93related_coronavirus>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002%E2%80%932004_SARS_outbreak#Timeline>

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7034e4.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/sars/about/fs-sars.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/sars/index.html>

<https://images.theconversation.com/files/332040/original/file-20200501-42929-1d79q75.jpg?ixlib=rb-1.1.0&q=45&auto=format&w=754&fit=clip>