January 18, 2022

Good evening:

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).

*I appreciate your patience with the delayed newsletter this week!*

***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)

***White Paper Survey***

A few weeks ago, I sent out a survey asking for feedback for the vaccine misinformation white paper to get more information from LHDs on what resources you want to see from the paper. You can view the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YZ85Y3F>.

**PANDEMIC UPDATES**

***Supreme Court Blocks President Biden’s Vaccine Mandate for Businesses***

Last week, the supreme court voted to block President Biden’s COVID-19 vaccine mandate for American businesses with over 100 employees. This decision DOES NOT affect health care workers at federally qualified health centers who receive funding from Medicare and Medicaid. For more information on the decision, please view this [link here](https://khn.org/news/article/supreme-court-vaccine-mandate-ruling/?utm_campaign=KFF-2021-The-Latest&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=200924902&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--0mPdV5RTsfaeRRUzKHTlm0FdchD-khbVvBKmfDyRlap_VG4T_NsbcNUakmlMg3hkWuDadH9k6eBuw9wK76Nrq5FdnEQ&utm_content=200924902&utm_source=hs_email).

***Hospitalization Rates for Children Increases as Vaccination Stalls***

According to a report from [COVID-NET](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covid-net/purpose-methods.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2145-DM73517&ACSTrackingLabel=01.14.2021%20-%20COVID-19%20Data%20Tracker%20Weekly%20Review&deliveryName=USCDC_2145-DM73517), a project of the CDC, pediatric hospitalizations are at the highest rate they have ever been since the start of the pandemic. While many children experience milder symptoms, the largest group of children in the hospital is birth through 4 years old, highlighting the importance of herd immunity.

***Nationwide Testing Shortage and USPS OTC Testing Kits***

Due to the surge of the Omicron variant and the changes to FDA testing regulations, COVID-19 tests are becoming increasingly hard to find for both providers and the public. To combat this shortage, President Biden has announced an initiative to deliver free in-home testing kits to residents of the United States through the USPS. To sign up for the kits, [please visit this link](https://special.usps.com/testkits).

**KDHE UPDATES**

***KDHE Will Be Discontinuing Contact Tracing on February 1***

Today, KDHE announced that they will be discontinuing COVID-19 contact tracing operations on February 1, 2022. [You can view the press release here](https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=100).

***Requesting Testing or Vaccine Clinics***

If you would like to request KDHE support for a testing or vaccination clinic, please submit your request [using this form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd7PCzD-Y6n-LEuR3U4nPyOLQnlTK7TuXLCIZkqVSN1uXqfQg/viewform).

***KDHE COVID-19 K-12 Toolkit Updated***

If your school district asks for LHD support or has questions regarding testing, isolation, or vaccination, you are welcome to direct them to the [education page](https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/283/Education-K-12) on KDHE’s COVID-19 webpage. This page is updated regularly.

***Isolation Recommendations***

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](file:///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](file:///C:/Users/denni/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/RNAQ1CN9/12.30.21%2520-%2520KDHE%2520Updates%2520Isolation%2520and%2520Quarantine%2520Guidance.pdf)

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

[Isolation/Quarantine Guidance – Hospital Setting](file:///C:/Users/denni/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/RNAQ1CN9/KDHE%2520Recommendations%2520for%2520Isolation%2520and%2520Quarantine%2520Guidance.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)

**RESOURCES, WEBINARS & TRAININGS**

***EVENTS:***

*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 – 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 |

*Immunize Kansas Coalition 2022 Legislative Reception*

Virtual on Wednesday, January 26 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

[Learn more and register here](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89044829585?pwd%3DdW42QUdQR05NTmk1VUFUa2YrSmU4dz09&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw1nSZ7u9zm5iaXkM_K4kSRq)

***RESOURCES/TRAINING:***

[*#COVIBOOK*](https://www.mindheart.co/descargables?emci=9581235e-9178-ec11-94f6-c896650d4442&emdi=7d2d6648-a278-ec11-94f6-c896650d4442&ceid=1946406)

A downloadable book for children and educators to educate children on COVID-19 and the importance of vaccines.

How to Talk to Friends & Family About COVID-19 Vaccines: Youth Edition

[Watch video here](https://madetosave.org/resources/how-to-talk-to-your-friends-and-family-about-the-covid-19-vaccine-youth-edition/?emci=9581235e-9178-ec11-94f6-c896650d4442&emdi=7d2d6648-a278-ec11-94f6-c896650d4442&ceid=1946406)

What Clinicians Need to Know About Viral COVID-19 Medication

[Watch video here](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2022/callinfo_011222.asp?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_1052-%20DM73138&ACSTrackingLabel=Tomorrow%3A%20CDC%20COCA%20Call%3A%20What%20Clinicians%20Nee%20d%20to%20Know%20About%20the%20New%20Oral%20Antiviral%20Medications%20for%20COVID-19%20-%20%20Wednesday%2C%20January&deliveryName=USCDC_1052-DM73138)

How Viruses Mutate & Primer on Variants

[Watch video here](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/fQGhG9R_sh8SCnfwquC_gvfoslD2bx8BNMpCVlJHT6y_hq93IanPOCk5JohoaX624K89YyLbEP7KkVse.NHOZmMBvhOU3_IlB?continueMode=true&_x_zm_rtaid=nj5aS829Spu8I6uhDQgOLg.1642545502870.26a173a73f52c2190ebb596389916967&_x_zm_rhtaid=92)

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

***Building Vaccine Confidence***

NACCHO and the CDC announced a new funding opportunity for LHDs to improve COVID-19 vaccination rates and vaccine confidence. They will select up to 20 health departments and provide up to $75,000. If you are interested, [you can view the RFA here](https://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/NACCHO-COVIED-RFA_Final.pdf#asset:390617). There will also be an informational webinar on Tuesday, January 18 at 2p.m. CST. [Registration can be found here](https://naccho.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_imIwlVs2QdG8AtLPzJ-InA). Applications are due by January 31, 2022.

**VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASE OF THE WEEK**

This week, I will be talking about Smallpox. While Smallpox has a long and complicated history, I will briefly share the history of the disease, vaccine development, and what we can learn from its prevention.



***What is Smallpox?***

Smallpox is a very contagious and deadly disease that has affected the population for centuries. With similar symptoms to Chickenpox, Smallpox appears 10 to 14 days after the infection period with flu-like symptoms. After its initial onset, red spots can appear on your hands, face, forearms. Within 48 hours, these spots will become painful blisters that will eventually fall off and leave deep scaring. Lesions can also form on your sinuses. Unlike many diseases, during the incubation period of Smallpox, the infected person is not contagious and will not infect others. Making it difficult to contact trace the disease.

*As of 2022, there is no cure for Smallpox other than prevention.*

***History***

Historians have been able to trace smallpox infection through civilization and exploration growth. First appearing in China in the 4th Century CE and India in the 7th century, it was spread through trade into other parts of Asia, Europe, and Africa. By the 17th Century, Smallpox has spread to the United States through European settlers. Many historians believe that the puritans who celebrated the first Thanksgiving in the United States wiped out nearly half of the native tribes through disease, including Smallpox.

In Europe, smallpox spread quickly. On average, 3 out 10 people died from the disease. Those who survived had long lasting effects such as sinus problems, overall health problems, and scaring.

***Variolation & Early Disease Mitigation***

variolation was used as a mitigation measure for smallpox. People who had not been exposed to Smallpox were introduced to material from smallpox sores by scratching the material onto their skin. People typically developed Smallpox, but fewer deaths occurred.

***Vaccines are Born! (Kinda)***

We can thank Dr. Edward Jenner for creating the idea of vaccination as a disease mitigation tool. In 1796, Jenner determined that milkmaids who worked with cows and received “cowpox” (smallpox in cows) were protected from smallpox. He determined that “cowpox” could be used to prevent smallpox. He called his invention “inoculation” or the insertion of a dead animal virus into humans as a means of disease protection. As you, know – the rest is history.

*It wasn’t until the early 1800s that the word “vaccine” was used. The virus used to make the inoculation was changed from cowpox to the “vaccinia virus”. This word was derived from the Latin word “vacca” which means cow.*

***Vaccinate the Masses & Eradicate***

In 1959, the WHO determined that Smallpox needed to be fully eradicated from the world as outbreaks were still active. Unfortunately, this campaign suffered from a shortage of vaccine donations. It was not picked up again until 1967, when smallpox was all but eliminated in the United States and Europe.

***Full Eradication by May 8, 1980 & Vaccines Stop***

Smallpox was fully eradicated by 1975 after a 3-year-old Bangladesh child naturally contracted the disease. She was isolated until she was no longer contagious. The disease was considered fully eradicated by the World Health Assembly on May 8, 1980. Smallpox vaccines were officially stopped in the United States by 1972.

***What We Can Learn from Smallpox***

Smallpox has taught scientists and the medical community a lot about disease and the importance of countermeasures to combat disease spread. The Global Smallpox Eradication Program encouraged vaccination as a disease prevention measure. Through this program, we have learned that vaccines are the safest and most effective way to completely eradicate disease. To learn more, please visit this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqUFy-t4MlQ>

Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/smallpox/history/history.html>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/smallpox/diagnosis-treatment/drc-20353032>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8216846/#:~:text=The%20word%20vaccine%20comes%20from,prevent%20humans%20from%20contracting%20smallpox>.

<https://www.historyofvaccines.org/content/who-pushes-eradication-efforts>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqUFy-t4MlQ>