November 29, 2021

Good afternoon:

Welcome to the immunizations listserv update. As a reminder, these updates will come on Monday afternoons and include resources, training modules, and new information regarding vaccination for health departments. If you have suggestions for the update, please reach out to Shelby Ostrom at [shelby.ostrom@kalhd.org](mailto:shelby.ostrom@kalhd.org).

**PANDEMIC UPDATES**

***Omicron Variant of COVID-19***

Over the Thanksgiving break, the World Health Organization identified a new COVID-19 variant originating in South Africa. This variant has been classified as a Variant of Concern by both the CDC and the WHO and has been named the Omicron variant. The CDC will continually be monitoring the spread of this variant in the United States. Boosters are continually being recommended in areas of high community transmission. For more information about the Omicron variant, please visit this [CDC press release](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1126-B11-529-omicron.html).

***COVID-19 Booster Shots Available to All***

The CDC and FDA have expanded eligibility requirements for COVID-19 booster shots to all Americans 18 years old and older. This includes the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines. For more information on the announcement, please visit this [CDC press release](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1119-booster-shots.html).

***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 COVID-19 Testing***

KDHE has announced various updates to the COVID-19 testing strategy in the state as we move to endemic footing. Free testing will continue to be available across the state to those experiencing symptoms. Local health departments will continue to be supported through free PCR tests. For more information, you can view the full [press release here](https://khap2.kdhe.state.ks.us/NewsRelease/PDFs/11.19.21%20-%20KDHE%20Announces%20Changes%20to%20Kansas%20COVID-19%20Testing%20Strategy%20.pdf) or <knowbeforeyougoks.com>.

**INFLUENZA UPDATES**

***National Influenza Vaccination Week Coming Up***

National Influenza Vaccination Week is coming up on December 5-11, 2021.Sponsored by the CDC, NIVW is aimed at promoting flu vaccines for children and adults in the United States. With the pandemic continuing, flu vaccination has never been more important. I will be sending a separate email next week with more resources and updates as they become available. In the meantime, I’ve included important influenza resources below.

[Influenza Vaccine Standing Order for children and teens](https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3074a.pdf) (IAC)

[Influenza Vaccine Standing Order for adults](https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3074.pdf) (IAC)

[FluVax View](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/) (CDC) – updated weekly

[NIVW Digital Toolkit](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/nivw/activities.htm) (2020, CDC)

[Influenza Vaccine Products for 2021](https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4072.pdf) (IAC)

[Interim Guidance for Flu Vaccination During a Pandemic](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html) (CDC)

[Kansas Fights Flu Campaign Resources](https://www.immunizekansascoalition.org/kansas-fights-flu.asp) (Immunize Kansas Coalition) for the 2021-2022 influenza season

[Stop the Spread Printable Resources](https://www.kdheks.gov/flu/download.html) (KDHE) for 2021-2022 influenza season

**UPCOMING EVENTS & WEBINARS**

December 6, 1-2 p.m. CST (12 – 1 p.m. MST)

CDC Webinar: Improving Routine, Influenza, and COVID-19 Vaccination this Winter

[Register here](http://www.phf.org/events/Pages/CDC_Webinar_Improving_Routine_Influenza_COVID-19_Vaccination_This_Winter.aspx)

December 9, 12-1 p.m. CST (11 a.m. – 12 p.m. MST)

IAC Fight the Flu and COVID-19 Too: Influenza Vaccination in December and Beyond, Practical Approaches to Co-Administration of Vaccines in Adults.

[Join Webinar Here](https://zoom.us/w/91627503698?tk=ZpKnWX7MBTe2hBjRAMYTKUo2mBogwdFdNoRAP3ljy30.DQMAAAAVVWzAUhZzOUVnOE5CWlJWTy1tWHdKaHBsLWJBAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA&uuid=WN_HxwMCptYRiGLgelWPVXZaw)

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