January 24, 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).

***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 Closing This Week***

The survey for feedback on topics for the vaccine misinformation white paper will close at the end of this week. If you would like to give feedback on what you would like to see in the paper, please complete the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YZ85Y3F>.

***Mid-Year Meeting Immunization Session***

Please mark your calendars for June 28-29 in Salina, KS for the KALHD Mid-Year Meeting. KALHD staff is working on a combating vaccine misinformation with data session for administrators and staff as a part of the meeting. More information will come soon.

**PANDEMIC UPDATES**

***“Stealth Omicron”: Here’s What We Know So Far***

[Throughout the last month, health officials from the World Health Organization](https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/e2-80-98stealth-omicron-e2-80-99-everything-we-know-about-new-e2-80-98under-investigation-e2-80-99-covid-19-strain-ba2/ar-AAT4Hv2?ocid=uxbndlbing) have been monitoring a new sub-variant of COVID-19, which has been named “stealth omicron” and is even more transmissible and vaccine-evasive than the current omicron variant. This new sub-variant includes genetic links to the omicron variant by has certain differences that may make it harder to detect. The new sub-variant is currently a “variant under investigation” which is classified one below “variant of concern”.

***Omicron Variant Mutation Carries Common Cold Origins***

[A preliminary study revealed that the omicron variant of COVID-19 carries similar genetic material of the common cold.](https://www.nference.com/publications/YamgzBMAADIAxXym) While both SARS-CoV2 and the common cold are coronaviruses, both come from different strains of the virus. However, the omicron variant includes genetic mutations that can be traced to the common cold. This means that omicron spreads quickly and may have less severe symptoms than previous variants. However, vaccination is still important.

***Dr. Fauci Predicts an Endemic COVID-19 Similar to the Flu***

Last week, [Dr. Fauci spoke at the World Economic Forum’s Davos Agenda](https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2022/01/18/1073802431/fauci-says-covid-19-wont-go-away-like-smallpox) and predicted that COVID-19 will become endemic to the United States through a less dangerous and disruptive strain of the COVID-19 virus. He compared COVID-19 to the flu in it’s endemic status and said that it would be very difficult to eradicate.

***CDC Data Suggests that Vaccinated Persons Have Less Hospitalization Rates Than Unvaccinated Counterparts***

[The CDC updated their COVID-NET](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#covidnet-hospitalizations-vaccination) data to include updated hospitalization rates for COVID-19. The data suggests that hospitalization rates for unvaccinated individuals was 16 times higher than vaccinated adults. The data is also broken down by age group, with unvaccinated adults 50-64 at a 17 times higher rate of hospitalization.

***CMS Q&A on Home COVID-19 Testing***

With the soft launch of the at-home COVID-19 testing website, questions have arisen about the effectiveness of home testing. To view the online Q&A, please visit this link: [How to get your At-Home Over the Counter COVID-19 Test for Free | CMS](https://www.cms.gov/how-to-get-your-at-home-OTC-COVID-19-test-for-free)

**KDHE/STATE UPDATES**

***Gov. Kelly Issues a State of Emergency & Deploys National Guard to Assist with COVID-19 Response***

[Last week, Gov. Kelly issued a State of Emergency declaration](https://www.kshb.com/news/coronavirus/kansas-gov-laura-kelly-sends-state-national-guard-to-help-covid-19-response) and deployed the national guard to support KDHE’s testing efforts across the state. Additionally, ICU beds for temporary treatment through FEMA will be available/

***Legislative Session Has Begun, Misinformation Rampant***

*\*I will rarely include articles regarding politics or vaccine misinformation in the state legislature unless it directly affects health department procedures or vaccination.*

Last week, acting KDHE secretary Janet Stanek met before the Senate Public Health and Welfare committee. Misinformation on COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and variants was spread during the hearing. You can view the article here: <https://kansasreflector.com/2022/01/21/fact-check-kansas-senators-make-false-claims-about-covid-19-deaths-vaccines-pcr-test/?fbclid=IwAR3U0JcI-j2fTR449Kyub6PFMDBv9mb2k99WCNdduyVufvBOIJPcjpALUHo>

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

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).

***Isolation Documents & Information for Close Contacts***

KDHE is continually updating isolation guidance documents to their [website here](https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/134/Isolation--Quarantine-Guidance-and-FAQs-PDF---11922). Questions can be directed to KDHE through weekly update calls. If people are considered a close contact to someone who has tested positive and would like more information on what to expect, you can download resources here: [If You Are a Close Contact to Someone With COVID-19 | KDHE COVID-19 (kdheks.gov)](https://coronavirus.kdheks.gov/300/If-You-Are-a-Close-Contact-to-Someone-Wi)

***At Home Testing Guidance***

Due to an increase on COVID-19 home tests, individuals can report at-home positive tests at [www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/299](http://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/299) and close contacts can be reported to [www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/300](http://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/300). *These at-home tests are NOT required to be submitted to health departments and will not be included in COVID-19 case counts.*

***PPE Requests***

The Kansas Healthcare Coalition is providing additional PPE for members. To log in to the KSHCC site, please follow these instructions below:

Once the member is logged into the site, they will navigate to the tab that reflects their HCC region, click on and from there they can find the COVID-19 statewide resources ordering form.

* For instance, once they log in, someone in the KC Metro area would navigate to: [www.kshcc.com/statewide-ppe-cache-metro.html,](www.kshcc.com/statewide-ppe-cache-metro.html,%20)
* Northeast would navigate to [www.kshcc.com/statewide-ppe-cache-ne.html,](www.kshcc.com/statewide-ppe-cache-ne.html,%20)
* North Central would navigate to <www.kshcc.com/statewide-ppe-cache-nc.html>

***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).

***Vaccine Ordering***

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.

***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:***

*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 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 |

Webinar: The Third Year of COVID-19: Is This the New Normal?

Wednesday, January 26 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. CST

[Register here](https://covid19conversations.org/Webinar-Registration)

Webinar: Monitoring Spanish Language Misinformation

Thursday, January 27 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. CST

[Register here](bit.ly/3fIQAGt)

Webinar: SARS-CoV2 Vaccines Information Equity and Demand Creation Project

Tuesday, February 1 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. CST

[Register here](naccho.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YiOTesQMRea7DBNFAEo6AQ)

***Resources***

[Rapid Test Kit Resources](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HNAL0KU5ur6vYKntvoMuacncflW7aSlEazzyk5JtFW8/edit?emci=a94454f1-3f7d-ec11-94f6-c896650d4442&emdi=8d1dadbd-537d-ec11-94f6-c896650d4442&ceid=1946406)

Resources for social media and promotion for the rapid test kits

[Flu Defense Website](https://www.influenza-defense.org/)

*Updated website for vaccinating older adults (65+) against seasonal influenza*

[NIFD Survey: Gaps in Healthcare Professionals and Adult Patients](https://www.nfid.org/infectious-diseases/2021-chronic-health-conditions-survey-gaps-between-healthcare-professionals-and-adult-patients/)

Flu survey and resources

[KDHE KIP Immunization Resource Webpage](https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/214/Immunization)

[*#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). Applications are due by January 31, 2022.

**VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASE OF THE WEEK**

This week, we will be talking about Polio and the history of the disease both in the United States and globally.

**What is Polio?**

Poliomyelitis is a contagious disease that spreads through person to person contact and lives in intestines and the throat. It can be spread through contact with the fecal matter of an infected person or through droplets of an infected person, which is less common. An infected person can spread the virus immediately after infection and can live in the infected person’s feces for many weeks and contaminate food and water.

Polio can cause typical flu-like symptoms and most people will not have symptoms at all (72%). 1 out of 1000 people can have severe complication such as paralysis or meningitis. Paralysis is considered the most severe symptom of Polio, as it causes long lasting effects.

**History of Transmission**

Polio was first identified in hieroglyphics in ancient Egypt, suggesting that the disease was an issue from 1580 BC. However, the first known case of polio was found in Britain by Dr. Michael Underwood. By 1840s Germany, Dr. Jacob Von Heine discovers that the disease is contagious.

In the United States, polio has been a problem since 1894, with the first significant outbreak being documented in the United States. However, the most notable outbreak of polio in the United States occurred from 1949-1952, with most cases effecting children and causing paralysis. In 1952, over 21,269 individuals experienced Polio.

**Paralysis, Iron Lung, and Treatment**

For many children who experienced paralysis, the disease also affected their lungs and other organs. The infection would gradually stop the muscles of the lungs, causing asphyxiation. The “iron lung” sought to prevent this from happening. In addition, casts for legs and arms, along with hot baths were introduced for children to be able to walk again. Most of the children paralyzed by Polio were not able to recover.



**Vaccination**

By 1935, research had begun to create a polio vaccine that could be given to patients. The trials were poorly executed, and most vaccinated people fell ill with polio or experienced allergic reactions. However, by 1948, the early foundation of the March of Dimes funded a study for Dr. Jonas Salk to research polio and a vaccine. The program was suspended in 1955 due to suspected deaths. In 1959, researcher Albert Sabin worked with the Soviet Union to create an affordable oral polio vaccine. This vaccine triggered a faster immune response and was easier to administer than an injectable vaccine.

In 1963, the US surgeon general licensed the OPV in the United States. Most children received this vaccine in the United States through sugar cubes in schools. By the 1990s, the program had transitioned to a childhood injectable vaccination.

**Eradication Efforts, March of Dimes, and Rotary International**

By 1994, polio was fully eradicated in the United States and by 2002 in Europe. However, polio remains a problem for countries with high levels of unsanitary conditions. [Rotary International](https://rotary.org/en/our-causes/ending-polio) and the [March of Dimes](https://www.marchofdimes.org/giving/support-general.aspx?srcCode=GAQALODA2200CEBINGBXXXX&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=alwayson&utm_content=brand&DonationTrackingParam1=digital_paid&DonationTrackingParam2=alwayson_bing&gclid=70c1fc2cea5d1850dd5f9dc21df21a1a&gclsrc=3p.ds&msclkid=70c1fc2cea5d1850dd5f9dc21df21a1a) continue eradication efforts through vaccination today, with only 33 cases reported in the world in 2018.

**What We Can Learn from Polio**

There is so much we can learn from the development of the polio vaccine. For example, we learn about the rigorous process that vaccines go through before getting approved for use and their continued testing for better results and less reactions. While most Americans are still receiving the polio vaccination, due to vaccine misinformation and availability, polio is still not fully eradicated and re-emerging in smaller countries. There is a possibility that polio could make a re-appearance in the United States – but only time will tell.

Sources:

<https://www.bmj.com/content/347/bmj.f6061>

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<https://www.aier.org/article/no-lockdowns-the-terrifying-polio-pandemic-of-1949-52/>

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<https://www.cdc.gov/polio/what-is-polio/index.htm#anchor_1634322015405>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polio>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2012/10/16/162670836/wiping-out-polio-how-the-u-s-snuffed-out-a-killer>