December 20, 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).

Thank you to everyone who completed the listserv update survey. KALHD staff will use this survey to inform our listserv update for the new year. If you have any additional feedback, please reach out to me. Thank you!

**IMPORTANT UPDATES**

***KALHD Holiday Schedule***

KALHD will be closed on Friday, December 24 and Friday, December 31 for Christmas and New Year’s Day. Have a great holiday season!

**PANDEMIC UPDATES**

***Omicron Variant in Kansas and KHEL Testing***

[On December 16, a Kansas lab identified the first case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in Franklin County](https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=53). KDHE is continuing to monitor cases of the Omicron variant and please continue to route COVID-19 tests to KHEL. As a reminder, the state-wide courier will NOT be running on December 24 or December 31, with KHEL being closed on December 25 and January 1. Please get samples to KHEL early for testing if possible.

***Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are highly recommended over Johnson & Johnson***

Last week, the [CDC updated the EUA](https://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download) for the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to reflect additional precautions related to thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) and related blood clotting disorders that were detected in a wide range of recipients. To that end, the ACIP has recommended Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines over Johnson & Johnson in most cases. [For more information, you can view the KS-HAN notification here](C://Users/denni/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/RNAQ1CN9/12.17.21+-+HAN+-+CDC+Gives+Preferred+Status+to+mRNA+COVID++19+Vaccines.pdf).

***COVID-19 Vaccine Ordering for Holidays***

As a reminder, there is a 1 vial minimum order for vaccine shipments from KDHE. Please continue to order vaccine [through this link](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3QY82P6) by Wednesday at 5 p.m. CST. KDHE will be closed on Friday, December 24 and Friday, December 31, please order your vaccine early to have it delivered on time.

***Updated Standing Orders***

All COVID-19 standing orders have been updated to reflect a signature from Dr. Garcia (Fm. Acting Secretary) and can be found on both [KDHE](https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/166/Guidance-Documents-Resources) and [KALHD](https://www.kalhd.org/resources/vaccination-resources/)’s websites. The Pediatric Pfizer has also been updated to reflect new recommendations from the CDC as of December 12, 2021.

***Pfizer December Training Webinars***

Pfizer BioNTech has scheduled training webinars for the rest of 2021. It is highly recommended that you attend at least one session if you have not already. You can also [bookmark this webpage for updates](https://www.pfizermedicalinformation.com/en-us/medical-updates). I will also be attending one of these sessions and will provide notes for those who cannot attend.

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| [Attendee link – Mon December 20 – 3 PM ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=efa2bc7fbcb6466c03534cac355ca441f) | TupjKrQv427 |
| [Attendee link – Tues December 21 – 12 PM ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e67279ace464819673f09737e08390790) | BTt8MrXwR58 |
| [Attendee link – Tues December 28 – 12 PM ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e4f25a3143be15aaf405138829383643a) | 47DiG6JXsgA |
| [Attendee link – Wed December 29 – 3 PM ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e57f7cfdb872479d9705d1b239c2dc38e) | dwQkMZmJ258 |

**WEBINARS & ONLINE RESOURCES**

Below are additional resources and recordings for increasing vaccination rates and protecting yourself on social media. These webinars will be uploaded to the KALHD website this week.

[Defending Yourself Against Social Media Attacks](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OTd5K5rBNU&t=17s) (Partners for Vaccine Equity)

[Navigating COVID-19 Conspiracy Theories](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/kNU91B2aTtS19yyzPNsKLxnAwLz0IwLsC-DUzSDV7QkPnqVG7ut_NpcSF8uxb2QXvewdUNV0V9likBnx.RbNHuuvkisuF3sk5?startTime=1636589094000&_x_zm_rtaid=4ZuBbfpeRHeLhJPhTD8vBQ.1638806020364.d574aee9a779e45dba9e3462416f58a4&_x_zm_rhtaid=320) (Chicagoland Vaccine Partnership)

[Youth Module Series](https://www.immunizekansascoalition.org/youth-modules.asp) (Immunize Kansas Coalition)

[Reducing Anxiety in Young Vaccine Patients](https://kansaspharmacistsassociation.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Immunization%20CE/2021%2011%2003%20comfortable%20vax%20v2.pdf) (Kansas Pharmacists Association)

[Updated Guidance for Clinicians on COVID-19 Vaccines](https://www.emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2021/callinfo_121721.asp) (CDC COCA)

[Communicating the Benefits of Influenza Vaccine During COVID-19](https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3115.pdf) (Immunize Action Coalition)

**OTHER KIP UPDATES**

***Updated webpage***

During the next couple of weeks, I will be updating both KALHD’s external vaccine resources webpage and create a link-only webpage for additional resources including notes and links specifically for health departments. Each week, I will send a link to this webpage in the immunization update.

***White Paper***

KALHD staff is excited to announce that we will be creating a white paper about combating vaccine misinformation in rural communities. Staff is in research stages of this paper and is currently gathering information to provide recommendations. If you would like to be included in the research stage, please reach out to me ([Shelby.ostrom@kalhd.org](mailto:Shelby.ostrom@kalhd.org)).