January 31, 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)

***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**

***Just In: Moderna Receives Full FDA Approval for COVID-19 Vaccine***

Moderna completed the review last week to receive full FDA approval for their COVID-19 vaccine for adults over 18 years old. This approval will make it easier for schools and workplaces to require vaccination as it is no longer under EUA. Moderna will now be able to market the COVID-19 vaccine directly to customers. For more information, please view this article here: <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/01/31/moderna-fda-approval-covid-shot-00003673>

***REMINDER: Moderna Label Update***

Moderna has updated their label to include a 5.5 mL descriptor. This includes both doses for primary and a booster dose. As an additional reminder, please do not puncture the vial more than 20 times. You can find the new fact sheet here: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144637/download>

***“Stealth Omicron” Is Heating Up***

The World Health Organization (WHO) is continuing to monitor the BA.2 sub-variant of Omicron. The BA.2 variant is being called “stealth omicron” due to its increased ability to subvert vaccination and in some cases, testing. You can view a great breakdown of the sub-variant on the *Your Local Epidemiologist* [blog here](https://yourlocalepidemiologist.substack.com/p/state-of-affairs-jan-31).

***Resources for COVID-19 Vaccines & Fertility***

The Kaiser Family Foundation, in partnership with UNIDOS and Greater Than COVID has produced both English and Spanish videos discussing fertility, pregnancy, and safety of COVID-19 vaccines. [You can view and download the videos here](https://www.kff.org/other/press-release/new-faq-video-series-focuses-on-pregnancy-fertility-and-the-covid-19-vaccines/?utm_campaign=KFF-2022-The-Latest&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=202281046&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--Z-x4OeoiIS1Y0UnsrsUgCb1_Q5Mk3-ZsBXlvt9XuvadKws-ENZF_mde-rc8ki-uxhYzufwcqE_m4d01rqA5MuRZetDA&utm_content=202281046&utm_source=hs_email).

***At-Home Testing + Testing Misses Medicare Recipients***

At-home testing kit ordering is continuing, and you can order tests [www.covidtests.gov](http://www.covidtests.gov) or by phone at 1-800-232-0233. 4 testing kits are available per household can be shipped to all United States residents. In addition, there are free testing sites and insurance reimbursement is available as well. View Q&A information here: [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)

There have also been issues with Medicare recipients being missed on at-home testing reimbursement. You can view an article about the issue here: [Lack of Medicare coverage for at-home coronavirus tests sparks outcry - The Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/01/28/medicare-coronavirus-tests/?utm_campaign=wp_to_your_health&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl_tyh&wpmk=1&pwapi_token=eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJjb29raWVuYW1lIjoid3BfY3J0aWQiLCJpc3MiOiJDYXJ0YSIsImNvb2tpZXZhbHVlIjoiNjFjNjA3N2FhZGU0ZTIzYzE0NjY1Y2E2IiwidGFnIjoiNjFmNDVmMzI5ZDJmZGExNGQ3MGU4ZjdiIiwidXJsIjoiaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cud2FzaGluZ3RvbnBvc3QuY29tL2hlYWx0aC8yMDIyLzAxLzI4L21lZGljYXJlLWNvcm9uYXZpcnVzLXRlc3RzLz91dG1fY2FtcGFpZ249d3BfdG9feW91cl9oZWFsdGgmdXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPW5ld3NsZXR0ZXImd3Bpc3JjPW5sX3R5aCZ3cG1rPTEifQ.JLvN_j-gjhdKZYN2AU3DjFnmx_YlqP4jynV1dzriV0Q)

**KDHE/STATE UPDATES**

***Reminder: KDHE Will Discontinue Contact Tracing Beginning Tomorrow.***

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).

*Case investigation will continue for LHDs who selected that they would like KDHE to investigate COVID-19 cases. Prioritization will continue for those under 18 and above 65 years old until KDHE receives less than 10,000 cases per day.*

***UPDATED (1/31/22) Isolation Documents & Information for Close Contacts – documents available in Spanish***

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,](applewebdata://5A68B19C-6136-4773-BE33-F71A621F3C98/www.kshcc.com/statewide-ppe-cache-metro.html,%20)
* Northeast would navigate to [www.kshcc.com/statewide-ppe-cache-ne.html,](applewebdata://5A68B19C-6136-4773-BE33-F71A621F3C98/www.kshcc.com/statewide-ppe-cache-ne.html,%20)
* North Central would navigate to [www.kshcc.com/statewide-ppe-cache-nc.html](applewebdata://5A68B19C-6136-4773-BE33-F71A621F3C98/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.

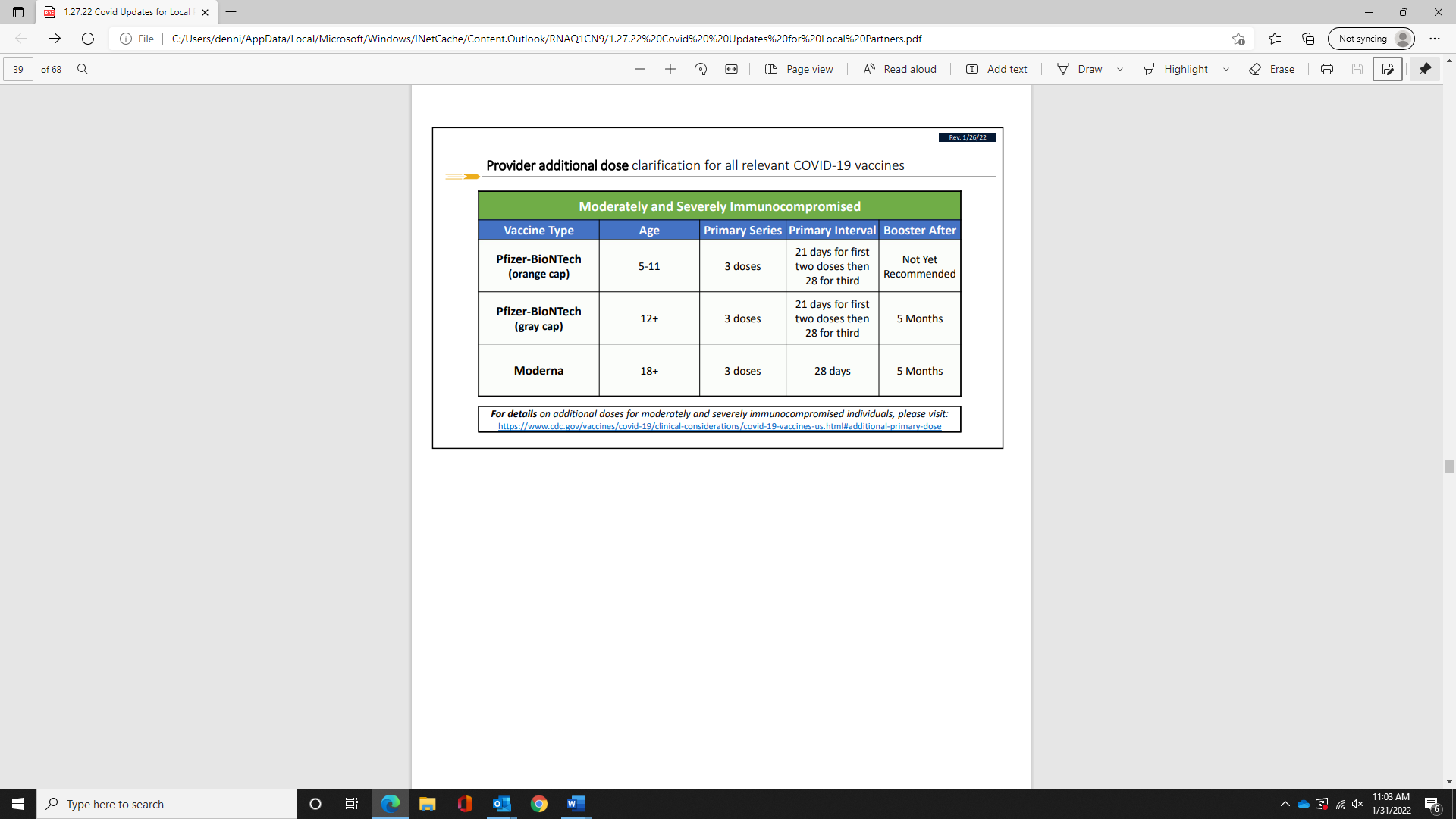
***KDHE Custom Marketing Materials***

KDHE is offering **free marketing and comms support for COVID-19 vaccine and testing efforts** through CML Collective (CMLC). CMLC is a Kansas-based, women- and minority-owned communications firm, and their services are available through the end of June 2022.

Through CMLC, groups can submit requests for physical (posters, flyers, etc.) or digital (social media posts, etc.) advertisements through a website form, selecting from a set of pre-approved layouts, color options, and messages for quick design and production. There is also an option to have materials printed and shipped directly for free.

For more information, examples of advertisements, to submit a request, or ask a question of CMLC, please visit [www.cmlcollective.com/kdhe](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cmlcollective.com%2Fkdhe&data=04%7C01%7Clisa.horn%40ks.gov%7C00612b75813649ba927208d9e06e7179%7Cdcae8101c92d480cbc43c6761ccccc5a%7C0%7C0%7C637787588817341882%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=aOpQ9wZ0zQW3gc6RFaizUI%2F0fY1B%2BnjmGEhU5092%2FaQ%3D&reserved=0).

***Updated Vaccine Recommendations***



**TRAINING & EVENTS**

Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Training Schedule

*The below schedule has been updated to reflect new dates in February. Please bookmark the Pfizer Medical Update webpage for a full schedule.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [Attendee link – Tuesday, February 01 – 3pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=eae497cd1eba47f9ef4b51f43b29d37ed) | yHaPhdmP332 |
| [Attendee link – Wednesday, February 02 - 12pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=ed52c9e8c8f81d38bdf4ca00daa5f096c) | j3Hrm53J8uG |
| [Attendee link – Thursday, February 03 - 12pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e93249e8d31c0914708ef198576919151) | XxUF4Cg8Ma6 |
| [Attendee link – Tuesday, February 8 - 3pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=ef959787ea2fee8da1156ee99a6a766fb) | VggmmC9dZ33 |
| [Attendee link – Wednesday, February 9 - 12pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=eefa177a7cf3b0cacc6b36deeacd2c0f9) | xmPQNq7JJ32 |
| [Attendee link – Thursday, February 10 - 12pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e3ffe0e9e07ab3b0e8faa865432c84ee9) | deMyFdVJ465 |
| [Attendee link – Tuesday, February 15 - 3pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e54daf479b13f2f54615c2e1d066da679) | ZteZvrQ3M25 |
| [Attendee link – Wednesday, February 16 - 12pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=edff235049c2ff47da107e53ed2c75b4e) | qhJNeDVr372 |
| [Attendee link -Thursday, February 17 - 12pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=ec7fda54cdc47a064dd1ad2c58f193b29) | niX7fg3xTR3 |
| [Attendee link – Tuesday, February 22 - 3pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e0709b0a36d1645c56fd6bdb675e81677) | MMeBHKrM326 |
| [Attendee link – Wednesday, February 23 - 12pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=ed270c18574d96756ccfec58dbb3e92a7) | NgBarUWa228 |
| [Attendee link – Thursday, February 24 - 12pm ET](https://pfizerevents.webex.com/pfizerevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=ebd245a3223bc340fb149d4af7dbca26f) | nMfj6BJEy32 |

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)

Webinar: The Latest on COVID-19 Testing: What Your Community Needs to Know

Thursday, February 3 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CST

[Join Here](https://healthleadsusa-org.zoom.us/w/87834127452?tk=-NK-VziDc4Mq5m8e9Ouu3sS_EBqz4M12NPlo0FA16mQ.DQMAAAAUc1JsXBZaNkpsVzFhRFF5eUpLNlRBa2V5eVFBAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA&uuid=WN_Sw_eDG7vSJOwG2u1_dSu9w)

***New Resources***

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

[Updated Mask Guidance & Graphics (CDC)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/masks.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fdiy-cloth-face-coverings.html%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

[COVID-19 Community Corps – Booster Shot Resources](https://wecandothis.hhs.gov/resource/all-vaccinated-adults-12-are-eligible-for-a-booster-shot)

**VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASE(S) OF THE WEEK**

This week, I will be talking about Measles and for the next few weeks we will discuss the “infamous” MMR – a combo vaccine that prevents measles, mumps, and rubella.

***What is it?***

As one scientist called it, measles was “as inevitable as death and taxes”.

Measles is a viral disease that produces rashes and inflammation all over the body. Symptoms typically begin 7 to 14 days after initial infection and include a high fever (typically over 104), cough, and watery eyes. Measles is very serious, with many children younger than 5 and adults over 20 experiencing complications such as encephalitis. 1 in 5 individuals who get the disease are hospitalized due to complications. Measles is highly infectious, with 1 person able to infect 18+ people.

***History of Measles***

Measles and Smallpox were discovered around the same time in the early 11th century when the measles virus diverged from the rinderpest virus in cattle. Because of the high infection rate, the disease spread quickly through population centers. There are accounts of measles in the United States and Americas as early as the 1600s.

By the 1900s and until the 20th century, there were hundreds of thousands of cases and deaths worldwide. Deaths began to decline after treatment became available, however, cases continued until vaccine development in 1963. Until the vaccine, it was expected that every child would get measles at least once before they turned 15 years old.

***Vaccine Development & MMR***

The first measles vaccine was licensed in the United States in 1963 after John Enders used the Edmonston-B strain of the measles virus to turn it into a vaccine. In 1968, an even weaker form of the virus was used in a new vaccine that is available throughout the world.

In 1971, Maruice Hilleman developed what we know as the MMR vaccine, which combined the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine together to encourage less trips to the doctor’s office. A booster dose was recommended in 1989. In addition, a MMRV vaccination is currently licensed, which also includes the Chickenpox vaccination. The current vaccine is 97% effective at preventing measles.

***Elimination***

In 1978, The CDC determined that measles should be fully eliminated from the United States and was soon followed by the Pan American Health Organization. The disease was eliminated from the continent by 2015 through vaccines. However, elimination has now been reversed due to outbreaks.

***The Andrew Wakefield Study & Rise of the Anti-Vaccine Movement***

In 1998, then Dr. Wakefield published a fraudulent study about 12 children he believed experienced autism-like symptoms after the administration of the MMR vaccine. This study supported a competing vaccine and in 2010, the study was deemed dishonest and fraudulent, and Wakefield lost his medical license. However, the damage had already been done.

Because of this study, many organizations such as the Children’s Health Defense (founded by RFK Jr.) and sub-organizations in Kansas have become active and encourage vaccines to be skipped.

What We Can Learn

Not surprisingly, we can learn that diseases are infectious and the easiest way to prevent disease is to vaccinate. In addition, [the CDC released their own study that disproves vaccines can cause Autism](https://web.archive.org/web/20081008040738/http:/www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/mmr_autism_factsheet.htm). Measles is a deadly disease for many and by vaccinating, we can increase herd immunity.