February 28, 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 unless otherwise noted. If you have suggestions for the update, please reach out to Shelby Ostrom at [shelby.ostrom@kalhd.org](mailto:shelby.ostrom@kalhd.org).

***Reminder:*** ***2022 KALHD Dues Due March 31***

If you have not yet renewed your KALHD membership, please consider doing so by March 31. For questions, please contact Dennis Kriesel at [dennis.kreisel@kalhd.org](mailto:dennis.kreisel@kalhd.org)

**PANDEMIC UPDATES**

***Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance***

On the KDHE partner call last Thursday, updated COVID-19 vaccine guidance was released for both providers and health departments. This includes information on immunocompromised patients and children. [You can view the PowerPoint slides on KALHD’s website here](https://www.kalhd.org/resources/vaccination-resources/?preview_id=6736&preview_nonce=d5f6b6ca75&preview=true) or on the immunizations listserv.

***Changes to Mask Guidance & Updated COVID-19 Community Level Tool***

While not directly related to vaccines, [the CDC has updated its mask guidelines on February 25, 2022.](https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/new-us-covid-guidelines-allow-most-americans-go-mask-free-indoors-2022-02-25/) The new guidance no longer requires masks indoors and at some schools, allowing local jurisdictions to determine mask guidelines. On a national level, COVID-19 cases continue to decrease into endemic levels. The CDC also updated their COVID-19 Community Level tool, which helps to determine risk levels by county. [You can view it here.](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html)

**IMPORTANT VACCINE UPDATES**

***2022-2023 Adult & Children Vaccine Recommendations Released***

Last week, the ACIP released updated immunization schedules for both children and adults for 2022-2023. The CDC added the Dengue and Prevnar 20 vaccines to the schedule. The next CDC immunizations webinar this week will cover the updates.

2022 Children’s & Adults Immunization Schedule: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/schedule-changes.html>

Immunization Schedules: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>

Downloadable Children Immunization Schedule: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf>

Downloadable Adult Immunization Schedule: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/adult/adult-combined-schedule.pdf>

**CDC Current Issues in Immunization Webinar**

**Updates to the 2022 Child/Adolescent/Adult Immunization Calendars**

**March 2, 2022**

[**View more information**](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/ciiw/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fvaccines%2Fed%2Fciinc%2Findex.html#events)

**KDHE, LOCAL & STATE UPDATES**

***Governor’s Public Health Conference***

The Governor’s Public Health Conference registration page is now open. As a reminder, the conference will take place from March 29-31, 2022, in Manhattan, KS. You can view the conference agenda and [register for the event here.](https://www.wichita.edu/about/conferences/publichealth.php)

***Vaccine Ordering and Requesting Testing or Vaccine Clinics***

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. If you need assistance, please reach out to me or [kdhe.vaccine@ks.gov](mailto:kdhe.vaccine@ks.gov).

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).

***Reminder: KDHE Custom Marketing Materials end June 2022***

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.**

**EVENTS, RESOURCES & TRAINING**

***KALHD Vaccine Resource Page Updated***

KALHD staff has updated the [external vaccine resource page](https://www.kalhd.org/resources/vaccination-resources/?preview_id=6736&preview_nonce=d5f6b6ca75&preview=true) to include both pandemic and vaccine information for local health departments. In addition, KALHD will be continuing to update our internal page for members to be released March 14, 2022. The internal webpage will include backlogs of all immunization newsletters, vaccine preventable disease catalog, and other resources. More to come soon.

***White Paper to Release on March 14***

KALHD will be releasing the white paper, *Building Vaccine Confidence in Kansas* for local health departments and the public on March 14, 2022. This paper will introduce 3 interventions for increasing vaccine confidence in Kansas. In addition, KALHD will be releasing a resource document that will accompany the white paper with templates and resources that will be updated yearly. More information to be shared on the listserv soon.

***Pfizer Updated Training Schedule***

Pfizer has updated their training webinar schedule for March. As a reminder, these meetings take place on the afternoons of Tuesday/Thursday and at Noon on Wednesdays. These times are all in CST. [For the full schedule and to register, please visit this page.](https://www.pfizermedicalinformation.com/en-us/medical-updates)

***Mark Your Calendars for These Upcoming Kansas Conferences:***

*Governor’s Public Health Conference*

*March 29-31, 2022*

*Manhattan, KS at the Hilton Garden Inn*

*KALHD Mid-Year Meeting & Data Day*

*June 27-29, 2022*

*Salina, KS*

***Upcoming Events & Trainings***

Missouri Immunization Coalition 2022 Webinar Series

*5 virtual sessions on various immunization topics including education, advocacy, and population vaccines. CEUs are available for nurses and doctors through the University of Missouri.*

[Register for Upcoming Sessions Here](https://missouri.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8dZnOEShus2hnYq)

Kansas Health Institute 2022 Health Policy Series

A Shot at COVID-19 Vaccine Policy

Tuesday, March 1

12 – 1 p.m. CST

[Register here](https://app.greenrope.com/publicCalendar2.pl?Cal=1a3e1982af09ffef30bd4546c455271b&Event=75)

#VaxAmbassador Training: Best Practices for Online Community Outreach

Thursday, March 3

6-7 p.m. CST

[Register Here](https://www.mobilize.us/madetosave/event/426143/)

HPV Awareness Day

Friday, March 4, 2022

Approving COVID-19 Vaccines for Children: When Do We Know Enough?

March 16

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST

[Register Here](https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-update/vaccine-webinar-series)

***New Resources Available***

Interactive COVID-19 Vaccine Conversation Module for Healthcare Professionals

[Click here](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/conversations-module.html)

ACIP Recommendations for Childhood Vaccines, updated to reflect 2022 additions.

[View landing pages here](https://www.immunize.org/acip/)

**VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASE OF THE WEEK**

This week we will be discussing meningitis. Meningitis is a disease that is very deadly, but many people are not vaccinated. Kansas ranks in the lower half of meningitis vaccination. In 2017, only 75% of the state’s teens were vaccinated.

***What is It?***

Meningitis is a viral or bacterial disease that causes swelling of the brain and spinal cord. Excess fluid and “meninges” (membranes) build up in both areas, causing inflammation that can lead to symptoms like headache, fever, and a stiff neck. The most common type of meningitis comes from a viral infection; however, bacterial and fungal infections also happen. Bacterial infections are typically caused by untreated sinus or ear infections. Viral meningitis is typically mild; however, it can come from HIV, mumps, or West Nile virus. Viral meningitis is typically spread through kissing, sharing drinks, and sneezing. More severe symptoms of the infection can cause sepsis, which is a blood infection.



***History & Treatment***

This first meningitis outbreak happened in 1805 in Geneva. With the epidemic spreading to other continents like Africa by 1840. In 1887, Austrian bacteriologist Anton Vaykselbaum determined that meningitis came from a bacterial infection. By the 19th century, more symptoms to meningitis were discovered, these signs were called Kernig’s and Brudzinski signs, respectively. As of today, 70% of meningitis cases in the United State occur in children under 5 and those over 60 years old. About 4,000 people get bacterial meningitis in the United States.

Treatment for both viral and bacterial meningitis include antibiotics and oxygen therapy.

Even with rapid treatment, 10 to 15 out of 100 people will die. 1 in 5 people who survive will lose function in their limbs or have their limbs amputated.

***Vaccination***

There are five meningitis vaccinations available for teens and young adults in the United States that cover both bacterial meningitis and viral meningitis. Three vaccines protect from ACWY serogroups, and two vaccines protect from B. All these vaccines are approved for those 11 years and older. Because of the vaccines, rates of meningitis have decreased since the 1990s. However, uptick for these vaccines has been difficult to manage, particularly with vaccine hesitant communities and continues to be a topic of contention.

***2019 Kansas Legislature Addition that Caused Controversy***

Because Kansas ranked low in meningitis vaccine acceptance, [then KDHE Secretary Lee Norman added both the MenACWY and MenB vaccines to the adolescent schedule in 2019.](https://www.kshb.com/news/local-news/kdhe-now-requires-meningitis-hepatitis-a-vaccines-for-school-age-children) However, the Kansas Anti-Vaccine group pushed back on this addition. They claimed that this vaccine should not be a requirement and were angry that the vaccine was added after the 2019 legislative session. Many contribute this “controversy” to the reason that the legislature is continuing to fight for control of vaccines. As of 2022, both MenACWY and MenB are still on the schedule and required for all Kansas college students.

***Slow and Steady Wins the Race***

As mentioned above, Kansas still ranks low in meningitis vaccination acceptance. Various organizations in Kansas such as KDHE and Immunize Kansas Coalition have pledged to increase meningitis vaccination in Kansas through public information campaigns and resources. For more information or to get involved, you can check out the resources below.

[Immunize Kansas Coalition Meningitis Landing Page](https://www.immunizekansascoalition.org/meningitis-toolkit.asp)

[National Meningitis Association](https://nmaus.org/meningococcal-disease/#resources)

[National Foundation for Infectious Diseases – Meningitis](https://www.nfid.org/toolkits/meningococcal-disease-college-toolkit/)

***What We Can Learn***

There is a lot we can learn from meningitis and meningitis vaccination. Lifelong Kansas resident Andy Marso contracted bacterial meningitis when he was a 22-year-old student at the University of Kansas in 2004. Andy was treated quickly, but he had blood poisoning from the infection that causes him to lose various limbs and functions in his legs. He had not been vaccinated, since KU did not require meningitis vaccinations to live in the dorms. After 2004 and Marso’s advocacy, all public universities in Kansas require meningitis vaccination for students. [You can read more about Andy’s story here.](https://www.khi.org/news/article/kansas-reporter-tells-tale-behind-life-and-death-f)

Sources & Further Reading:

<https://www.nfid.org/toolkits/meningococcal-disease-college-toolkit/>

<https://www.immunizekansascoalition.org/meningitis-toolkit.asp>

<https://nmaus.org/meningococcal-disease/#resources>

<https://www.immunizekansascoalition.org/documents/menresources/Meningococcal%20Provider%20Vaccine%20Document%2010.28.20.pdf>

<https://www.khi.org/news/article/kansas-reporter-tells-tale-behind-life-and-death-f>

<https://nmaus.org/meningococcal-disease/#resources\>

<https://www.immunizekansascoalition.org/documents/menresources/What%20is%20Meningococcal%20Disease%2010.27.20.pdf>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/meningitis/symptoms-causes/syc-20350508>

<https://apnews.com/article/d8aa5858a541444e890f9b7457e851cb>

<https://meningitisbymumford.weebly.com/prevention--treatment.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mening/public/index.html>

<https://dmn-dallas-news-prod.cdn.arcpublishing.com/resizer/_d6CXPINM8FHZDNXNecnhSgkoh8=/1660x934/smart/filters:no_upscale()/arc-anglerfish-arc2-prod-dmn.s3.amazonaws.com/public/DVRV4Z454B6VWX637J2WMWIDWU.jpg>