



COVID-19 Vaccines in Wyandotte County

Unified Government Public Health Department role; vaccine overview

December 29, 2020

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Mission:

To ensure the timely and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines within Wyandotte County in order to curb spread of the virus and reduce the burden of death and disease on our community.

Goals:

- **Align** with vaccine distribution guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). This also serves to help us align with neighboring counties and reduce confusion around the vaccine rollout process.
 - Guidance on phases of vaccine distribution is based on both who is at highest risk of exposure to COVID-19 and who is at highest risk of death from COVID-19
- **Adapt** as we receive new information and guidance.
 - Respond to any new guidance from KDHE or CDC
 - Adjust vaccine distribution phases depending on how many vaccines are available at any given time
- **Inform** community members about the vaccine process and what it means for them and their loved ones. Ensure that residents and workers in our county know:
 - How the vaccination process works
 - When and where they will have the opportunity to be vaccinated
 - Information on the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine
- **Collaborate** with state and local agencies and community partners to make the vaccine rollout as smooth as possible and to help ensure that the vaccine



distribution process will appropriately serve members of our community most impacted by COVID-19

- **Promote equity**, with specific focus on serving people most impacted by COVID-19, such as African American and Hispanic/Latinx residents
 - Within the broader parameters provided by the CDC and KDHE, do everything we can to promote equity in our local vaccine distribution

Organizations that are providing vaccines in Wyandotte County:

- Hospitals are responsible for vaccination of the staff working in their facilities
- Pharmacies like CVS and Walgreens will be working with:
 - Long-term care facilities in initial phase
 - General public in later phases
- Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD) is preparing to provide vaccines at the 7836 State Ave (Kmart) site, and we are working on setting up two additional sites in the eastern and western parts of the county. The UGPHD will provide vaccines for:
 - UGPHD staff
 - Other health care associated workers who are not part of a hospital system
 - In later phases, essential workers, the elderly and the general public

First phase of vaccines, beginning December 2020:

- This is sometimes referred to as Phase 1A
- Limited supply available for health care associated workers (HCAWs)
- Pfizer vaccines have already arrived at area hospitals to start vaccinating their staff
- Moderna vaccines arrived the week of December 20th for local health department staff in Wyandotte County and across Kansas and for Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Vaccines for staff and residents of long-term care facilities will take place in the next few weeks, in partnership with pharmacies
- The Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD) will work with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and other medical, dental, and mental health care providers to vaccinate additional health care associated workers

Next phase of vaccines:

- Tentatively slated to begin in late January, pending vaccine supplies
- Vaccines may be provided for:
 - Essential workers
 - Older adults



- People with certain preexisting conditions
- More details on the eligibility criteria for this phase and future phases will be released throughout the vaccine distribution process. The specific eligibility and timeline will depend on the amount of vaccine supplies available.

See graphic below from KDHE on the anticipated availability of vaccines to different groups of people in the coming months:

Expected Vaccine Availability Status to Population Group

Population Group	Very Limited Availability (Winter)	Limited Availability (Late Winter)	Increased Availability (Spring)	Generally Available (Summer)
Health Care Personnel				
Long Term Care Facility Staff				
Long Term Care Residents				
EMS/Frontline Public Health Workers				
First Responders				
Includes some public facing workers in essential and critical infrastructure				
Teachers, school staff, child-care workers				
Individuals at high risk for adverse health consequences				
All other adults				
Children				

Information and groups may be updated based upon federal guidance.



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The basics on the vaccines:

- Pfizer vaccines have already received an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA. Distribution has already begun to facilities like hospitals.
- Moderna vaccines will be reviewed by the FDA on December 17th to determine if they will also receive an EUA. If the EUA goes through, vaccines will be ready to ship almost immediately.
- Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have gone through clinical trials with tens of thousands of people, with a range of ages (younger adults and older adults), races, and ethnicities. Both vaccines have been shown to be 94-95% effective with 2 doses.
- You need to get **2 doses** of the vaccine, about **3-4 weeks apart**
 - The UGPHD will send reminders to people who they vaccinate about when they need to come back for a second dose
- These vaccines do not contain any of the virus in them, so it is impossible for the vaccine to give you COVID-19
- The materials in the vaccine never reach the nucleus of the cell, so cannot alter your DNA.
- Side effects associated with the first dose of vaccine are very mild for the vast majority of people, such as pain at the injection site
- After the second dose, around 10-15% of people have cold- or flu-like symptoms that last for about a day. These are not harmful. They are part of the body's immune system response.
- It takes time for your body to fully build up immunity after the vaccine. **Your vaccine is not fully effective until 2-3 weeks after your second dose.**
- Even after you have been vaccinated, **you still need to wear a mask and practice social distancing to protect those around you.** We know that the vaccine protects the person who gets vaccinated. We are awaiting more data to see if they are still able to spread the virus to other people or not.

Frequently Asked Questions:



Question: How will we determine eligibility for “essential workers” and “people with preexisting conditions”?

Answer: The UGPHD will follow guidance from CDC and KDHE. We will also make additional determinations locally that balance guidance CDC/KDHE guidance with local needs, including needs of communities most impacted by COVID-19, like African American and Hispanic/Latinx residents.

Question: Where will the vaccine sites be located in Wyandotte County?

Answer: There will be multiple vaccine sites available in the county, including:

- UGPHD vaccine locations:
 - 7836 State Ave, Kansas City, KS (former Kmart building)
 - Two additional locations TBD
- CVS and Walgreens locations

Question: How many vaccines are we receiving in the first phase?

Answer: Sites that will provide vaccinations in Kansas had to sign up through KDHE. Based on available vaccine supplies and the population size in communities across the state, KDHE determines how many vaccines will go to each site that signed up. During the first phase:

- Hospitals have received enough to vaccinate their frontline staff
- The UGPHD is expected to receive 800 vaccines the week of December 21, 2020. Vaccines will be distributed first to UGPHD staff and EMS, then to additional health care associated workers as supplies allow.
- Additional vaccines have been allocated for residents and staff of long-term care facilities in Wyandotte County, which will be administered by pharmacies.

Question: Is it safe? How can we trust a vaccine that is so new?

Answer: Feeling nervous about any relatively new vaccine, medication, or treatment is completely understandable. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- During the clinical trials, tens of thousands of people from multiple races and ethnicities got the vaccine
- Those trials showed that the vaccines are 94-95% effective with 2 doses
- During the trials, most people had no side effects or minimal side effects, like pain at the injection site; for people who did have side



effects like a low-grade fever, those effects tended to go away in a day or two

- The UGPHD and its partner organizations aim to provide the *opportunity* to get vaccinated to everyone in Wyandotte County over the course of the vaccine distribution phases. The UGPHD strongly encourages people to get the vaccine to protect themselves from COVID-19, but as a local health department, we cannot and will not require residents to get the vaccine.

Question: There have been news stories about serious allergic reactions to the Pfizer vaccine. Should people with allergies avoid getting vaccinated?

Answer: People who have had *serious* allergic reactions (requiring an epi pen) do not need to avoid the vaccine. Serious reactions to the COVID vaccines are very rare, and with appropriate treatment, all of those who had serious reactions recovered well. Additionally, there is no data at this time to indicate that milder allergies are an issue with the vaccine. If you have allergies and aren't sure what this means for you, consult your healthcare provider for more guidance.

Question: We know that COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted African Americans and Hispanic/Latinx residents. How will this impact vaccine distribution?

Answer: The UGPHD and partner organizations that serve Wyandotte County are working to find ways to make vaccine distribution equitable. Within the overarching guidance provided by CDC and KDHE, we will do as much as we can to customize our local vaccine distribution strategies to reduce barriers and increase accessibility to vaccines. We will continue to work with partners on accessibility and resources for African American and Hispanic/Latinx residents. We also aim to expand our focus on reaching additional communities that have been disproportionately impacted by this pandemic, like Native Americans, refugee communities, and older adults.

We also aim to provide clear information on how the vaccine process works, the efficacy and safety of the vaccine, and when and where our residents can access the vaccine. It will be vital to engage community partner organizations and groups to help get this information out across the county.