



News Release

Unified Government of Wyandotte County

701 N. 7th Street, Room 620
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2021

More Than 50% of People Living in Wyandotte County Have Gotten a COVID-19 Vaccination

The Unified Government Public Health Department Reports Improved COVID-19 Numbers and Loosens Gathering Guidance

Today, the Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD) announced a new COVID-19 milestone for Wyandotte County. As of this week, more than 50% of people living in Wyandotte County have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, according to data from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

“Reaching 50% of people vaccinated in Wyandotte County is an important milestone for our community,” said Juliann Van Liew, Director of the UGPHD. “Early in the pandemic, our vaccination numbers lagged sorely behind other parts of the state and the metro. But I’m happy to say we’ve made immense progress this year in bringing those numbers up. We still have work to do to get closer to herd immunity, but with the ongoing dedication of our amazing health department team, partner agencies, and community members, we hope to see COVID risk continue to go down in our county.”

Other COVID-19 numbers have improved after a surge in COVID-19 cases this summer and early fall:

- 29 new COVID-19 cases per day (7-day rolling average, down from more than 100 cases per day in August)
- 18% positivity of COVID-19 tests (7-day rolling average, down from nearly 40% in August)

Gathering Guidance Loosened for Wyandotte County

The UGPHD also announced today that it has loosened its guidance on social gatherings. The UGPHD continues to encourage caution when gathering with people outside of one’s household.

“The COVID situation in Wyandotte County has improved significantly in the past couple of months, with a combination of masking, vaccination, and people taking other COVID precautions,” said Dr. Allen Greiner, Chief Health Officer with the UGPHD. “Cases are down, and we are starting to see hospitalizations go down as well in the metro. We can’t throw caution to the wind just yet – we don’t want to see our hospitals get overwhelmed again, especially going into the holidays this winter. But we are at a point now where we can loosen up a bit when it

comes to social gatherings. Just remember that gatherings are safest when everyone involved is vaccinated and masked, especially when indoors. Outdoor gatherings are a safer option, weather permitting.”

On August 25, the UGPHD issued guidance on social gatherings in light of the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19, including urging individuals to significantly limit the number of people in gatherings. This more cautious guidance has been withdrawn in light of the recent reduction in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

When gathering with people who do not live in your household, the UGPHD encourages you to keep the following in mind:

- Gatherings are safest when everyone present is fully vaccinated.
- Outdoor gatherings are safer than indoor gatherings, as COVID spreads more easily indoors.
- Masks can make gatherings safer, especially indoor gatherings. This is particularly important if some people present are not vaccinated. Please note that Kansas City, KS remains under a mask mandate for **public indoor** spaces.

If a business, organization, or group is planning a large event and would like guidance from the UGPHD on COVID-19 safety for the event, they can email epidemiology@wycokck.org or call 913-573-6712 for assistance.

Free Vaccinations and Testing

The UGPHD continues to offer free COVID-19 vaccines for people who live in Wyandotte County age 12 and older, at the former Kmart site at 7836 State Avenue. Hours for COVID-19 vaccinations and testing are as follows **(NOTE: All of these services are free of charge!)**:

- COVID Vaccines: Wednesday – Friday 10 am – 6 pm
- COVID Testing: Monday – Friday 9 am – 3 pm

For more information on where to get vaccinated in Wyandotte County, visit WycoVaccines.org or call 3-1-1. To learn more about upcoming UGPHD mobile vaccination events visit their Facebook page at facebook.com/UGHealthDept

To search for additional vaccine providers by location and type of vaccine, go to vaccines.gov.

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Community Information and Questions:

Vaccine information: Go to WycoVaccines.org or call 3-1-1 (913-573-5311)
Other COVID-19 updates: Go to wycokck.org/COVID-19

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