



# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD) Expands Walk-In Eligibility *Now High-Contact Critical Workers are Also Able to Get Vaccinations Without Appointments; Seniors 65 and Older Still Eligible for Walk-Ins*

The Unified Government's Public Health Department (UGPHD) announced today that it is expanding the availability of walk-in COVID-19 vaccinations in Wyandotte County to include critical workers in Phase 2 of the Kansas vaccine plan. This follows walk-in eligibility opening to seniors 65 and older as of last Thursday, March 11, 2021.

On Monday, Governor Kelly announced that Kansas would be moving into Phases 3 and 4 beginning March 22, 2021. The UGPHD strongly encourages people who live in Wyandotte County who are eligible as part of Phase 1 and 2 to get vaccinated this week before Kansas moves into Phase 3 and 4.

Now the following groups of people in Phases 1 and 2 can walk into any of the UGPHD's three vaccination facilities to get their free vaccination, without an appointment:

- Wyandotte County seniors ages 65 and over
- High-contact critical workers\* who live in Wyandotte County, which includes people working in the following industries in Phase 2 of the Kansas vaccine plan:
  - Grocery store, food services and food processing workers (including meat processing/packing plant workers)
  - Childcare providers, K-12 and childcare workers, including teachers, custodians, drivers and other staff, plus higher education educators and workers
  - Transportation workers
  - Those who work in retail sales outlets
  - Warehouse workers
  - Agricultural workers
  - Workers at businesses that create materials for the COVID-19 response (for example, businesses that manufacture personal protective equipment)
  - U.S. Postal Service workers
  - Department of Motor Vehicles workers
  - Large scale aviation manufacturing plants
  - Firefighters, police officers, first responders, corrections officers

- Workers living Wyandotte County who were eligible in Phase 1 and have not yet been vaccinated, including:
  - Healthcare-associated workers
  - Workers critical to pandemic response continuity

*\*Critical workers are those necessary to maintain systems, assets and activities that are vital to the state (or national) security, the economy or public health as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.*

“This is a big step forward in our COVID-19 vaccine roll out in Wyandotte County,” said Juliann Van Liew, Director of the UGPHD. “We now have three vaccination facilities available to the public, and we’re pleased to be able to expand the availability of walk-in vaccinations not only to seniors 65 and over,, but now to high-contact critical workers as well. Our goal is to continue to expand vaccine availability as equitably as possible throughout Wyandotte County, so that in time anyone who wants COVID-19 vaccine will be able to get it.”

People who are eligible under Phases 1 and 2 who walk-in for a vaccination **do not** have to fill out the online Vaccine Interest Form. Instead, they should bring the following items with them:

- Seniors should bring:
  - Proof of age, such as an ID or birth certificate, or similar
  - Proof that they live in Wyandotte County, such as a piece of mail addressed to them
- Critical workers should bring:
  - Proof of eligible employment, such as a work badge, pay stub, W-2, or similar
  - Proof that they live in Wyandotte County, such as a piece of mail addressed to them

The Unified Government Public Health Department realizes that not everyone has a government-issued ID, and they are working on ways to remove this barrier in future stages of the vaccine rollout, to make vaccines more accessible.

Vaccines are now available at all three UGPHD mass vaccinations sites. Eligible Wyandotte County residents as described above can choose the site most convenient for them:

<b>West Location</b>	<b>Central Location</b>	<b>East Location</b>
Former Best Buy 10500 Parallel Parkway Kansas City, KS 66109	Former Kmart 7836 State Avenue Kansas City, KS 66112	The Kansas National Guard Armory 100 South 20 <sup>th</sup> Street Kansas City, KS 66102

Walk-ins are welcomed at all three sites between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If you are not eligible to walk in, but you want to be vaccinated, fill out the Vaccine Interest form online or by telephone. Visit [WycoVaccines.org](http://WycoVaccines.org) or call 3-1-1 for assistance in filling out the form.

### **Tips for Getting Your Vaccine**

When it’s time for you to get your COVID-19 vaccine, keep these tips in mind:

- Please eat something (even a snack) before getting your vaccination.
- Be prepared to wait in the Recovery area for 15-30 minutes after your vaccination

- Wear a short-sleeved shirt so you can be vaccinated more easily (if it's chilly out, wear a sweater or jacket over your short-sleeved shirt).

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**Community Information and Questions:**

Vaccine information: Go to [WycoVaccines.org](http://WycoVaccines.org) or call 3-1-1 (913-573-5311)

Other COVID-19 updates: Go to [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19)

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