

STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)

SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Session, Thursday, March 11, 2021, with ten members present online and in the 5th floor conference room. Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District (arrived at 5:25 p.m.); Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Walters, Commissioner Seventh District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District; and Alvey, Mayor/CEO presiding. McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Bridgette Cobbins, Interim Assistant County Administrator; Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator; Brett Deichler, Interim Unified Government Clerk; Angela Lawson, Deputy Chief Counsel; Juliann VanLiew, Director of the Health Department; Dr. Allen Greiner, Local Health Officer; Dr. Erin Corriveau, KU Medical Center/Deputy Health Officer; and Elizabeth Groenweghe, Chief Epidemiologist.

MAYOR ALVEY said before I call the meeting to order, I want to announce that due to COVID-19, individuals are attending remotely and on-site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, please make sure that you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so that the public participating knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants in his current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General.

MAYOR ALVEY called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Walters, Philbrook, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Alvey.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SESSION of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be held Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. by way of Zoom for a COVID

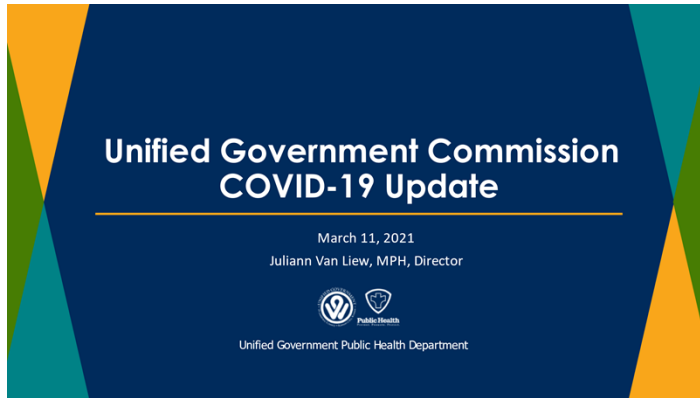
Update. Immediately following will be an Executive Session regarding labor in the 5th floor conference room.

Due to COVID-19 the public will be able to observe or listen to the meeting live on YouTube or UGTV or through Zoom.

CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in such notice, and consent and agree that we, the governing body, shall meet at the time and place therein specified and for the purpose therein stated.

Mayor Alvey said tonight we have a COVID-19 Vaccination update. I'll turn it over to Mr. Bach to introduce staff.

Doug Bach, County Administrator, said tonight we want to go through and give you an update of where we are with COVID-19 and our vaccination efforts. I will state, in starting this, there is much out there about the American Rescue Fund. This is not an update about that. We are still just getting the bill and starting to sift through the 500-600 pages worth of information that's in that bill to figure out just how that will work, how it will apply. We do know we're going to get a nice allocation that comes back to us that we can spend over, it looks like, a couple years to come into it. There are a lot of restrictions to it so we're getting a full understanding of that, so tonight is not about that. We are here to hear from our Health Department team on one of our updates as to where we are. With that, I'm going to turn this over to Juliann VanLiew and the Health Department team.



Juliann VanLiew, Director of the Health Department, said tonight with me I have Dr. Allen Greiner and Dr. Erin Corriveau, our Health Officers, as well as Elizabeth Groenweghe, our Chief Epidemiologist. We are going to go ahead and swing to Dr. Greiner for our situational update.

AGENDA

- Situational Update
- Health Orders and Guidance Update
- Testing Update
- Vaccine Update
 - Strategy
 - Numbers
 - Prioritization



We are going to go ahead and swing to Dr. Greiner for our situational update.



Case Numbers

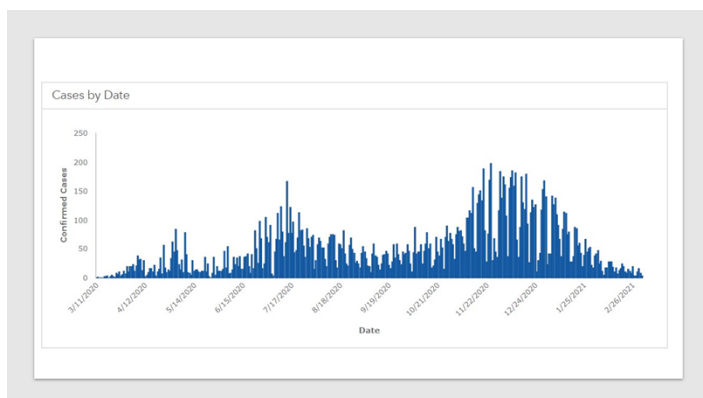
- One year ago today (March 11, 2020) first Wyandotte County COVID case and death
- Since then...
 - 17,800 confirmed cases and 1,500 probable cases
 - 278 Wyandotte County resident deaths
 - Approximately 11% of Wyandotte County residents have tested positive for COVID in the last year
- 7 Day rolling averages continue to trend down
 - ~13 cases/day
 - ~10% positivity



Dr. Allen Greiner, Local Health Officer, said we've got what I think is good news. We are seeing light at the end of the tunnel. We're going to tell you a story about that. We're all nervous that there could still be bumps and problems and we know our community is still vulnerable. As many of you know, things are really looking good. It's been a year. Maybe many of you will remember this day, a year ago, and it's been dramatic, 365 days in a roll now, ever since then. We had, you know, over 11% of the county test positive so almost 18,000 confirmed cases and probably another 1,500 that are probable cases. Of course, there has probably been a lot more that we didn't get tested out there.

I think one of the things we can be really proud of is the death number stalled. As things began to improve in terms of therapeutics as well as I think overall change in people's behavior, we really slowed that down in the last five to six months, so we've only had 278 deaths. Like I said, 11% positive approximately.

The rolling daily average is really the thing that is encouraging. We're down to 13 cases a day on a 7-day rolling average which is a number that I don't think we've seen in 10 months or so. We've gotten the positivity rate—it's dipped below 10, but just being down to 10 is really comforting and I think an important milestone to us because we were in the 20s and 30s, as you all know for months and months and months in terms of our test positivity rate. We know we have to push that down further.



The state positivity rate is down to about 3 right now, which is really great and I would like to see us get there in the coming weeks as well.

This just shows you the trajectory of the pandemic over the last year and you really get a sense of the spikes we saw and how much improvement we've seen here recently. There are people that worry a little bit about a fourth wave or a fourth spike or even a plateau that causes problems but we're going to keep fighting to push vaccine.

I think that's it for me. I'm going to turn it over to Dr. Corriveau. She's going to talk about new orders and then we will get into vaccines and other things.

Health Order Modifications

- Schools
 - Masks required
 - Allow 3 feet social distancing, elementary "pods", 4 classroom changes for middle/high schoolers
- Sports
 - Masks required if players do not test
 - Option to play/practice without mask if testing weekly and opposing team tests within 72 hours of play
- Band/Choir
 - Masks (instruments and/or people) required
 - Over 6 feet social distancing required
 - Outdoors preferred

Dr. Erin Corriveau, KU Medical Center/Deputy Health Officer, said I just want to discuss a couple changes in the health orders that have come out. Actually, today, we released a new school order. Our goal is to get more and more kids back into the classrooms so we've continued to work very hard with our superintendents and school leaderships as well as school nurses to make these changes.

We're still going to be requiring masks at all times during school. We are going to allow Middle and High Schoolers; however, in the classroom with just 3-feet of social distancing, so that is a change from the 6-feet that we have laid out in orders prior to this.

Our elementary students are allowed to sit together at the same table. That is including 4 or 5 kids at the same table. We're calling that pods and they're remaining in the same classroom, but for our Middle and High Schoolers we're allowing them to make four different class changes during the day and I think our school leadership is pretty happy with that.

In terms of sports play, not too long ago we released a fairly new sports order that gave those schools and organizations options in terms of mask wearing during sports play. One option would be to wear masks during practice and play. If the players are not regularly testing for COVID-19, we recommend that as best practice.

However, an option that we've given to schools is to test players on a weekly basis and then within 72 hours of playing a team from outside of the county. If we adhere to those testing regulations, we're allowing people to take—students and players to take masks off just during practice and play. We expect them to be masked during sidelines and in the locker rooms and such.

Band and choir we think poses a larger risk. Virus spreads and aerosol ice particles and so we're asking that masking that place even over the instruments if that is possible and over the folks who are singing as well. We think that is still important as well as keeping an extra measure of distance so we're keeping with our 6-feet of social distance there, but prior to this, we weren't recommending any band or choir happen so I think that's sort of a new modification in our orders.

Health Orders in place

- Masks
 - No plans to relax mask orders
 - Virus variants and low percentage of the population vaccinated at this time make it unsafe to unmask in public.
- Social Distancing
 - No plans to relax social distancing guidelines
 - Important to remain vigilant and avoid those outside your immediate household, especially when you do not know their vaccine status.



We don't have any plans right now to relax our mask orders. We just have a very low percentage of our county at this point and time who have been fully vaccinated, so we think that this is the best practice. Don't look for that to go away any time soon. As far as social distancing we still believe that's the best guidance especially for folks, of course, who are not in your household or people that are not in your pandemic bubble as we've been calling it up to now.



- Fully vaccinated =
 - ≥ 2 weeks after 2nd dose in a 2 -dose series (Pfizer or Moderna)
 - ≥ 2 weeks after single -dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson)
- Fully vaccinated people can:
 - Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing
 - Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID -19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing
 - Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic



I do want to point out a couple of changes that have come through the CDC recently that are important. First of all, I want to point out again the definition of someone who is fully vaccinated is two weeks past either the second dose of their Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or two weeks past their single Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Once someone is fully vaccinated, the CDC put out a communication stating that it's okay to visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing a mask or social distancing. We want to say that, yeah, that makes sense, but still be careful. The reason is that we know that these vaccines are really effective at protecting us, you know, you from getting COVID and getting really bad symptoms from COVID, but we're still really learning a lot about how vaccines affect the spread of COVID-19. We're wondering at this point in time, and there's ongoing research that vaccinated people can still spread the virus, and so if you're going back to a household or a bubble of people who you know are not fully vaccinated, even if you are, we want to urge caution and still say, hey, mask wearing makes a lot of sense. We've got variants now circulating in our community and so we still need to take an extra measure of precaution until, I think, a larger percentage of our county and population have gotten fully vaccinated.

Now, I'm going to, I believe, swing to Elizabeth Groenweghe, our Chief Epidemiologist.



- Testing widely available in Wyandotte County
- Two vaccination sites distributing CRL saliva tests
 - Central Wyco – 78th & State (former K-Mart)
 - Western Wyco – Legends area (former Best Buy)
- Working with schools to offer expanded saliva testing
- Also continue to partner with other agencies such as Vibrant Health to offer testing



Elizabeth Groenweghe, Chief Epidemiologist, said I wanted to give a brief update on testing in Wyandotte County. One of the real successes is how widely available testing is in Wyandotte County now. I'm sure a lot of us remember at the beginning of the pandemic how difficult it was to get tested for COVID. You would have to find a place to go and there would be long waits and the turnaround time could be days or even weeks and now the testing situation in Wyandotte County is much better and testing is really very widely available for Wyandotte County residents.

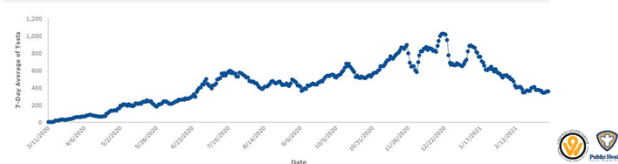
Two of our vaccination sites are distributing CRL saliva test kits now. The K-Mart location and the Best Buy location. We're also working with all of our school districts to offer expanded saliva testing in the schools, both for kids and staff that might have symptoms of COVID, as well as doing regular asymptomatic testing for students, athletes, band, and choir students to really have a better handle on COVID within our schools.

We do also continue to partner with other agencies, like Vibrant Health, to offer testing on a pop-up basis and really make sure that testing is available quickly and easily for anyone in Wyandotte County that wants to get tested.

Testing Update

- Testing numbers continue to drop significantly
- Consistent level of community testing necessary to determine community spread and mitigate transmission

7-Day Average of Tests Conducted in Wyandotte County



Unfortunately, we are starting to see in the last month or two that testing numbers in Wyandotte County continue to drop significantly. I think as people's focus shifts more towards vaccination, testing is less on people's mind, but testing is still very important and we really need to see a consistent level of community testing so that we can accurately assess how much community spread is going on in the county and put any mitigation measures into place like contact tracing and quarantine and things like that to help continue to see those COVID numbers go now.

We really are continuing to encourage people to get tested. We are incentivizing some of our testing events through food distribution and trying to make it as accessible as possible because testing is still really important at this point in the pandemic.

I'm going to turn it back over now to Juliann.

Vaccine Update

Ms. VanLiew said we will start diving now into our vaccine update.

Vaccine Strategy

- Three sites operational:
 - Central Wyco – 78th & State (former K-Mart)
 - Western Wyco – Legends area (former Best Buy)
 - Eastern Wyco – National Guard Armory
- Safety net providers
 - Swope Health
 - Vibrant Health



Just a little bit of a high level reminder of the various arms of our vaccine strategy. The first, of course, is that our three mass vaccination sites are all up and running which is fabulous. Our National Guard Armory site just launched a couple of days ago on Tuesday of this week with some great success. We have started providing weekly allocations to two of our safety net providers in Wyandotte County, Swope Health and Vibrant Health. They are working with us to vaccinate their high-risk 65 and older population and that is going well.

We do plan in coming weeks to expand the number of clinics that we're providing weekly allocations to so that this becomes more and more available in people's doctor offices as we move through this spring and summer.

Vaccine Strategy

- Pharmacies (chosen at federal level)
 - Medicine Shoppe: 6524 Parallel Pkwy
 - Hen House: 8120 Parallel Pkwy
 - Price Chopper: 7600 State Ave
- Deploy vaccination drop teams
- Homebound vaccines



Also, a reminder that there is a federal pharmacy program. These three pharmacies we've listed here on the screen: the Medicine Shoppe on Parallel, Hen House on Parallel and the Price Chopper on State. Those three were all chosen at the federal level. We want to make sure people know we at the Health Department didn't choose those locations as the pharmacies to receive the vaccine and neither did the state. They were chosen at the federal level and they are getting—it seems to be infrequent allocations so it's a little bit hit or miss on whether or not they have vaccine in stock

but we want to let folks know that is an additional option outside of the Health Department vaccine work for them to potentially go online and find appointments through those pharmacies as well.

Fourthly, we are deploying our vaccination drop teams, frequently, several days a week now. We only have one vaccination drop team. As of today we are working on building a couple of other vaccination drop teams because the demand is really high. Right now we're not able to provide that team to businesses who want it, to churches, and to a number of community partners who would love us to come on-site to do vaccines.

Our goal is to get there towards the end of the spring where we could receive a request from a community partner, get something on the calendar and get back out within a couple of weeks, but right now, that team really has to focus on our congregate care facilities. Today they spent the entire day in the jail and vaccinated over 150 folks there which, of course, is a very high-risk setting, so they have to be focused on those sites where people literally can't get to us. We are very hopeful about what that vaccination drop team project will look like in coming months.

Lastly, we have had a number of weeks of successful homebound vaccines so that's a great option for folks who are bedbound or homebound and cannot get to us for health reasons. We've had a great success with our partnership with KCK EMS so we think them for their work with us and we just really had rave reviews from people who never thought they would be able to get access to the vaccine for a really long time. I'm happy about how that project is going.

Vaccine Supply

- ~3,500 Pfizer per week right now
- Special allocations received recently:
 - Meatpacking industry: 1,200
 - On-site vaccines (J&J): 1,200



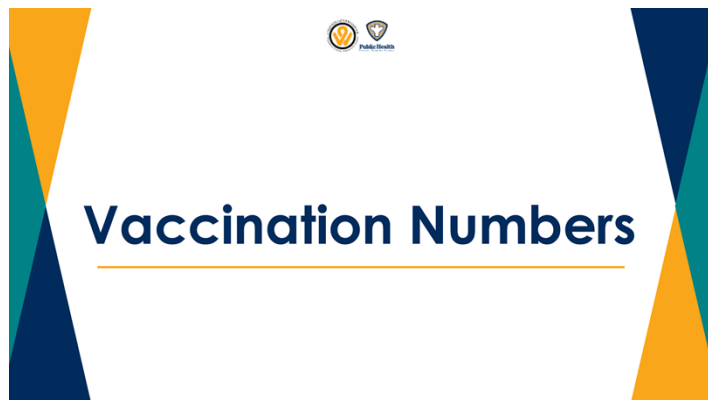
In terms of supply, we are averaging about 3,500 doses of Pfizer per week coming in from the state. I was worried that was going to be a one-time bump a couple weeks ago, but it has maintained, it has been steady for the last three weeks at this number and it's what we anticipate

receiving again next week. Having that be steady is very helpful in terms of scheduling and in terms of anticipating what the coming week will look like.

We have also received a couple of special allocations in the last couple of weeks. One is because we have a number of meatpacking folks in our community who are at a special high-risk. We have vaccinated a lot of those folks and we've also vaccinated a lot of our residents who work in meatpacking companies outside of Wyandotte County as well, so kind of a two-prong approach there. We continue to try to find these individuals, again, because of their high-risk status and a lot of those workers are within our refugee population so we are doing a number of special events for those folks and we will be doing some of our Latin population as well, again, trying to make sure those places of employment are safe for people.

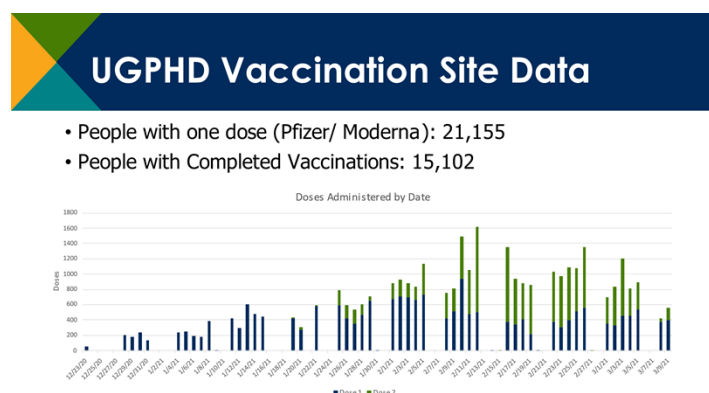
Lastly, we did receive last week an allocation of Johnson & Johnson vaccine which is fantastic. I was very surprised with how early we received an allocation of Johnson & Johnson given it was just approved the week before last. The Johnson & Johnson really makes our ability to go on-site much, much easier. For example, I mentioned today we went to the jail and did those vaccines. We don't have to go back and do a second dose because we were doing Johnson & Johnson in these sorts of locations. Those Johnson & Johnson vaccines, we want to let people know will not be available at our three mass vaccination sites because we need them to take on the road again because not going back a second time means that second day we can deploy that drop team somewhere else so it really increases the capacity of our drop team by virtue of being able to use the one dose vaccine in those locations.

We will not be receiving another batch of Johnson & Johnson next week, but we anticipate the week after next we hear that the state will be receiving a large allotment of Johnson & Johnson and we should receive a pretty decent allotment again week after next for more of our drop team sites.



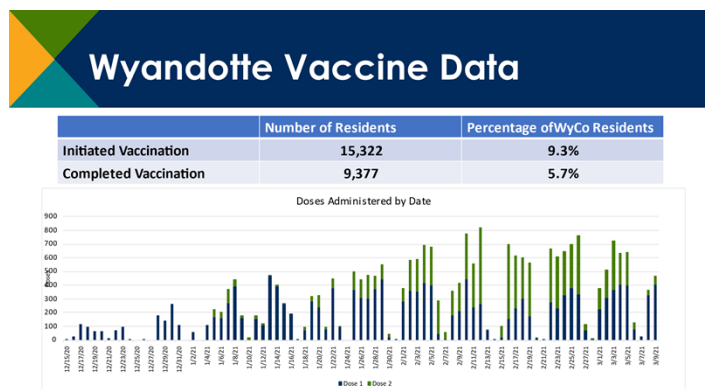
Vaccination Numbers

I'm going to pass it back to Elizabeth here for a few slides on how many folks we have vaccinated.



Ms. Groenweghe said I'm going to present to you all two distinctively different sets of data that we're tracking at the Health Department. I want to make sure people understand these are two different data sets. The first is people that have been vaccinated by the Unified Government Public Health Department at one of our vaccination sites. These people, some of them are Wyandotte County residents and then some of them are people that work in Wyandotte County. As you may recall, the earlier phases focused a lot on healthcare workers, teachers, and other essential workers that might not live in Wyandotte County but got vaccinated by the UG Public Health Department.

At our vaccination site we have administered about 21,000 first doses and about 15,000 second doses are completed vaccinations. This graph here just kind of shows the timeline of first and second doses.

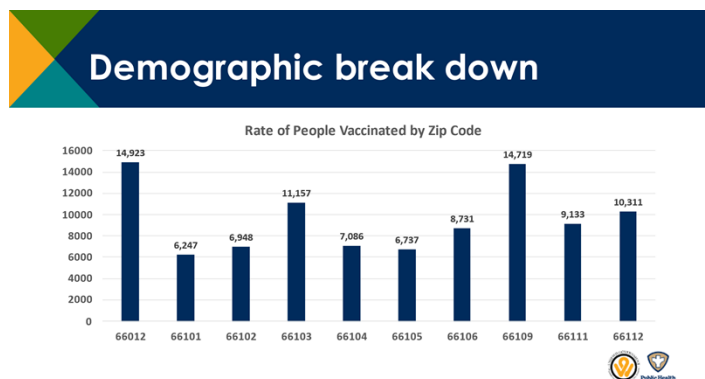


The second set of numbers is Wyandotte County residents that have been vaccinated and they may have been vaccinated by us at one of our vaccination place or they may have been vaccinated in the county where they work or at a hospital or a pharmacy or other places that are administering vaccines. These numbers are people that live in Wyandotte County, so we have about 9.3% of Wyandotte County residents that have gotten a first dose of vaccine and 5.7% of Wyandotte County residents that are considered completely vaccinated which is two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or one dose of Johnson & Johnson.

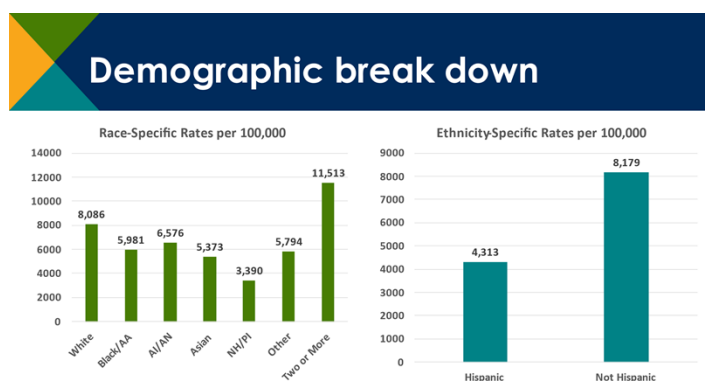
This timeline shows that we are starting to pick-up steam here with our vaccine administration in Wyandotte County. You notice that there are some dips in the chart and those are weekends and so we're hoping that we will also be expanding to operate more on weekends and continue to get more doses out to the residents of Wyandotte County.

Ms. VanLiew said I did want to jump in here, Elizabeth, and note one thing and to reassure folks that we are really honing in on our residents. As we're vaccinating, for example, our 65 and older population right now, that is exclusively offered to Wyandotte County residents. I expect to see these percentages jump substantially within the next two weeks as we really chip away at our senior population and when we move into other sectors of the economy as well, we will likely be providing those just to Wyandotte County residents rather than anyone who lives or works here because we really do need to get this into the arms of the people who live here.

Ms. Groenweghe said the next couple of slides are some demographic break downs of Wyandotte County residents that have been vaccinated.



This first graph here has a break down of rate per 100,000 by zip code and later in the presentation Juliann is going to talk a bit about our zip code prioritization and equity of vaccine distribution. As we mentioned previously, in earlier phases we vaccinated a lot of healthcare workers and teachers, so the zip codes thus far have not been as equitable as we would like, but that's going to be a focus going forward and Juliann will talk about that a bit more.



Here we have race and ethnicity break downs, rate per 100,000. Again, it's not as equitable as we would like but we are going to continue to focus on this. We've got people that are focused on outreach to certain populations within our community that may be overlooked, to make sure that everyone has access to the vaccine and that these rates are as equitable as we can.



Team Effort

- Over 500 volunteers
- 1,300 shifts each month
- Over 50,000 hours already worked



Finally, I wanted to talk a bit about our amazing volunteers. Our vaccination efforts have relied heavily on volunteers and we're very thankful for all of the volunteers that have helped with our vaccination effort. It's a huge undertaking and so we have over 500 volunteers now that are working all over the place at our vaccination sites and remotely, over 1,300 shifts each month and thus far 50,000 hours have been worked by our volunteers which is a huge effort for our community and also saving the Unified Government a lot of money by relying so heavily on our volunteers.

I'm going to be turning it back over to Juliann.



Vaccine Prioritization

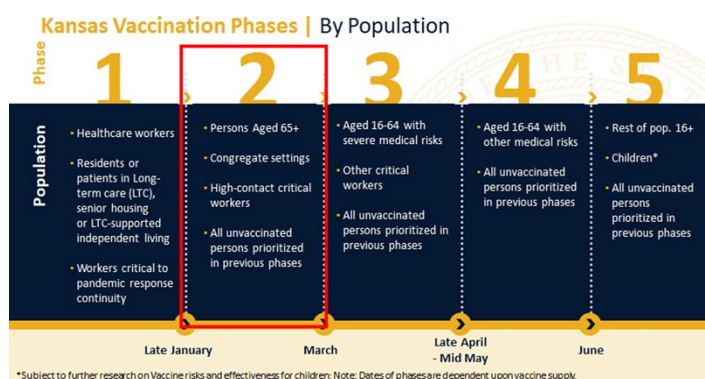
Ms. VanLiew said the last portion here we want to talk about where we are in our prioritization as we move through vaccines.

Completed Groups in Wyandotte

- Health Department
- EMS
- Health care workers
- Childcare workers
- Public Safety
- K – 12 Education
- Critical infrastructure
- 85+
- Food/restaurant/grocery workers



I'm excited that we continue to get to add to our list of "Completely groups in Wyandotte." Of course, they're never fully completed but when we say completed, we mean that anyone in these sectors of the economy that have completed our online vaccine interest form have been contacted by us and given an appointment to come in and be vaccinated. We continue to get everyday more surveys coming in and as somebody in public safety or the food or restaurant business submits a survey, we've continue to pull those and continue to prioritize those folks. There are small numbers from these sectors of our community still coming through but by and large we have conducted outreach to this entire list with some great success.



We remain in Phase 2. The state of Kansas remains in Phase 2 as a whole. The Governor made it clear in her visit to us on Tuesday that localities must remain in Phase 2 until the entire state moves into Phase 3. She estimates that around the first week of April will likely be when the state all transitions together into Phase 3. For Phase 2, as a reminder, is persons age 65 and up, congregate settings which we talked about and a select list of high-contact critical workers.

WyCo Phase 2 Prioritization

CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE

- 65+ walk-in
- Retail workers by appointment
- Congregate living
 - Detention centers
 - Assisted living for elderly or individuals with disabilities
 - Homeless and other shelters



The folks that are eligible today, everyone that I mentioned has completed on the last couple of slides are still eligible, again, we continue to vaccinate them. We're very, very excited today to begin offering walk-in availability at all three of our mass vaccination sites for anyone 65 and older who lives in any zip code in our community.

We have worked our way through our zip code prioritization as pertains to 65 and older. We scheduled everyone from that first year of zip codes, that second tier, we're just about done with that whole third tier. We did a lot of electronic scheduling earlier this week with 66109 and 012. A lot of people were able to get appointments via text and email which went very well. As we finished up that third group in terms of offering people appointments, we are now very excited to be able to provide this walk-in opportunity.

Today, as I mentioned, was the very first day that we did this. It was a little nerve-racking not knowing if it was going to be a couple people show up or a couple thousand. We estimate that we vaccinated about 400 people who just walked in today. I feel great about that at just having it gone to the news last evening, so not a lot of time for it to percolate in the community. We expect that kind of day over day we will start to see our walk-in numbers improve as the word gets out so please share this with your constituents and your community members, but again, no appointment is necessary. We do need folks to bring something that demonstrates their age so anything with a date of birth like a license or a birth certificate and something that shows they are a resident. That could be a government ID, it could also be a piece of mail with their name on it, whatever can show they meet that 65 and up threshold and that they live here.

Remaining in Phase 2

High risk workers in:

- Private Transportation (of individuals)
- Agriculture
- Aviation
- Warehouse
- Higher Education

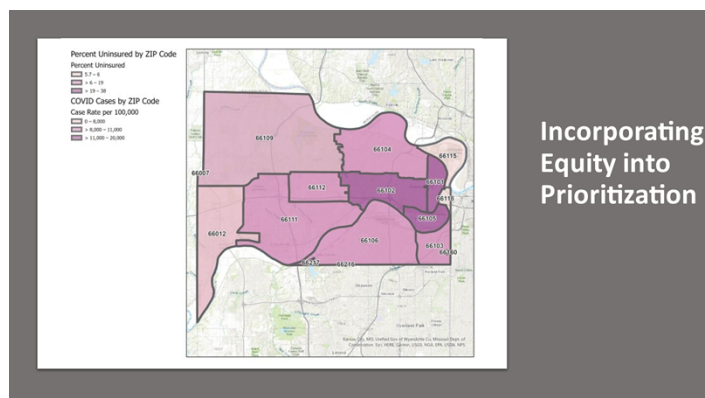
Prioritizing Wyandotte County residents for these groups



We are also moving into appointments for additional high-contact critical workers. In Phase 2 right now we're prioritizing retail workers by virtue of their necessity of being in-person and in close contact with the people they are serving, so we are actively providing those appointments as well and then I mentioned the congregate living already. So, excited about the 65 and up. Please spread the word there. We still have a few remaining groups in Phase 2 that we hope to get to earlier next week.

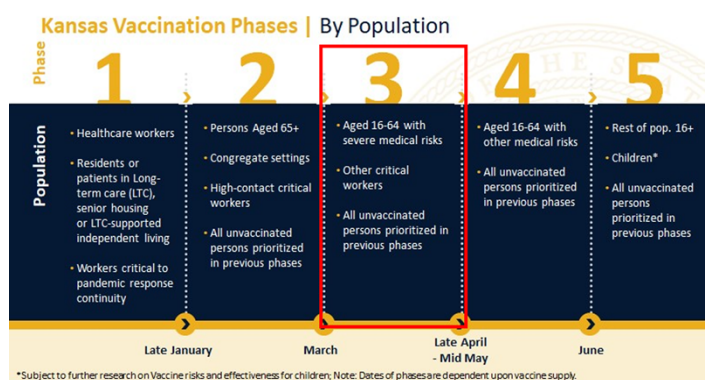
I mentioned we're working on the retail appointments. We'll be transitioning to some of these other groups very shortly here. Private transportation of individuals so these are our cab drivers and our UBER drivers. We've done most of our bus drivers but anybody that is transporting people, the sector of agriculture, aviation which includes flight attendants, stewardesses; those sort of folks, our warehouse workers which we have a number in Wyandotte County so we'll be opening up to them here in the next couple of weeks and then our higher education folks as well.

As a reminder, we will be highly prioritizing Wyandotte County residents for these groups, again, to really bumping up the percent of our folks who live here who have been vaccinated.



I do want to do just a real quick reminder in terms of our zip code prioritization. This doesn't apply when we talk about sectors of employment in the community. For example, right now as we're offering appointments to retail workers, we aren't using the zip code prioritization. We're purely reaching out based on when people submitted the form to us. As we move through our 65 and older population and eventually move into Phase 3 in April, we will be returning to this. As most of you know—we'll talk about Phase 3 here in a moment, but that's largely folks with underlying health conditions.

We will go back to prioritizing based on zip code, and again, that's because of the vulnerability of the folks who live in these zip codes and also because, as Elizabeth showed you earlier, we do have inequity in terms of which zip codes have received more percent of vaccines for their population than others. We're trying to really make this as equitable as possible which is difficult to do and we know that we can't make everyone happy but it is our job at the Health Department for the county to do this as equitable as possible.



As I mentioned, we are likely to transition into Phase 3 within the next few weeks, likely the first or second week of April.

Phase 3 – Estimated to begin early April

16 – 64 with **severe** medical risks

- KDHE Definition
 - Cancer
 - Chronic kidney disease
 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
 - Down Syndrome
 - Heart conditions, such as cardiomyopathies
 - Immunocompromised
 - Type 2 diabetes mellitus
 - Sickle cell disease
 - Pregnant patients

Other Critical Infrastructure

In-Person Workers in:

- Social service and government workers
- Logistics/Transportation
- Information Technology
- Communications
- Housing Construction Workers
- Banks
- Critical Manufacturing



These are mostly people with severe medical risks. I put the list up here on the left-hand side. We will, of course, be abiding by KDHE definition of severe medical risks and that includes the risks listed here; cancer, COPD, chronic kidney disease, etc.

We want to make it very plain to our residents that we will not be requiring documentation of these medical conditions. In fact, we have worked with the CORE4 Health Departments and they have all made commitments—we've all made commitments to one another that across the metro the CORE4 Health Departments will not be requiring documentation for these medical risks in terms of eligibility for Phase 3. I think that's incredibly crucial for our population for whom access to health care is often a substantial burden and barrier and we are looking to reduce that all costs. This will be on the honor system and that will be tricky and a little bit difficult but we will be asking people to self-identify appropriately in terms of their own health conditions and we will be abiding by what they tell us.

Also, in Phase 3 we will move into these other sectors of critical infrastructure, people working in-person. You can see here, so we'll finish off our government workers, transportation of goods not individuals, technology, communication, construction, banks, and critical manufacturing. Phase 3 will really open up availability of vaccines for a number of folks in our community.



That is all we have this evening. As usually, we're happy to take any questions.

Mayor Alvey asked, are there any comments or questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Bynum said I've got some questions. There is a slide with a graph by zip code and it says rate of people vaccinated by zip code. I need to step back to that because I didn't catch—I don't understand what do the numbers represent? **Ms. VanLiew** said this is rate of people vaccinated by 100,000. So, if 100,000 people lived in every zip code in Wyandotte County, here's how it would shake out. Does that make sense? So, rather than just a number of people in each zip code that are vaccinated, that doesn't compare across because the size of the population of each zip code is different, so we use the rate to make it comparable. When we use rate, this is how they compare to one another. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay and it tells us what? **Ms. VanLiew** said it tells us that 66109 and 66012 have received a larger share of their population being vaccinated than the other zip codes. 66103 is inching up as well but you can see here that 66101, 102, 104 and 105 remain behind in terms of the rate of their folks that are being able to access the vaccine.

Commissioner Bynum asked, is this our own county health data or is it regardless of where they got the vaccine. **Ms. VanLiew** said regardless of where. This comes from KDHE. We finally obtained last week. Anybody who put Wyandotte County as their county of residence when they were vaccinated whether they got vaccinated in Johnson County or wherever, we are able to obtain their data and their residents, so this is everybody who lives here regardless of where they got vaccinated. **Commissioner Bynum** said thank you so much.

I have a couple of questions on the phases and the categories within them. The pharmacies that have vaccine, am I correct, they're getting their vaccine doses from the federal government? Is that right? **Ms. VanLiew** said correct. **Commissioner Bynum** said those doses are not coming through the state of Kansas like ours are. **Ms. VanLiew** said correct. **Commissioner Bynum** asked, are they required to dose according to the phases? **Ms. VanLiew** said they are. They are required to be within the phase. We really don't have a lot of way of making sure of that or any really stick, so to speak, in terms of adherence to that. I've heard that by and large they are vaccinating folks 65 and older, although I have heard there have been younger folks who have been able to get vaccinated as well. **Commissioner Bynum** said I think we hear just a whole variety of anomaly stories, you know, anecdotally in the community. I mean we hear them every single day.

The sub-categories that are in each phase, did the state create the sub-categories or did we? **Ms. VanLiew** said the state did. For example, these other folks here in Phase 2 that we'll get to when we finish most of our 65 and older, those were all chosen by the state and per the state we need to offer it to everyone that is working in these sectors of the economy before we move to Phase 3.

Commissioner Bynum said I drove by the K-Mart location this morning at about 9:15 and it looked like the parking lot was absolutely packed and I wondered—you made a comment earlier, but I was left with the notion that you would have given a lot of walk-in vaccines today, but did you say that wasn't the case? **Ms. VanLiew** said across all three sites, it was near 400, the K-Mart did about 250 walk-ins. I'm actually not disappointed in that for just having it put out to the news yesterday evening. I really feel a couple days of word of mouth and we're going to see those numbers tick up.

Commissioner Johnson said back to the numbers that Commissioner Bynum was alluding to, those numbers in 66101, 66102, they kind of give me a—I think I heard from you all that we were putting special emphasis in those particular zip codes. So, if in fact we did, why are we still seeing such low numbers in terms of vaccination or did I misunderstand that? **Ms. VanLiew** said no, you did not. It is correct. We are still seeing inequities across zip codes even though we're trying to even them out. One thing is that when we pull the vaccine interest form submissions, as we do every few days from our dataset, when you look at it in terms of percentage of people from each

community that has submitted a vaccine interest form, 66101, 2, 4 & 5 have lower percent of their community members that have submitted that form to us.

We're doing a number of things to combat that. We're hiring a small group of people who will be canvassing and going door-to-door in those zip codes in order to help people register for the vaccine on the spot and, in fact, schedule on the spot. We're also working very closely with a number of churches in those zip codes to get their congregation signed up as well. Part of it is that, you know, we've done a lot of vaccine based on place of employment and those individuals live more often than not in 66109 and 66012 but it is also a self-selection thing where we're not getting as many people coming forward from some of the zip codes saying that they want to be vaccinated. I don't believe it's because they don't want to be vaccinated. I believe it's because there is a lot going on and it's difficult for them to know what exact information they needed to listen to, how to use the online form, how to get there, how to get a ride, how to get time off work, so there are a number of factors here that are serious barriers for folks. Our aim is to get more folks out into the community doing direct face-to-face education with people to help them understand what they need to do, that 311 is an option, that transportation is an option, that all of these things are in place for them, but it's our job to get that information to them.

It is very inequitable; we're very concerned about it and we're trying to employ a number of initiatives to move the numbers in another direction.

Commissioner Johnson said I guess the same would apply in the African-American community as well. I think, and Allen, you may kind of chime in on this, there was some discussion about trying to engage those communities but having lack of resources, at least initially, is that a good understanding of where we are right now? **Ms. VanLiew** said what do you mean by engage? **Commissioner Johnson** said going directly into those communities as you were talking about, knock on doors, getting them signed up and things of that nature. **Ms. VanLiew** said yes. As I mentioned, we only have the one drop team in place. We are trying to build two more drop teams as we speak, so we are currently actually very actively looking for two leads for a drop teams, so if you know any health professionals that want to lead a drop site team in the community, we're actively looking to build up those teams. Some of the members of those teams will be employed by us or on contract and then they'll be filled in with a number of volunteers. We're working to get extra teams up as quickly as we can because that's what will allow us to come to churches, to come to community groups and bring them on-site.

Commissioner Johnson asked, are we working with the Community Health Council and other like organizations to help to facilitate this. **Ms. VanLiew** said absolutely, so we're working in partnership with the Community Health Council to bring on 13 community health workers who will—this will be their primary responsibility, to work on COVID kind of overall, but especially to push the vaccines and that by virtue of that CDBG grant that we were allowed to use those resources for that project.

Dr. Greiner said, Commissioner, if I might add and ask Ms. VanLiew to speak to the communications efforts because there are also a number of communication efforts that are directly seeking to reach out to the community members and provide that information, so Juliann, do you want to speak to that? **Ms. VanLiew** said absolutely. Some of you have probably started to see our PSAs on social media and on television. We have engaged with a number of media outlets for all sorts of things including interviews, including spots with community members who have successfully received the vaccine. We are doing direct mailers starting next week to folks in the community, really, you name it, and we're trying to do it. I think the thing we're doing most successfully is that we're starting to funnel information to community leaders in those communities that need to get it. For example, Mang Sonna who runs new Bethel Community Center, he is working with us to host a number of town halls with specific refugee population, so those sorts of things where we're getting information to people who are trusted and can get that out to the community is really the heart of it, but we're doing a ton of paid media and really high quality material as well.

Most of our materials at this point are available in Spanish at a medium. We just pushed out our 65 and up graphic for walk-in in nine different languages that we're hoping will make its way into different parts of the community, so really communication is at the heart of everything we do because if people don't have the information, they can't make the choices they want to make.

Commissioner Townsend said to the commissioners and the public, what a journey this has been in a year and I just again wanted to acknowledge all the hard work and the efforts of our Health Department, Ms. VanLiew, Dr. Greiner, Dr. Corriveau, our Epidemiologist Ms. Groenweghe, any,

and everybody who at the Health Department, any, and every volunteer, like I said, it's been a ride and we know a whole lot more than we did a year ago.

I do have particular questions based on one or two of the slides. I would like to see the slide again that had the demographic break down by race. The last bar that shows the number 11,513 and the designator beneath it is two or more, what does that mean? **Ms. VanLiew** said when someone comes to the vaccination site and they fill out our very basic paperwork which includes demographic information, they have the option of choosing two or more races. So, someone could say that they identify as both Asian and as Black or as both White and American Indian, and so that's up to their discretion how they personally identify. If someone chose two or more, it's put into that category since we don't want to assign them to two other categories.

Commissioner Townsend said the other comment I have was that you were discussing some of the barriers in the specific zip codes and why in response to Commissioner Johnson's question, the rate thing is still pretty low, those were a lot of basic concerns that hadn't been thought about as to why people in 101, 104, 102 may not be coming in in the numbers that we see in other places across the county, so I appreciate this door-to-door approach will help not only inform people about how, when and where they can get the vaccine but also directing them to assistance to removing other barriers and concerns that they may have; time off from work, transportation, all that, so those are very real barriers and it's not just that. People in certain communities just don't want the vaccine, so I applaud your efforts to deal with that on that very basic level, so those are my comments.

Ms. Groenweghe said if I could add one other thing as well, Juliann mentioned earlier we just opened our Armory location which is our eastern most location where those zip codes are going to have better access. My hope is that next week when my team analysis this data again, that we will see an increase in these zip codes now that we've got that Armory location open which will help provide better access. **Commissioner Townsend** said I hope you're right. I join in that hope.

Mayor Alvey said thank you very much. That concludes the presentation. I will now entertain a motion for executive session regarding labor.

Executive Session: 5:44 p.m.

March 11, 2021

Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bynum, to go into Executive Session until no later than 6:50 p.m. to consult with our attorneys and to discuss confidential matters regarding the status and future direction of labor negotiations, as permitted under the Kansas Open Meetings Act; and that staff and outside counsel designated by the County Administrator be present to participate in the discussion, and that if there is no further business, that we return to open session for the full Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Alvey asked all in favor to say “Aye.” Motion carried.

Present for the Executive Session: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District; and Mayor Alvey presiding. **Staff Present:** Doug Bach, County Administrator; Angela Lawson, Deputy Chief Counsel; Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator; Shakeva Christian, Manager in Human Resources; Jack Andrade, First Deputy Fire Chief; Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer; Chief Michael Callahan, Fire Department; and Ryan Denk, Outside Counsel for labor negotiations.

MAYOR ALVEY ADJOURNED

THE MEETING AT 6:45 p.m.

Brett Deichler
Interim Unified Government Clerk

dt

March 11, 2021