

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

SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Session, Thursday, September 9, 2021, with ten members present remotely. Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; 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. Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Alan Howze, Emerick Cross, and Melissa Sieben, Assistant County Administrator's; Brett Deichler, Interim Unified Government Clerk; Misty Brown, Chief Counsel; James Bain, Assistant Counsel; Dr. Erin Corriveau, Deputy Health Officer; Ashley Hand, Director of Strategic Communications; and Alley Porter, Commission Liaison.

MAYOR ALVEY said before I call the meeting to order, I want to announce that due to COVID-19, we have individuals attending remotely. 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 the public that is 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.

MAYOR ALVEY said I would ask the Clerk to announce the meeting and call the roll.

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

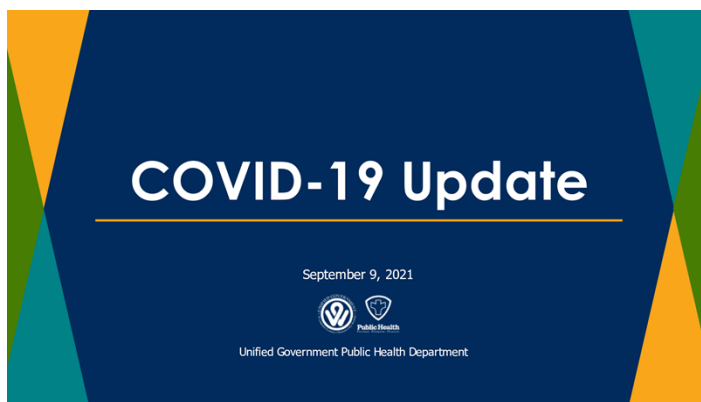
NOTICE OF SPECIAL SESSION of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be held Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. to be conducted virtually for a COVID Update.

Due to COVID-19 the public will be able to observe or listen to the meeting live on YouTube or UGTV or through Zoom. The public may also view the special session from the lobby of the Municipal Office Building.

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 Update. I'll turn it over to Mr. Bach.

Doug Bach, County Administrator, said as we've gone through the last couple of years with the pandemic, we routinely come back before the Commission and provide you an update of activities going on. Later this evening we do have considerations on the formal agenda regarding the emergency order which is in place mainly for our reimbursements we get through FEMA and then also consideration of extending the mask order, so we thought it would be very timely tonight to have the team come forward and give you an update as to where things are in the community and the impacts on those. I will recognize Dr. Erin Corriveau who is our Deputy Medical Officer to begin the presentation this evening.



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Dr. Erin Corriveau, Deputy Health Officer, said unfortunately Juliann VanLiew is out of town this week. It has given us a grand appreciation of all that she does and so Dr. Greiner, myself, and other staff are trying to hold down the fort. I believe Dr. Greiner may be jumping on and joining us for part of this presentation as well.

What We Will Cover Tonight

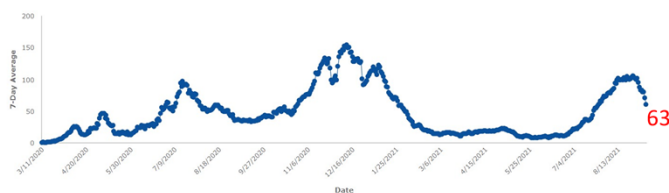
- 1. COVID-19 Situational Update**
- 2. Health Order Recommendations**



This evening we're just going to have a brief update for you all. We'll cover the COVID-19 situation as it stands right now. We would like to bring forth another recommendation to be considered by our Commission as well this evening later at the 7:00 p.m. session.

7 Day Rolling Average: COVID cases

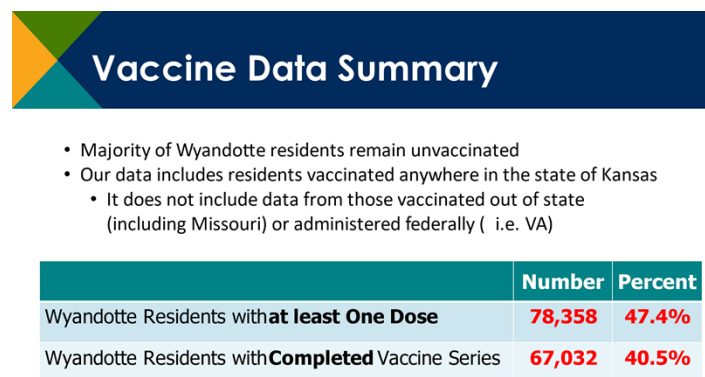
Rolling Average of Total Confirmed and Probable Cases



Covering sort of the normal numbers that we look at here, our 7-day rolling average, happily, is starting to trend down and so we see that our average at this point is 63 cases a day. You can see here that we had a huge peak there in this recent surge. Late this last month there may be a slight data lag given the closure for Labor Day, but it does look like we may have turned the corner in number of cases that we are seeing in our community, so that's really good.

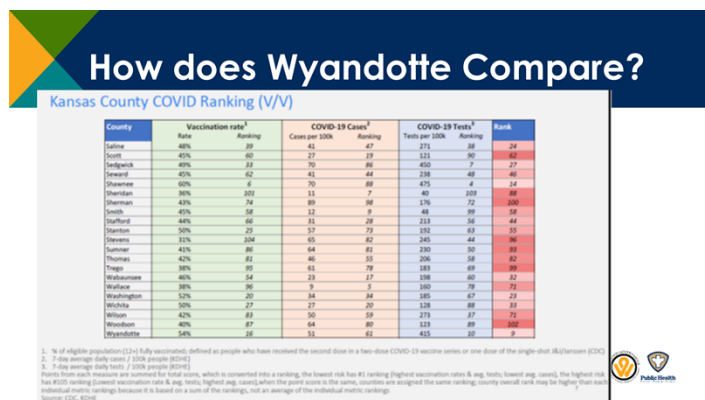
All told during the pandemic, we've had over 23,000 confirmed cases of COVID. We're now at 340 deaths in our community, and unfortunately, four new deaths just in the last week. Just in the last week alone, we also had 421 new cases.

The Health Department still is engaged in a very robust testing program. We're testing, on average, approximately 300 people a day and in our community in general doctor offices, KU Medical Center, Providence, etc., we're doing about 800 tests per day and so we think that's pretty robust for a county our size, which is great. Our positivity rate at the moment is just under 20%, which is looking better. We were up above 30%, I believe, the last time we presented to you all so we feel like that's a good thing.



As far as our vaccination data, you can see here, that unfortunately the majority of our residents in Wyandotte County still remain unvaccinated. The numbers that I'm showing you here are percentages based on the entire community, so those who are eligible for vaccination, that is above the age of 12 and also those who are younger than 12. So, all told, it looks as though just over 40% of our community has completed the vaccination series. That's two of the Pfizer or two of the Moderna or one of the Johnson & Johnson vaccinations and then it looks as though just above 47% have initiated at least one dose, their first dose. We feel like that's coming along and we hope that they complete their series.

Of course, we're still unable to get our data from Missouri but the data on anyone in Wyandotte County who has been vaccinated within the state of Kansas, we do have that data.



I want to show you something new and really kind of cool and unique that's coming out of our State Health Department. They are now putting out County Covid Rankings. I just want to share with you some good news out of our county. If you look on the left-hand side, you see the counties there and if you scroll all the way down, you see our county there, Wyandotte. If you follow Wyandotte all the way toward the right under the column labeled Rank, you see that our county ranks 9th in the state overall in our COVID ranking.

This ranking is comprised of three measures. That is our vaccination rate, the number of COVID cases that we are seeing in our community and also the number of tests that we're doing in the community. You can see under Vaccination Rate, we're 16th in the state and it lists here 54%. Now, we'll remember that KDHE takes into account those who are eligible for vaccination, so those above the age of 12 which is why that number looks higher than what I presented in the previous slide. So, we're doing okay there.

As far as our COVID-19 testing then, over in the blue column, we see that we're doing pretty well. We're 10th in the state. When we look under Cases here, we see that we're labeled 61st. I think to myself, man, we're still seeing a lot of COVID cases in our community. We know that there is still community spread of this Delta Variant within our community and so that's really where we're focusing our efforts. Again, we've got to stop the spread of this virus.

You'll remember that we currently have a Wyandotte Mask Mandate that is in place currently that is in effect for Kansas City, Kansas and excludes Bonner and Edwardsville. That went into effect on August 5th and is set to expire on September 16th.

Surrounding Area Mask Mandates

Jurisdiction	Mask mandate	Effective dates
Kansas City, MO	Indoors in public spaces (including schools)	Extended: Sept. 23
Jackson County, MO	Indoors in public spaces (including schools)	Extended: Oct. 7
Johnson County, KS	In school settings (Kindergarten – 6 th grade)	8/9/21 – 5/31/22
Leavenworth, KS	None	N/A

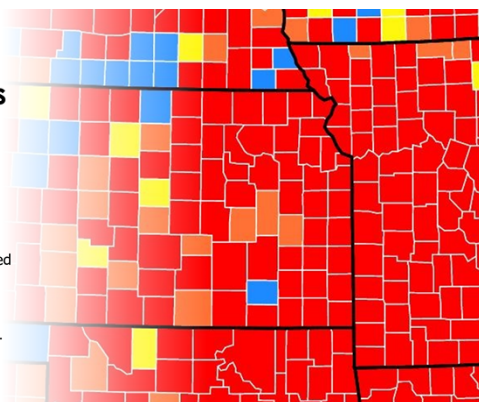


If Dr. Greiner is on, I'm going to turn it over to him. I do not see him so I'm going to go ahead and continue with the presentation.

Just to give you all an update of what we're seeing in surrounding communities for mask mandates and requirements, in Kansas City, MO mask mandate is for indoors in public spaces including in schools. Their mandate was extended through September 23rd. You can see there for Jackson County, we have indoors in public spaces as well, masks are required, extended through October 7th. In our neighbor, Johnson County, we see that masks are required in school settings, Kindergarten through 6th grade, and that is going to be for the remainder of the school year, through May of 2022. Leavenworth, KS has not adopted a mask mandate.

Primary Considerations

- We are experiencing uncontrolled community spread (deemed "HIGH" by CDC, see map)
- Delta variant is more transmissible than previous strains of COVID-19
- Majority of Wyandotte residents remain unvaccinated
- Most children ineligible for vaccinations
- Hospital resources are strained (for COVID and non-COVID illnesses)



We're considering a lot of things when we bring forth this recommendation to you all this evening. Our primary considerations are as follows: We're still experiencing high uncontrolled community spread as defined by the CDC. You can see on the map, which is updated, we're still sort of in that red zone. The Delta Variant, as we've talked about previously, is much more transmissible than the previous strains of COVID. Last month and this month, still 100% of the cases that have been sequenced by KDHE have come back as the Delta Variant. We haven't seen any new variants

at this point in time. We're still dealing with this sort of tail end of this big Delta surge. Unfortunately, again, just over 40% of our county residents are vaccinated which means the majority are not. Many children, of course, under 12 are ineligible for vaccinations. We expect there to be an update in the fall regarding that.

I do want to talk a minute about our hospital resources remaining at a very sort of strained situation. At KU Hospital, where I practice, we're still not seeing any decline in the numbers of patients who we have on ventilators or in the hospital with COVID at this time. We still have, day in and day out, over 100 patients of our total 900 inpatients who have COVID-19. We're seeing these hospitalizations are still in our younger population unfortunately, 30's, 40's, 50's. We're also seeing many children, still at this point in time, hospitalized which has been very sad.

Recommendation to Commission

- The UGPHD recommends that the Unified Government Board of Commissioners extends the current health order requiring mask wearing:
 - For 8 additional weeks (until Nov. 11)
 - Indoors in public spaces
 - For vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals
 - For ages 5 and older



What we would like to recommend for your consideration this evening is that our mask mandate be extended. We would like to recommend that the current resolution be extended in its current form, that is KCK, with the exception of Bonner, Edwardsville, and the schools, be extended. We're recommending an additional extension of eight weeks. That would be set to expire on November 11th. We're recommending that based mostly on what we talked about this evening, but our hospitals, we really need to take them into consideration, the exhaustion of our nurses and of our resources for our healthcare workers.

We're recommending just the same, that we should mask up in public indoor spaces for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals and we're recommending for the age of five and older. So, again, the same resolution just extended eight weeks.



That concludes my presentation this evening. I'm happy to take questions. I'm going to stop sharing for now and can bring up the presentation, if necessary, in another minute or two.

Commissioner Bynum said I have a couple of questions and a comment. My first question is, Dr. Corriveau, I see that within our 7:00 p.m. meeting our request is to continue our mask mandate through November and I'm curious from the Health Department's perspective, what numbers or conditions in the community would be appropriate for us to be able to say we don't need a mandate? That's question number one.

Question No. 2 might be more toward Legal Counsel because I know within our Mask Mandate Local Health Order—I've had some people ask me about the penalty part of that and it's my understanding that penalty has existed in all of the health orders. I'm curious, the penalty that's listed, have we ever actually enforced that penalty, so those are my two questions.

My comment is this, in looking at the COVID hub, I've been specifically looking at the data, the two-week look back of cases in folks age 39 or younger. I think I'm seeing this week, as of yesterday's numbers, a pretty significant decrease in that which makes me really happy because last week that number was 675 cases among—just in the past two weeks prior, among 39 and younger and I thought that was a rather devastating number. This week I think that number is down to something like 520 something, so that certainly looked to me like we were definitely making improvement in that zero to age 39 category. So that's the comment.

First question, Dr. Corriveau, was just what would you all think as a satisfactory set of conditions to not have a mandate?

Dr. Corriveau said that's a really good question. Of course, we've never had any hard and set sort of landmarks. We've been sort of rolling with the punches, so to speak. I would like

to see our percent positivity rate decrease and the number of cases that we're seeing on a daily basis go down. Again, we're seeing over 60 cases a day and I would love to see that, you know, 20 or less would be great. I would love to see our percent positivity fall below 10%. That would be ideal and I'm talking about sort of how we're thinking through this with the CDC in my mind.

I'm also, just to be honest, worried about flu season coming up. We should all be starting to get our flu shots the beginning of October. We're a little bit worried of having sort of cases on top of cases, if that makes sense, the COVID cases and the flu cases. I would also like to see some space also in the hospital open up. I believe that if we're to not require masks, we've seen a really impressive downturn of those cases I think. We've kind of turned that corner, as you point out, which I think is right and I think that is due to masking.

I think if we were to let up too soon, we could have another sort of bump. I don't think our healthcare workforce and our hospitals could take that right now. Those are the things that I'm thinking about. I'll turn it back to you or to Misty, I believe, and James our Legal Counsel, to answer your second question.

James Bain, Assistant Counsel, said, Commissioner Bynum, to answer the question about the penalty and the criminal enforcement, back before COVID was even a thought, there was a state statute that made violating a local health order a crime, Class C Misdemeanor. When we started getting into having to actually have health orders in a COVID world, the decision was made in ordinances passed to have a county ordinance also making the violation of a local health order a crime. So, that's kind of where that came from in March of last year and so that has been in all the orders since then in addition to the state law it was also could be prosecuted in our Municipal Court as a city ordinance violation.

We have not had any convictions, no tickets written, nobody has been brought to court. The Police Department has had an education focus on all of the health orders. I'm going back to gathering limits, things like that, and now masks and so there has been no criminal prosecution.

Mayor Alvey said seeing no other hands, thank you for your presentation. We do have a couple items during the Regular Session, but for now that concludes our Special Session.

**MAYOR ALVEY ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 6:21 p.m.**

Brett A. Deichler
Unified Government Clerk

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September 9, 2021