



Kansas COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Desk Reference

Updated: March 29, 2021

Table of Contents

1	Table of Contents	2
2	COVID-19 Testing FAQs	3
3	Vaccine Questions.....	5

1 [Table of Contents](#)

COVID-19 Testing Questions

1. [Where can I go to get tested? Is there a map or directory of testing locations in Kansas?](#)
2. [What types of tests are available?](#)
3. [When should I get tested?](#)
4. [How much does a COVID-19 test cost?](#)
5. [Can I get a COVID-19 test if I am uninsured?](#)
6. [Will a COVID-19 test protect me from the virus?](#)
7. [With vaccines being distributed, do I still need to get tested?](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Questions

8. [Will the vaccine be available to every Kansan who wants it? When?](#)
9. [How do I get the vaccine?](#)
10. [What will be the cost of the vaccine?](#)
11. [Who will be giving the vaccine? Can we just go to our local pharmacy to get it?](#)
12. [Do I need to get both doses at the same location?](#)
13. [If the provider who gave my prime dose cannot/will not give my boost, what should I do?](#)
14. [What is the timeline for moving through the phases?](#)
15. [Who is prioritized to be vaccinated in Phase 1?](#)
16. [Who is prioritized to be vaccinated in Phase 2?](#)
17. [Who is prioritized to be vaccinated in Phase 3?](#)
18. [Who is prioritized to be vaccinated in Phase 4?](#)
19. [How will I have to prove that I meet the requirements of the phase?](#)
20. [Why is my county only offering vaccines to a segment of those eligible in the current phase?](#)

2 [COVID-19 Testing FAQs](#)

1. **Where can I go to get tested? Is there a map or directory of testing locations in Kansas?**

COVID-19 testing is available at Local Health Departments, Hospitals, FQHCs, and various other locations throughout Kansas. Testing sites supported by KDHE are at no cost to patients.

Please note, not all COVID-19 testing in Kansas is free of cost to the patient. For a map of the free, state sponsored COVID-19 testing locations in Kansas, please visit: <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/280/COVID-19-Testing>

2. **What types of tests are available?**

We currently have PCR tests (Nasal mid-turbinate, Nasopharyngeal, and Saliva) available to the public. For more information, see demo videos here ([Demo Video Link](#)).

Antigen tests are also available for certain subsets of the public, such as Kansas K-12 schools and long-term care facilities. State sponsored testing is currently slated to last until December 31, 2021; however, we will keep the public updated on testing availability as more updates are received.

3. **When should I get tested?**

You should get tested if you:

- Have symptoms of COVID-19
- Were asked by Kansas Department of Health to get a test because of a contact tracing or outbreak investigation
- Were in “close contact” with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks
- Work or live in places such as skilled nursing facilities, group homes, residential care facilities, correctional facilities or homeless shelters
- Have taken part in activities such as travel, attending large social or mass gatherings, or being in crowded indoor settings, that put you at higher risk for COVID-19 because you cannot socially distance as needed,
- Are frequently out in the community due to work, family, or social engagements, even when following masking and social distancing recommendations
- Are in a job that requires frequent contact with the public or with other workers. Some examples include: health care, emergency, food and grocery services, factory workers, retail, public transportation, and education
- Don't have symptoms but were exposed or believe you may have been exposed to people who were sick

Please note that, in the interest of protecting public health, we encourage all Kansans to seek out regular COVID-19 testing. It is possible to have contracted COVID-19 without any known symptoms or engagement in at-risk activities, such as those mentioned above. As such, the only way to know your status is to test.

4. How much does a COVID-19 test cost?

The cost for testing is covered by insurance plans or through government-sponsored programs. For people without insurance, you can get a free COVID-19 test at any of the public testing sites supported by KDHE or your local health department. To locate a free testing site in your community, visit <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/280/COVID-19-Testing>

5. Can I get a COVID-19 test if I am uninsured?

Yes, you can still receive a COVID-19 test if you are uninsured. Please note that KDHE has set up various no-cost COVID-19 testing sites throughout Kansas. Please visit: <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/280/COVID-19-Testing> for more information.

6. Will a COVID-19 test protect me from the virus?

No. Even if you have a negative result, you should practice physical distancing, wear a face covering, and wash your hands frequently. A negative COVID-19 test does not guarantee that you do not have the virus. With widespread community transmission, there is a risk of being infected with COVID-19 with every additional contact you have during the day. Taking precautions, such as staying 6 feet apart, wearing a mask that fits snugly over your nose and mouth, washing your hands well after touching high-touch surfaces, and getting vaccinated when it is your turn, will reduce your risk of infection

7. With vaccines being distributed, do I still need to get tested?

Vaccines are another layer of protection against COVID-19. However, until a majority of the population has been vaccinated, COVID-19 will continue to circulate in the community, posing a risk for infection. None of the available vaccines are 100% effective against strains of the virus currently circulating in Kansas. Additionally, the efficacy of the vaccine against new variants of COVID-19 is still largely unknown.

As such, vaccines should not currently be the only layer of protection relied on. As we continue to get more Kansans vaccinated, we ask that you continue to exercise COVID-19 preventative measures, including, but not limited to; COVID-19 testing, social distancing, wearing masks, and washing your hands with soap and water.

3 Vaccine Questions

8. **Will the vaccine be available to every Kansan who wants it? When?**

Yes, on March 29, Kansas moved into Phase 5, meaning anyone 16+ will be eligible to receive the vaccine. Parental consent is required for those under the age of 18 years. In addition, only the Pfizer vaccine is approved for use in people ages 16 and 17. Because the Pfizer vaccine must be stored in an ultra-cold freezer, please confirm that the vaccination site has Pfizer vaccine before taking your child to get vaccinated.

9. **How do I get the vaccine?**

There are two steps to getting the vaccine:

1. *Find a place that is offering vaccinations to the public.* The federal government recently released [Vaccine Finder](#), a map-based tool that can help you locate a vaccination site near you. Individuals who don't have access to internet can call 211 and request assistance scheduling an appointment with a local provider.
2. *Schedule your appointment.* Providers who are offering vaccines to the public will manage scheduling locally. Some providers will have an option to schedule an appointment for a specific day and time by phone or online, while others may coordinate vaccination clinics and advise you to come during a certain time window. If you are scheduling an appointment for a child who is 16 or 17 years of age, please confirm that the Pfizer vaccine is available at the vaccination clinic.

10. **What will be the cost of the vaccine?**

The COVID-19 vaccine is free to everyone and no insurance is required. Healthcare facilities are permitted to charge an administration fee to administer the vaccine, but no one can be denied a vaccine if they cannot afford the administration fee or do not have insurance. If you are eligible for the vaccine in the current phase but are turned away because of your inability to pay, please contact KDHE (866-534-3463 / 866-KDHEINF or covid-19@ks.gov). Alternatively, you may contact the Kansas Insurance Department's Consumer Assistance Division by phone (800-432-2484), by email (kid.webcomplaints@ks.gov), or file a complaint on their website (insurance.kansas.gov).

11. **Who will be giving the vaccine? Can we just go to our local pharmacy to get it?**

Not all healthcare providers are participating in vaccine administration but there are many different types of providers administering the vaccine now, and more will be added with increased vaccine supply, including:

- Public health clinics / your local public health department
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
- Pharmacies
- Doctor's offices
- Safety net clinics
- Hospitals
- Other health centers

To find a vaccine provider, visit [Vaccine Finder](#) or call 211 and ask for assistance. These resources will be updated regularly as more providers are enrolled. If you need help finding a provider, you can also contact your Local Health Department (LHD) ([directory by county](#)).

12. Do I need to get both doses at the same location?

Because federal vaccine distribution ships boost doses for the corresponding prime doses directly to the administering facility, you should receive your boost dose at the same location. However, there may be circumstances that require people to get their boost doses at a different location. If you cannot return to the same provider for your boost dose, you can make an appointment at a participating pharmacy or contact your Local Health Department for assistance finding a provider that can administer your boost dose ([directory by county](#)). Make sure to take your vaccination record with you when you go for your boost dose.

13. If the provider who gave my prime dose cannot/will not give my boost, what should I do?

The provider that administered your prime dose will automatically receive the corresponding boost dose so ideally you will receive both doses from the same provider. If that provider cannot provide your boost dose for some reason, contact your Local Health Department for assistance finding a provider that can administer your boost dose ([directory by county](#)) or check with a participating local pharmacy to see if they can provide the boost dose for you. Make sure to take your vaccination card with you!

14. What is the timeline for moving through the phases?

Kansas is currently in Phase 5 for vaccinations. At this time, anyone 16 years of age and older who wants a vaccine can schedule an appointment. For information on who was prioritized in previous phases, please go to (insert weblink here).