



Shawnee County Health Department

**Shawnee County Health Department**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Shawnee County Moving to Phase 2B of Vaccination Plan Starting March 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Topeka, Kan.** – The Shawnee County Health Department (SCHD) continues to follow the directives of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as it relates to administering COVID-19 vaccine in our community.

On January 21, 2021, KDHE gave local health departments the authority to begin vaccinating individuals in Phase 2. This phase in the State’s COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization plan focuses on persons aged 65 and older, high-contact critical workers, congregate settings and anyone previously eligible to receive a vaccine in Phase 1.

SCHD currently receives a weekly finite vaccine allocation based on population within the current Phase.

In Shawnee County, Phase 2 has been broken into two sub-phases, 2A and 2B, to ensure equitable distribution. **Beginning Thursday March 11, 2021, Shawnee County will enter into Phase 2B.**

SCHD estimates that there are at least 25,000 individuals in Phase 2B and the Shawnee County Vaccine Collaborative anticipates a minimum of 4 weeks in this phase at current allocations levels from KDHE. As outlined in previous communications, individuals previously eligible to receive a vaccine in Phase 1 and Phase 2A will continue to be vaccinated.

Should the KDHE provide more allocations than expected, based on the current models they are utilizing, SCHD and the vaccine taskforce will update the timeline.

Workers included in Phase 2 must meet two qualifications:

- They must meet the definition of a critical worker as outlined by the [Department of Homeland Security](#).
- They must come into consistent and close contact with a large number of individuals throughout their work day. High-contact workers, by definition, do not have the ability to work from home or easily move to distance themselves from others.

Shawnee County Health Department in partnership with the Shawnee County Vaccine Collaborative have identified high-contact critical workers in the following two categories:



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1. Any worker employed in the following industries:
  - Food processing (includes meatpacking plants)
  - Food distribution (includes grocery stores, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, coffee shops, food counters/cafeterias, meal delivery services, farmers markets, sale barns, food cooperatives and food trucks)
  - Large-scale aviation manufacturing plants
  - Transportation (includes railroad, airports, taxi, Uber/Lyft)
  
2. Workers employed in a specific role:
  - Cashiers and public-interacting counter workers (includes within retail, cosmetic counters, jewelry stores, convenience stores, warehouses and sales outlets)
  - Clergy
  - Librarians
  - Farm, ranch or livestock workers who share worker housing/transportation
  - Higher education faculty/staff
  - Government continuity (e.g. IT, HR, Water/Solid Waste, Treasurer's office, Parks/Rec, Public works, Courts, Press/Media, Contracted services)

Scheduling is now open for individuals at all current vaccination locations in Shawnee County. Visit the SCHD Vaccine webpage ([http://www.snco.us/hd/COVID19\\_Vaccination.asp](http://www.snco.us/hd/COVID19_Vaccination.asp)) or KDHE's Find My Vaccine tool (<https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/160/Find-My-Vaccine>) to find the closest vaccinating entity to you. For those employers who are partnering with a member of the Vaccine Collaborative to administer employee vaccinations, please schedule your vaccination through your employer.

**All individuals are asked to bring a form of employment identification to their vaccine appointment.** Examples include but are not limited to; name badges, paystubs or an employer letter confirming employment in a high-contact critical worker position.

Questions about COVID-19 vaccine can be directed to [CovidVaccine@snco.us](mailto:CovidVaccine@snco.us).

Additional COVID-19 Resources:

Shawnee County Health Department: <https://www.snco.us/HD/coronavirus.asp>

Kansas Department of Health and Environment: <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

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*Shawnee County Health Department is committed to working in partnership with our community to promote and protect the optimal health of all people by bridging gaps to eliminate health inequities, respecting the diversity of our community, through adaptive and innovative processes.*

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*Healthy People – Healthy Environment – Healthy Shawnee County*