



Shawnee County Health Department

Shawnee County Health Department
Teresa Fisher, Interim Director
2600 SW East Circle Dr., Topeka, KS 66606
Ph. 785.251.5600 | Fax 785.251.5696
www.shawneehealth.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
03/15/2021

CONTACT: Craig Barnes
Division Manager/PIO
Office (785) 251-5612
Mobile (785) 806-6310

MEDIA RELEASE

State Announces Move to Vaccine Phases 3 & 4: Shawnee County Updates Vaccine Guidance

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

KDHE announced today that local health departments could begin vaccinating individuals in Phases 3 and 4, starting on Monday, March 22, 2021. These two phases in the State’s COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization plan focus on persons aged 16-64 with certain medical conditions, critical workers who cannot work remotely but did not meet the definition of high-contact and anyone previously eligible to receive a vaccine in Phases 1 and 2.

SCHD currently receives a weekly finite vaccine allocation from KDHE based on population within the Phase; currently Shawnee County is allocated 3510 doses weekly. Shawnee County has not yet been informed of an increase to its current weekly allocation with the addition of Phases 3 and 4.

It is the priority of Shawnee County to vaccinate and protect those individuals at highest risk of hospitalization and death from COVID-19. To facilitate this priority, the health department has determined the following timeline for vaccinating Phases 3 and 4:

- **Monday, March 22, 2021** - Shawnee County will expand vaccination to persons aged 16-64 with medical risks that increase the severity of COVID-19 (see below).
- **Monday, April 12, 2021** - Shawnee County will expand vaccination to all individuals eligible through Phase 4; including critical workers who cannot work remotely.

Any individual who has a qualifying medical condition may now schedule an appointment at any vaccination location in Shawnee County.

Qualifying medical conditions for individuals aged 16-64 (based on the [KDHE Vaccine Prioritization by Population Guidance](#) and [CDC - People with Certain Medical Conditions](#)):



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Shawnee County Health Department

Shawnee County Health Department
Teresa Fisher, Interim Director
2600 SW East Circle Dr., Topeka, KS 66606
Ph. 785.251.5600 | Fax 785.251.5696
www.shawneehealth.org

- Cancer (any personal history)
- Cerebrovascular disease (aneurysm, arterial stenosis, stroke/TIA, vascular malformation)
- Chronic kidney disease (any stage)
- Chronic lung disease (moderate or severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis or pulmonary fibrosis)
- Cigarette/cigar smoking or vaping (active use)
- Down syndrome
- Heart conditions (arrhythmia, cardiomyopathy, congenital heart disease, coronary artery disease, heart failure, high blood pressure or pulmonary hypertension)
- Immunosuppression (chronic corticosteroid/immunomodulator use, congenital/acquired immune deficiencies, history of solid organ/blood/bone marrow transplant or HIV)
- Liver disease (alcohol-related, chronic hepatitis B or C, cirrhosis, fatty liver)
- Neurologic conditions (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or motor neuron disease, dementia, Guillain-Barre syndrome or autoimmune/inflammatory neuropathy, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis)
- Obesity/Overweight (BMI \geq 25)
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease
- Thalassemia
- Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (diet controlled or requiring medication)

Visit the SCHD Vaccine webpage (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.

Questions about COVID-19 vaccine can be directed to 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>

###

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.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube

Healthy People – Healthy Environment – Healthy Shawnee County