



Shawnee County Health Department

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

### **Shawnee County COVID-19 Indicator Report and Community Update**

**Topeka, Kan.** – The Shawnee County Health Department (SCHD) continues to closely monitor COVID-19 trends in our community. Over the last four weeks the weekly case incidence has nearly quadrupled while percent positivity and hospitalizations have tripled locally. With these increases the Community Indicator has risen to the Substantial summary index for the first time since the week of February 14, 2021.

For the last reporting period (7/11-7/17/21) weekly cases rose to 178 positive COVID-19 cases, which was higher than the number diagnosed for the entire month of June. Percent positivity also increased to 5.9%, which is above the threshold (5.0%) which indicates community spread. The last time both cases and percent positivity were this high was in mid-February. Through four days of reporting this week, 176 positive COVID-19 cases have been reported to the SCHD, indicating that numbers will likely continue to increase during the next reporting period.

These increases continue to be driven by the emergence of the Delta variant, which is 60% more contagious than previous variants. Viral sequencing has identified the Delta variant as the dominant community strain in Shawnee County, making up nearly three-quarters of all sequenced COVID-19 specimens since June 1. Early infection with the Delta variant has frequently been mistaken for allergies or a “common cold” before more significant symptoms develop later in the illness.

The vast majority of cases and hospitalizations in Shawnee County continue to be in unvaccinated individuals. In fact, Shawnee County has only documented 91 total vaccine breakthrough cases or just over 1 vaccine breakthrough case for every 1,000 fully vaccinated residents. Nearly 77,500 Shawnee County residents have completed their vaccine series, which represents 44 percent of the total population. Weekly updates regarding the status of Shawnee County’s vaccination efforts can be found on the SCHD Vaccine Webpage [here](#).

Since the beginning of June the SCHD has identified 15 separate outbreaks in congregate settings; including long term care facilities, childcare, group living, camps, and correctional facilities. In a majority of these instances the initial source of the COVID-19 outbreak has been an unvaccinated individual bringing the virus into the facility. Additional transmission then continued within these facilities amongst unvaccinated individuals. The Shawnee County Health Officer and SCHD advise that masks be worn by all staff and any unvaccinated children and adults in these settings to stop the spread to our community’s vulnerable populations.



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Additionally, the SCHD continues to strongly encourage residents to protect themselves by getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Many opportunities exist in the community and can be found on SCHD's Vaccine [webpage](#) or through the CDC's Vaccine [tool](#). In addition, organizations and groups can request a SCHD-sponsored COVID-19 vaccine clinic by completing this [survey](#). Questions regarding COVID-19 vaccine can be sent to [CovidVaccine@sncd.us](mailto:CovidVaccine@sncd.us).

Early identification and treatment for COVID-19 remains essential. The SCHD strongly encourages immediate testing with the development of any COVID-19 symptoms or after contact with a confirmed positive case. Individuals at high risk for severe disease should discuss early outpatient treatment of COVID-19 with their healthcare provider. Testing continues to be available and free to Shawnee County residents. To find a location near you, visit: [www.gogettested.com/kansas](http://www.gogettested.com/kansas) or contact your healthcare provider.

**Attachment:** Shawnee County Community Indicator Report 07222021

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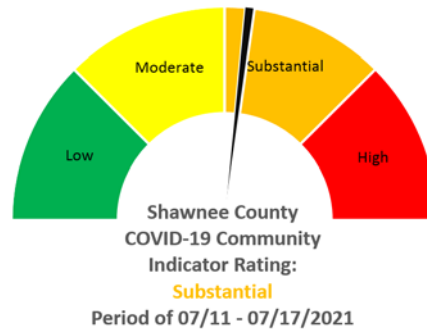
*Shawnee County Health Department is committed to working in partnership with our community to promote and protect the optimal health of all people by bridging gaps to eliminate health inequities, respecting the diversity of our community, through adaptive and innovative processes.*

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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Shawnee County Health Department



## Shawnee County COVID-19 Community Indicator Report

### Period of July 11 through July 17

### Summary Index = **Substantial**

Indicator	Last Week's Value and Level	Current Value and Level
<b>1. Core measures*</b>		
<b>Weekly case incidence:</b> Number of new cases diagnosed during a week	77 (Low: Less than 100)	178 (Moderate: 100 to 200)
<b>Percent positive test</b> (% positive tests out of all tests performed)	3.6% (Low: less than 5.0%)	5.9% (Moderate: 5.0 to 9.9%)
<b>2. Secondary Measures</b>		
<b>Trend in incidence:</b> Difference between county case count in current week compared to previous week**	20.3% (Substantial: Increasing by 16 to 25 percent)	131.2% (High: Increasing by more than 25 percent)
<b>Case investigation stress measure:</b> Percentage of new cases contacted within 24 hours from the date of reporting	90% (Low: 90% or more)	91% (Low: 90% or more)
<b>Contact tracing stress measure:</b> Percentage of close contacts notified within 3 days of date of reporting of source case	100% (Low: 90% or more)	100% (Low: 90% or more)
<b>Hospital Stress Index</b>	1.8 (Substantial: 1.6-2.0)	2.5 (High: 2.1 to 3.0)
<b>SUMMARY INDEX SCORE</b>	4 (Moderate: 1 to 8)	10 (Substantial: 9 to 16)

All Values are provisional and are subject to change.

\* These measures contribute double score to the summary index score

\*\* Differences smaller than +/- 10 percent are reported as UNCHANGED

SUMMARY INDEX SCORE INTERPRETATION	
	Score 0 = green (low)
	Score between 1 and 8: yellow (moderate)
	Score between 9 and 16: orange (substantial)
	Score between 17 and 24: red (high)

## Community Transmission Indicators

Measure	Low (index score: 0)	Moderate (index score: 1)	Substantial (index score: 2)	High (index score: 3)	Notes
<b>1. Core measures*</b>					
<b>Weekly case incidence:</b> Number of new cases diagnosed during a week	< 100	100 to 200	201 to 350	>350	These are case <i>counts</i> . See technical notes for explanation of case <i>rates</i> .
<b>Percent positive test</b> (% positive tests out of all tests performed)	<5%	5.0 to 9.9%	10.0 to 14.9%	15.0% or greater	
<b>2. Secondary Measures</b>					
<b>Trend in incidence:</b> Difference between county case count in current week compared to previous week	Decreasing or unchanged	Increasing by 10 to 15 percent	Increasing by 16 to 25 percent	Increasing by more than 25 percent	Only variations of +/- 10% are counted as an increase or decrease.
<b>Case investigation stress measure:</b> Percentage of new cases contacted within 24 hours from the date of reporting	90% or more	51% to 89%	30% to 50%	Less than 30%	
<b>Contact tracing stress measure:</b> Percentage of close contacts notified within 3 days of date of reporting of source case	90% or more	89% to 51%	50% to 30%	Less than 30%	

<b>Hospital Stress Index</b>	0.0 to 1.0	1.1 to 1.5	1.6 to 2.0	2.1 to 3.0	See separate table for details
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\* Assign double score to these indicators

### Hospital Stress Index Indicators and Thresholds

Measure	Low Transmission (zero points)	Moderate Transmission (1 point)	Substantial Transmission (2 points)	High Transmission (3 points)
Percentage of hospital staffed beds that are occupied	<80.0%	80.0% to 84.9%	85.0% to 90%	>90.0%
Percentage of occupied beds with COVID-19 patients	<5.0%	5.0% to 10.0%	10.1% to 15.0%	>15.0%
Percentage of staffed intensive care unit (ICU) beds that are occupied	<80.0%	80.0% to 84.9%	85.0% to 90.0%	>90.0%
Percentage of ICU occupied beds with COVID-19 patients	<5.0%	5.0% to 10.0%	10.1% to 15.0%	>15.0%

**Additional statistics on COVID-19 in Shawnee County can be found at <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ea2b1340b0694c2681268b5d1476b73e>**

## How to use and technical notes

1. The Shawnee County COVID-19 Community Indicator *Report* includes six *measures* (two core and four secondary), each measuring different aspects of transmission level and impact of the SARS-CoV2 virus responsible for COVID-19. Each measure can have a value falling in one of four categories of severity: low, moderate, substantial, and high.
2. Cases are reported as case *counts*, for simplicity purpose. The thresholds between case categories were set using approximations of the following case *rates*:
  - a. Low: less than 57 cases/100,000 per week
  - b. Moderate: between 58 and 114 cases/100,000 per week
  - c. Substantial: between 115 and 200 cases/100,000 per week
  - d. High: more than 200 cases/100,000 per week
3. All thresholds between categories were set based on the best available evidence from national and state organizations, when available, as well as direct experience in Shawnee County.
4. The report includes an *index score*. The value of each measure contributes to the summary index score differently, depending on the category that the measure is in for that week.
  - a. Each measure in the green category = 0 points
  - b. Each measure in the yellow category = 1 point
  - c. Each measure in the orange category = 2 points
  - d. Each measure in the red category = 3 points

The core measures receive double score, because of their greater importance as measures of transmission level. The total number of points for the index score is therefore 24 (if all the indicators are red).

5. The index score is interpreted as follows:
  - a. Score 0 = green (low)
  - b. Score between 1 and 8: yellow (moderate)
  - c. Score between 9 and 16: orange (high)
  - d. Score between 17 and 24: red (uncontrolled)

Refer to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/community-mitigation.html> for more details about the characteristics and description of each level.

6. Every week the health department will release an updated report. The report will be based on the values for each measure of the previous week. The values published in the previous week's report are also included for reference. Values are provisional and may change as information becomes available.
7. Sources:
  - a. Hospital stress index: weekly updates provided by Stormont Vail Health and University of Kansas Health System – St. Francis Campus.
  - b. Case investigation, contact tracing and trends: internal monitoring at the Shawnee County Health Department.
  - c. Case incidence, percentage positive tests: Kansas Department of Health and Environment (<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/160/COVID-19-in-Kansas>)