

Thank you to our 2021 LeadingAge Kansas Partners



LeadingAge Kansas
COVID-19 Weekly Update
November 5, 2021

Federal Update

Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination Interim Final Rule

- Read [here](#). Nursing facility regulations start on pg 185
- CMS FAQ [Available](#)
- LeadingAge National summary [here](#)

Phase 1: Dec 5, 2021

- All policies and procedures in place
- First shots done or religious/medical exemption requested or granted

Phase 2: Jan 4, 2022

- All vaccinated unless exemption granted or other limited circumstances preventing

Federal Update

Who does this apply to? All CMS regulated facilities, such as nursing homes, hospitals, home health agencies, hospice, PACE

Does this apply to AL/HP/RHCFs or HCBS providers? No. CMS states that they do not regulate those settings and so the mandate rule does not apply to them

What staff does this apply to? Any and all staff, volunteers and contractors who interact with patients or other staff in the building on a regular or extended basis. This includes off-site workers who may only interact with other staff.

Federal Update

Are exemptions allowed? Yes. Medical exemptions and exemptions for sincerely held religious beliefs. The IFC specifically identifies criteria that must be met in order to grant a medical exemption. Religious exemptions are not as black and white. CMS references two resources for providers to consult: [EEOC Compliance Manual on Religious Discrimination](#) and a [Religious Exemption Request Template](#)

What accommodations must be made? The regulation requires that facilities develop a process for implementing additional precautions for any staff who are not vaccinated, in order to mitigate the transmission and spread of COVID-19

How will they enforce? Normal survey enforcement process through recert or complaint surveys

The CMS vaccine rule supersedes any conflicting state laws and any other conflicting federal laws (such as OSHA mandate and ETS)

Federal Update

- Policies and procedures must include, at a minimum, processes addressing the following:
- Ensuring that all staff have at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine prior to providing any care, treatment, or services.
- Ensuring that all staff are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Requesting exemption from COVID-19 vaccination based on a medical contraindication or sincerely held religious belief.
- Tracking and securely documenting exemption requests and outcomes.
- Ensuring exemption requests due to medical contraindication meet documentation requirements outlined in the rule.
- Additional precautions to be taken by those who are not fully vaccinated including but not limited to testing, physical distancing, and source control.
- Tracking and securely documenting the vaccination status of all staff, including those who are exempt from vaccination.
- Tracking and securely documenting the status of those who are temporarily delayed from becoming fully vaccinated based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
- Contingency plans for unvaccinated staff.

State Update

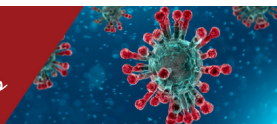
Changes to State Testing Approach for Long-Term Care Announced

Effective 11/30/2021, KDHE will no longer pay for diagnostic or surveillance testing at the commercial labs that support LTCFs. KDHE will continue to work with LTCFs to provide testing through the state lab in response to outbreaks that occur in the facility. We have no indication at this time that the federal government will stop sending rapid, point of care test kits to federally regulated facilities. Batelle Midwest Coordination Center can also provide free surveillance testing.

[Read the entire letter.](#)

State Licensed Only Providers: Updated Visitation Guidance

Updated Visitation Guidance was released by KDADS today for state licensed only homes. You can find it [here](#). The guidance was updated to include a new essential caregiver section and to require building to use CDC Transmission Rate for visitation decisions. Please send any questions or concerns to kdads.reopening@ks.gov.



Value First PPE and Testing Update

- McKesson, Value First's preferred distribution partner, supply chain update:
 - The Abbott BinaxNow continues to be under allocation however the Quidel Quickvue tests are now available. The BD Veritor test kits are no longer under allocation restrictions as well.
 - McKesson also does have availability on the CareStart rapid antigen test if your community is in need. (Item #1197186) Your shipment will be backordered for two weeks however they are anticipating continued supply for now.
 - Due to the very high demand, they are requesting limiting orders to 30 day supply.
 - McKesson does still have inventory on Gowns, Gloves as well as Honeywell N95 masks.
 - Continue to be in close contact with your McKesson representative with the additional needs you might have. , Scott Fleet.
(816.305.7177) scott.fleet@mckesson.com
 - You may also reach out to ann@leadingagekansas.org.

Webinars for Your Accounts Payable Staff

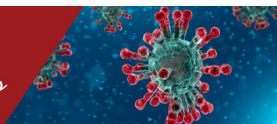
Electronic Payments Save Time and Money and Allow AP to Focus on Mission Critical Tasks

November 18th | 1:00-2:00 PM

Accounts payable staff are busier than ever, and AP leaders are eager to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness. Paying vendors electronically frees staff from the drudgery of manual check processing, allowing them to focus more of their time on higher-value activities such as data analysis and supplier management. Earn 1.0 CEU

[Click to Register](#)

Register today with the discount code “50” and get 50% off.



Still Have Time To Register for This Webinar

Kansas NF Cost Report 101

Tuesday, November 9th | 1:00-2:00 PM

Kansas NF Cost Report 101 – KDADS staff along with MSLC will review the MS-2004 NF Cost Report, provide a “how to” complete schedule K and review the Common Adjustment on the NF Cost Report. Earn 1.0 CEU.

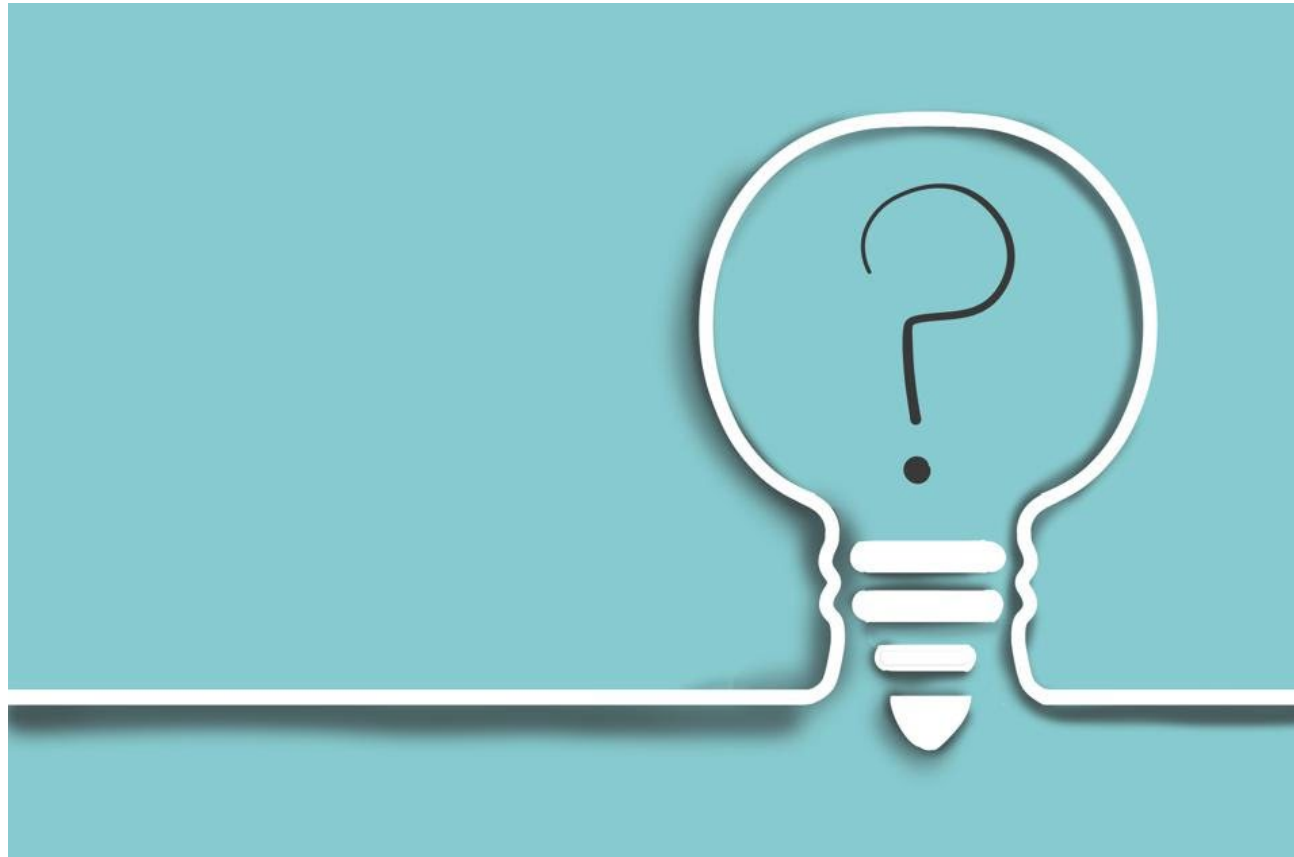
Presented by:

David Halferty - Myers & Stauffer

Shirley Chung - KDADS Audit Manager

Trescia Power - KDADS Program Finance Oversight Manager

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