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# LeadingAge Kansas COVID-19 Weekly Update August 13, 2021



# Vaccine Update

- **Nursing home/assisted living providers mandating in Kansas:** Ascension Senior Living, Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, Genesis, Brookdale Senior Living, Atria Senior Living, Five Star Senior Living, Sunrise Senior Living, National Church Residences... (Did we miss anyone? Let us know!)
- **Governments that are mandating COVID-19 vaccines for health care workers:** California, Denver, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois (state operated settings), Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York (state operated settings), Pennsylvania, Rhode Island (state operated settings), Washington, Federal VA workers and military personnel
- **Long term care industry groups announcing support of employer vaccine mandates:** LeadingAge, American Health Care Association, Argentum, American Seniors Housing Association, AMDA

# Vaccine Update

Mark Beggs, CEO of [Edenwald Senior Living](#) (Townson, MD) has made available the six communication tools they created to institute a staff vaccine mandate in his community. These include a [first](#) and [second](#) email announcement; an email announcement for a [staff discussion](#); a [mandate policy](#); and [religious exemption](#) and [request for medical accommodation](#) forms. He has given permission to share these resources and they are intended as helpful member to member templates only.

# Federal Update

## **\$1 trillion infrastructure bill passed Senate**

- Provision most relevant to long term care is \$65 billion investment in broadband/high speed internet access.
- Part of bill paid for by extending 2% Medicare sequestration cuts into 2031. One of the reasons Sen. Moran and Sen. Marshall voted no

## **\$3.5 trillion social policy budget resolution passed by Senate**

- This bill is supposed to contain large investments into senior housing and HCBS, expansion of Medicare benefits, Part D drug price negotiation, and a federal medicaid program to cover people in non-medicaid expansion states like Kansas.

## **Nursing Home Improvement and Accountability Act of 2021 Introduced in Senate**

Two big provisions stand out:

- FMAP bump to nursing homes for staff wages, recruitment and retention
- Ban on pre-dispute arbitration agreements

Please participate in grassroots action on these bills – stay tuned to LeadingAge national communications

# Federal Update

- CDC allowing booster shots for immunocompromised people (cancer drugs, organ transplants, etc). No decision on whether booster shots are needed in long term care.

# Poll Question

Has your local health department come out with guidance that goes against CMS mandates?

Yes

No





**N Myron Gunsalus, Jr, KHEL Director**

**August 13, 2021**








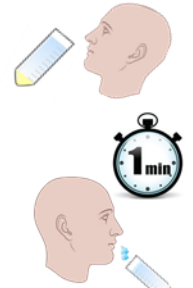

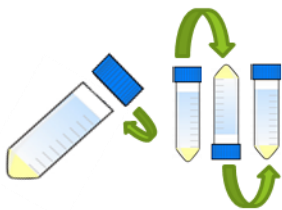

## Popular Rapid Tests (all CLIA waived tests)

- ▶ Abbott ID Now (PCR)
  - ▶ 15 minute test
  - ▶ More sensitive than antigen testing
- ▶ Abbott BinaxNow (antigen)
  - ▶ 15 minute test
  - ▶ Does not require an instrument to run (lateral flow test)
- ▶ BD Veritor (antigen)
  - ▶ 15 minute test
- ▶ Quidel Sofia (antigen)
  - ▶ 15 minute test
- ▶ Cepheid (PCR)
  - ▶ Most sensitive and robust test on this list. Some HDs have this platform. Many hospitals have it.
  - ▶ Tests takes 45 minutes to complete

## Saliva Collection Method for PCR (KHEL only)



### COVID - 19 Oral Rinse Instructions

<p><b>Step 1</b></p>  <p><b>No Food No Drink No Medication</b></p> <p><b>15 min</b></p>	<p><b>Step 2</b></p> 	<p><b>Step 3</b></p> 	<p><b>Step 4</b></p> 	<p><b>Step 5</b></p> 	<p><b>Step 6</b></p> 	<p><b>Step 7</b></p> 
<p>Patient should have nothing by mouth 15 minutes prior to collecting sample.</p>	<p>Write the patient's full name, date of birth, and date/time of collection on both labels (top and side) on tube. Please top label with patient info onto the test order form.</p>	<p>Remove the tube cap from the collection tub and hand to patient.</p>	<p>Instruct patient to dispense the oral rinse fluid from the collection tube into mouth. Return tube to collector. <b>DO NOT swallow contents.</b> Instruct the patient to swish the contents around vigorously for a full minute. After 1 minute have patient spit the entire contents into collection tube.</p>	<p>Add the stabilization solution from the syringe (<b>Note: remove cap from syringe first</b>) or tear-away pouch directly into the collection tube <b>after</b> patient has spit in tube.</p>	<p>Carefully place the cap securely on the tube. Close tightly to prevent leaking. Invert tube 2-3 times to fully mix stabilization solution with oral rinse from patient.</p>	<p>Place collection tube into bio-hazard zip-closure bag and seal completely. Place the folded test order form in the front pouch of the bio-hazard bag.</p>

**FAQ:**

1. Patient should not take anything in the mouth 15 minutes prior to sample collection. This includes food, gum, any tobacco products, fluids and medications. If the patient has consumed anything by mouth, you must wait 15 minutes after consumption before performing the test.
2. If the patient accidentally swallows the oral rinse, instruct them to spit out the contents and start over. Swallowing the oral rinse does not cause harm, it is completely food grade.
3. The stabilization solutions in step 5 may come in the form of a syringe or a tear-way package. Do **NOT** put stabilization solution in mouth.
4. Testing kits should be stored in cool and dry place at 35 - 86 F degrees.

Thank you for purchasing the COVID-19 Oral Rinse kit from Community Care. We are here to answer any of your questions, please contact us at Community Care Client Services.  
[CS@elementhpc.com](mailto:CS@elementhpc.com)  
 844-419-3470

## LabXchange Electronic Test Ordering

- **Web based system**
- **Can scan driver's license to populate patient data or can utilize uploaded patient/staff rosters.**
- **Can be used for submission of samples to KHEL for PCR testing.**
- **Can be used for recording results of rapid Point of Care tests including automatic submission to state surveillance (EPITrax)**
- **Can report results directly to patient/staff member utilizing cell phone and/or email.**

## Statewide Courier System

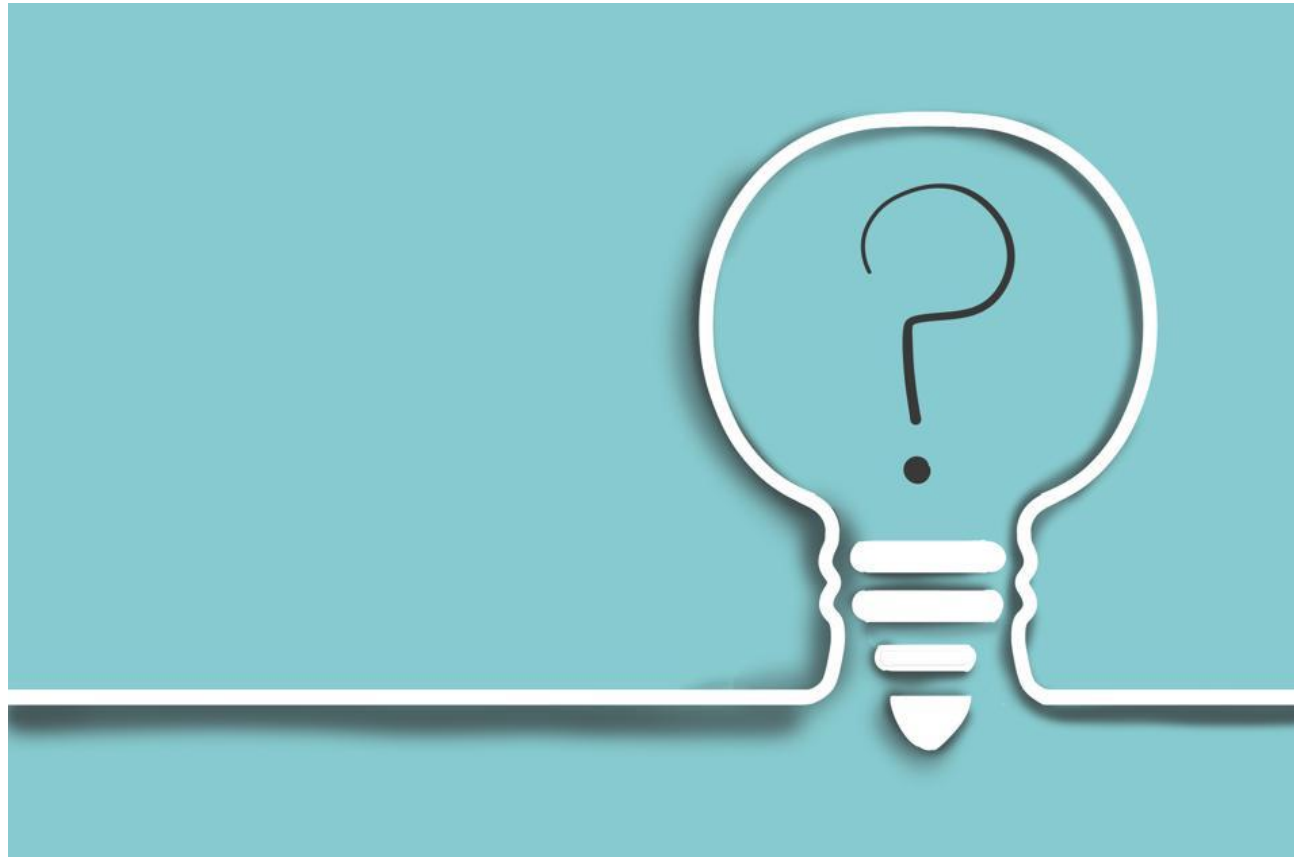
- **Daily courier pickup in all counties**
- **Anything coming to KHEL can be sent via courier**
- **Currently one pickup site per county (most are LHD)**
- **Pickup times and locations are available by request or contact local health department (LHD)**
- **At KHEL contact Chad Yamashita, [Chad.Yamashita@ks.gov](mailto:Chad.Yamashita@ks.gov)**

## Helpful Contacts

- **General Laboratory Information**
  - [KDHE.KHELINFO@ks.gov](mailto:KDHE.KHELINFO@ks.gov)
- **CLIA Certification Questions:**
  - [KDHE.CLIA2@ks.gov](mailto:KDHE.CLIA2@ks.gov)

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[www.leadingagekansas.org/covid19](http://www.leadingagekansas.org/covid19)

