COVID-19 Disproportionately Affects Communities of Color; Truman Conducts Mobile Testing Outreach

African Americans are being impacted by COVID-19 at a much higher rate than other ethnic groups, primarily due to the social determinants of health that limit access to health care and the ability to practice healthy lifestyles. Kudos to Truman Medical Centers and their mobile team that has been out in central and eastern Kansas City this week providing COVID-19 testing to people who may not otherwise be able to reach a hospital or drive-thru location. Mobile testing will continue to be offered next week at the following times and locations:

- Tuesday, April 28, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., Northeast High School parking lot, 415 Van Brunt Blvd., 64124
- Wednesday, April 29, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., Guadalupe Center parking lot, 5123 E. Truman Rd, 64127
- Friday, May 1, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Friendship Baptist Church parking lot, 3530 Chelsea Dr., 64128

Patients should have fever, cough or other COVID-19 symptoms to get tested, and they should call 816-404-CARE (2273) to speak to a TMC nurse before arriving. Learn more.

ALSO … See this blog from Health Forward Foundation President/CEO Qiana Thomason that offers excellent insights on the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color in Kansas City.

Missouri Medicaid Expansion Supporters to Celebrate Campaign Milestone

Healthcare for Missouri, which is shepherding the campaign to pass a ballot measure requiring Medicaid expansion in the state, has scheduled an important virtual campaign update for Tuesday, April 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. They will make an announcement regarding collection of petition signatures to place the measure on the November ballot. Speakers will include Health Forward Foundation President/CEO Qiana Thomason and Jessica Hembree from the campaign. Join the Zoom meeting via this link: https://270strategies.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hdTTEywHQemm-Nzpbo1o1g

Physicians’ Conference Call With Missouri DHSS Director Saturday, April 25 at 8 a.m.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Director
Randall Williams, MD, and the Missouri State Medical Association again will host a conference call for physicians on Saturday, April 25, at 8 a.m. Dr. Williams will provide an update on COVID-19 in the state. To participate, call 888-330-9939, then enter PIN 767288#.  Learn more

Plasma Donations from Recovered COVID-19 Patients Needed

Do you have patients who have recovered from COVID-19? The Community Blood Center is seeking recovered COVID patients to donate plasma for use in treating others with the disease. Chief medical officers from the University of Kansas Medical Center, Truman Medical Centers, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission and Liberty Hospital emphasized the need during a media briefing this week. Patients who are able to donate plasma should complete the donor request form on the Community Blood Center website. A lab-confirmed positive test for COVID-19 is required and symptoms should be gone for at least 14 days. All information provided will be kept confidential and will only be used to qualify one as a donor. Link to donor request form.

In the Media

- KCMS member State Rep. Jonathan Patterson, MD, authored this commentary in the April 16 Kansas City Star urging the use of antibody testing so “immunity certificates” could be issued to those who could move about freely. Read the commentary
- KCMS President Betty Drees, MD, and member Mary Anne Jackson, MD, dean of the UMKC School of Medicine, were interviewed in a story in the April 17 Kansas City Star about a local chiropractor offering a dubious therapy of IV injections of Vitamin C to prevent COVID-19. Read the article
- KU Medical Center's Dana Hawkinson, MD, appeared last Saturday evening on a national TV special, “One World Together: At Home,” that was broadcast on ABC, NBC, CBS, iHeartMedia and Bell Media networks. Dr. Hawkinson is medical director of infection prevention and control and has been appearing in KU’s daily media briefings plus many local TV interviews since the COVID-19 crisis began. See the interview.

Follow KCMS Social Media for the Latest COVID-19 News

Check our KCMS Facebook page and KCMS Twitter account frequently for the latest COVID-19 news relevant to KCMS physicians. Most of the above articles appeared on our KCMS social media during the past week, plus many additional items. Get the news as it becomes available!

COVID-19 Information Resource Links

On the Medical Society website, find links to major local, state and national COVID-19 resources from our local and state health departments as well as the CDC. Resources include current case count dashboards from KDHE, DHSS and Johns Hopkins University. Newly added
are dashboards for Kansas City, Mo., Johnson County and Wyandotte County.