
KANSAS CITY

MEDICAL SOCIETY

MEMBER CONNECTIONS

December 19, 2020

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Vaccine Brings Relief, Hope

This week marked a turning point in the fight against the coronavirus as the first health care workers in Kansas City received the vaccination. [This video of Truman Medical Center COVID-19 RN Sarah Kiehl receiving the first injection](#) on Monday has been widely circulated. Her reaction is one we can watch over and over again. On Tuesday, [University of Kansas Health System respiratory therapist Mary Ann Copeland](#) was the first to receive the vaccine there. Truman late Thursday posted [this video of KCMS Leadership Council member and emergency physician Stefanie Ellison, MD](#), receiving the vaccine (pictured). "This illness is all about prevention ... This is the most effective prevention that we have to help our patients," Dr. Ellison said. "I have seen very seriously ill patients and I've seen patients die from it. I really want our patients to be safe and feel safe. The way (to safety) is through the vaccine."



Remind Your Patients About Safe Holiday Practices

Physicians remain among the most highly trusted sources of information for patients. Therefore, you can influence how people follow COVID-19 safety precautions during the holidays. Here is a useful graphic from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (English and Spanish).



Possible physician messaging to patients: *“Please take extra precautions this holiday season. This is a good year to keep the celebration really small. Family gatherings are one of the most common places people are catching COVID-19. To reduce the risk of catching or spreading COVID-19 this holiday season: Don’t travel if you don’t have to. Stay home as much as you can. Wear a mask. Keep a safe distance from people you don’t live with. And wash your hands—a lot.”*

[See CDC guidance on safe holiday celebrations.](#)

Kansas City Medicine Fourth Quarter Issue Now Online

The [fourth quarter issue of Kansas City Medicine](#) is now online and will be arriving in your mail soon. Learn about what UMKC and Truman Medical Centers are doing to promote the mental health and well-being of their physicians, residents and students. Also, see diabetes action steps, tips on effective mask wearing and other COVID-19 protections, and more. [Read Kansas City Medicine.](#)



Links to Vaccine Information

Catch up on current information about the COVID-19 vaccines via the following links. These links will be posted on the KCMS website in the COVID-19 section and updated regularly.

[KCMS COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar Dec. 5 summary](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[The types of COVID vaccines](#)

[CDC V-safe app for patient tracking](#)

[CDC Vaccine Safety Webinar Dec. 14 – recording and slides](#)

American Medical Association

[AMA Q&A for physicians](#)

[AMA Q&A for patients](#)

[AMA COVID-19 & vaccine development: Clinical information](#)

Physicians Practice

Members in the News

Retired Physician Organization chair **Keith Jantz, MD**, authored [this commentary on effective mask wearing in the December 12 *Kansas City Star*](#). It is condensed from his [article on COVID-19 protections from *Kansas City Medicine*](#).

A photo of **Lee Norman, MD**, Kansas secretary of health and environment, appears prominently on the front page of the December 11 *USA Today* (pictured)



Johnson County Seeks Provider Requests for Vaccine

The Johnson County Department of Health & Environment is seeking requests for the COVID-19 vaccine from health care practices and organizations that would like to obtain their vaccine supply from JCDHE to vaccinate their staffs. To request vaccine supply, [please complete this JCDHE online form](#). The form asks for the name and address of the organization and the number of staff to be vaccinated. By completing this form, your practice or organization is indicating it would like to be contacted by JCDHE if COVID-19 vaccine becomes available. This does not guarantee your practice or organization will receive the vaccine from JCDHE. The information will help JCDHE assess the number of health care workers in the county who will need the vaccine. [More information is available here](#).

CMS Updates Physician Fee Schedule

On December 1, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that includes updates on policy changes for Medicare payments under the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS), and other Medicare Part B issues, on or after January 1, 2021. [Learn more about the PFS updates](#).

Find out about this and other 2021 Medicare developments at “What’s New in Medicare in 2021,” a January 20, 2021 webinar presented by the Kansas Medical Society in partnership with CMS and the Missouri State Medical Association. [Register for the webinar](#).

Surveys Show Growing Vaccine Support

Two surveys point to growing acceptance of COVID-19 vaccines with a minority remaining firmly opposed.

- [Kaiser Family Foundation: Americans Are Growing Less Reluctant To Take COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Pew Research Center: Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in Research and Development Process Increases](#)

Follow KCMS Social Media for the Latest News

Check our [KCMS Facebook page](#) and [KCMS Twitter account](#) frequently for the latest news

relevant to KCMS physicians. Get the news as it becomes available!

Calendar

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 – “What’s New in Medicare in 2021,” webinar presented by KMS in partnership with MSMA and CMS, 9 to 11 a.m. [Information and registration](#).

Monday, January 25, 2021 at 6:00 pm-KCMS Leadership Council Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 – KMS Advocacy Day & Annual Meeting, Topeka. [Information and registration](#).

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 – MSMA Virtual White Coat Day with Missouri legislators, Zoom. [Information](#).



Next Member Connections – January 9, 2021

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Kansas City Medical Society
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