



**Kit Carson County Department of Public Health and Environment**  
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#### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**August 17, 2021**

**Release: IMMEDIATE**

**From: Dawn James, Director, Kit Carson County Department of Public Health and Environment**

#### **POSITIVE CASES OF COVID VIRUS CONTINUE TO TREND UP**

The Kit Carson County Department of Public Health and Environment continues to monitor the virus positivity trends closely on a daily basis. Currently, the trend for positive cases continues to go up and Kit Carson County has been designated by the State health department as being a high incidence county. Each local school district, business, church and healthcare facility is asked to consider this trend, how it may affect their operations and how they can put procedures in place to protect their workers, students, customers and patients. For more information about Kit Carson County specific data, you can visit the CDPHE website at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-data-dashboard> to see where we are with these trends.

#### **Immunization Update – Third Dose:**

**Official guidance and orders have been received to provide a third dose of Moderna or Pfizer Vaccine to individuals who are immunocompromised. The third dose is given at least 28 days after completion of the two dose series. People with the following conditions and treatments are eligible for the third dose:**

- Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies
- Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Receipt of stem cell transplant
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency\Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (such as prednisone)

Full guidance for people who should consider a third dose can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>.

People with compromised immune systems may have a reduced ability to respond to vaccines, including COVID-19. New data show that a third dose of the mRNA vaccines helps to increase the effectiveness of the vaccine for this group. The need for this third dose is not due to a waning effect of the two-dose regimen; rather, data show the standard two-dose regimen does not produce the same degree of protective effect in immunocompromised individuals as it does in people who are not immune compromised. Patients who are immune compromised should consult with their health care provider to

discuss additional precautions and any questions they may have about protecting themselves from COVID-19.

KCCDPHE will keep the public notified of additional guidance as it comes out for when a third dose is being made available to the general public. No official notification has been received to date.

### **Breakthrough Cases of COVID Do Happen**

There have been six breakthrough COVID cases in the county in individuals who had completed their complete two dose series, or one dose of J & J. None of these cases required hospitalization. While the vaccine protects an individual from severe illness and hospitalization, the Delta Variant can and has been shown to break through, thus the continued need to remain cautious, even when you have been fully immunized.

### **How long does it take for the vaccine to provide immunity?**

You are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two weeks after you have received the second dose in a two-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) or two weeks after you have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson). While vaccines must be highly effective to be approved for use, no vaccine provides 100% immunity, so fully vaccinated individuals should continue to take precautions in public.

The health department asks that Kit Carson County residents continue to be vigilant in using a layered approach of protection including washing hands frequently, remaining home if you are ill, or have been around someone who is ill, using good cough and sneeze etiquette, getting tested for COVID if you believe you may be ill or have been exposed to someone who is ill, considering continued mask use in small indoor confined spaces when social distancing cannot be achieved and getting vaccinated.

END

**(Note to Media: Separate from above information so article isn't too long)**

### **Vaccinations available in Kit Carson County:**

Kit Carson County Department of Public Health and Environment continues to offer no-cost vaccine to anyone who wants it from the age of 12 and older.

- **Moderna Vaccine Clinics:**
  - Every Wednesday and Friday or as demand allows for individuals 18 years old or older.
  - Reservations Required. To schedule your appointment go to <https://kitcarsoncounty.colorado.gov/> or call 719-346-7158, ext. 432.
  
- **Johnson and Johnson “One and Done” vaccine clinics:**
  - Every Wednesday, or as demand allows. Walk – ins welcome!
  - To schedule your appointment go to <https://kitcarsoncounty.colorado.gov/> or call 719-346-7158, ext. 432
  
- **Pfizer Vaccine** is available to individuals 12 years old and older. For children 12 – 18, call Kristie at 719-346-7158. Ext. 422 to schedule your child's immunization.

### **Testing for COVID available daily at the Health Department**

Testing for COVID is available every day Monday through Friday at the health department and is provided at no cost to the person needing to be tested. Testing is the only way a person knows if it is COVID or if it is something else causing the symptoms. Knowing that it is COVID helps the infected person take steps to prevent others from getting the virus. It's fast, easy and doesn't hurt!