


COVID-19: Learned Lessons and a Look Toward the Future




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 September 16, 2021

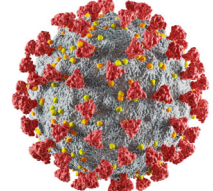
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Objectives




- Describe the Lines of Effort (LOEs) of the pandemic response and implications and approaches of each
- Discuss the key roles of preparedness and response
- Consider what we have learned, where we are now, and what's ahead




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COVID-19 Pandemic: Unparalleled in Our Lifetime




- It has revealed our weaknesses and vulnerabilities, and strengths
- It is a convergence of many crises:
 - Public Health
 - Economic
 - Education
 - Mental health
- It has required creativity, resilience and adaptation
- It has tested our Nation's unity and resolve



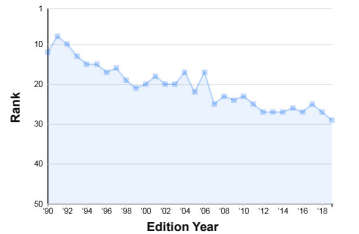
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How did we get here? Local Trends – Kansas Health Rankings



"Of all the states in the US, over the past 30 years, Kansas has seen the greatest decline in its health rankings."



(America's Health Rankings, December 6, 2019)

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Lines of Effort (LOEs)




COVID-19 Lines of Effort

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| LOE 1 Epidemiology and disease tracking | LOE 2 Community testing and risk testing alternatives | LOE 3 Media/community education and engagement | LOE 4 Isolation/quarantine management and enforcement | LOE 5 Policy and guidelines |
| LOE 6 Community relations, school and LSC liaison function | LOE 7 Best practices research | LOE 8 Materials, supplies and stockpiles | LOE 9 Therapeutics & Vaccine | LOE 10 Hospital capacity, staffing and patient transfer |


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The Pivotal Role of Preparedness and Response



- 600 days into this!
- Importance of emergency declaration and Response Plan
- Interplay between County emergency managers, SEOC, and the KSANG and KSARNG
- Adjust, adjust, and adjust some more
- Role clarity and duplication avoidance



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It seems like we have had to "MacGyver" everything!

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Where are we today on the arcs of a crises?

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Where were we and where are we today?

Kansas COVID-19 Daily Cases by Symptom Onset Date

- March 16th: Schools Close
- March 30th: Stay at Home Order
- May 4th: Phase 1
- May 18th: Phase 1.5
- May 27th: Ad Astra Plan Becomes Guidance
- May 31st: Memorial Day
- June 4th: House Bill 2016 passes

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Daily Average of New Cases: U.S.

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Length of Covid Surges Fueled by the Delta Variant

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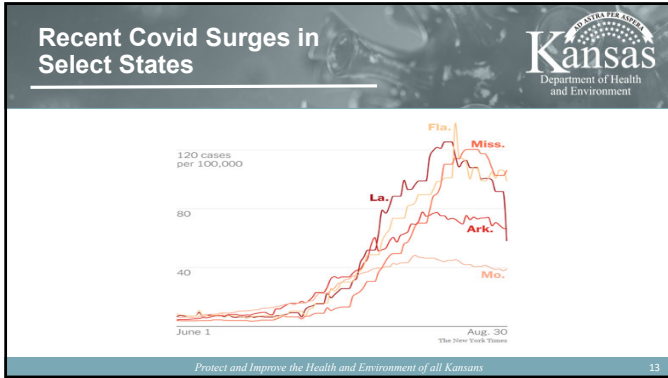
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Covid Surges in U.S. Regions Fueled by Alpha and Delta Variants

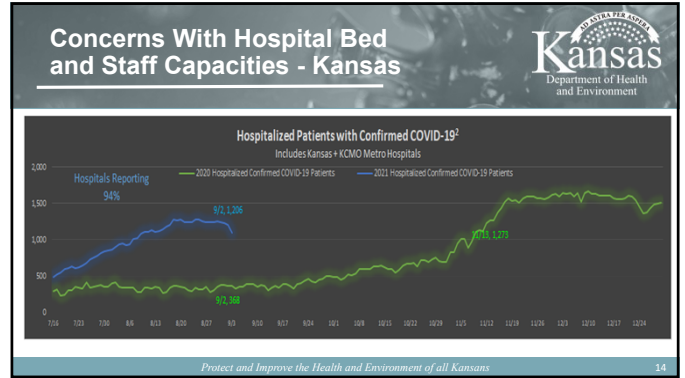
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How is a forest fire like a pandemic?

- To spread, both need substrate (burnable material versus non-immune persons)
- Both *can* end naturally (burnable material depletion versus all non-immune persons infected die or recover)
- Can* end through action (fighter-fighting versus public health intervention – vaccine, testing, etc.)

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What have been the flashpoints?

- Communication**
 - Masks
 - Schools
 - Vaccine safety
 - Vaccine prioritization
 - Business closures
 - Mass gatherings
 - Vaccine passports / requirements
- Diversity, equity, and disparities in access to testing and vaccination

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Addressing Equity and Disparities in Testing and Vaccination

- Consider equity in everything you do
- Racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, rural/urban, immigration status, cultural, disabilities, incarceration
- Local voices and actions
- Expansion of LHD Capacity
- Bilingual communication
- Guidance from Covid-19 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Taskforce

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Data Integration

“Patchwork of vaccination records leaves some Pennsylvania hospitals unsure which patients are vaccinated.”

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Effectiveness of Interventions



More

- Strong, credible leadership
- Travel restrictions, isolation and quarantine
- School closures
- Work from home
- Event cancellations
- Masks
- Social distancing
- Vaccine

Less

- Altruism
- Behavioral nudges
- "Slow the spread" guidelines


Intermediate

- Rewards and incentives


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What is ahead? Predictions




- Delta variant will peak at two months after its marked uptick in most regions
- Return to normalcy will be driven by immunity status, especially in children
- Continued "immune debt" to pay

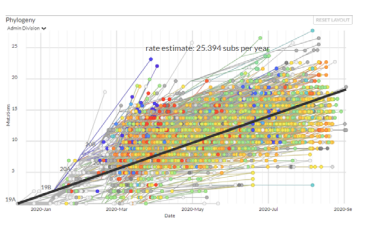
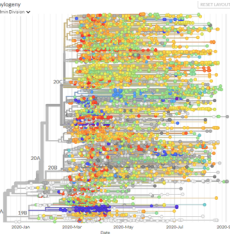


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The wild card? Variant strains and vaccine effectiveness against them




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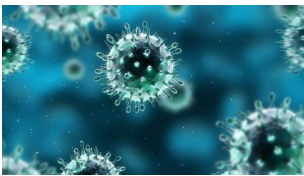
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We cannot turn a blind eye to our old nemesis, influenza



Kansas:


- 2019-2020: 141 deaths
- 2020-2021: 6 deaths
- 96% decrease
- 2020-2021 was a terrific immunization year for influenza prevention
- Masking and social distancing worked against influenza, too



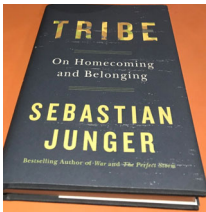
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Recovery




- Be competent, authentic, and connected to others
- Don't isolate (video games, internet surfing). Isolation is twice as likely to cause PTSD as the trauma itself
- Unplug
- Don't be alienated or allow others to be
- Elect leaders who unify


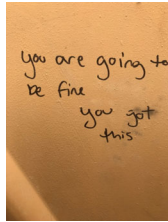


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Questions / Discussion



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