

Annual Report

ABOUT US

Letter from the Director

DEAR PARTNERS IN HEALTH,

As we embark on our journey into 2024, we want to celebrate the highlights of Jackson County Public Health's transformative year in our annual report for 2023.

Last year, we introduced several new initiatives. These additions aim to address the diverse needs of our residents and foster a more inclusive and supportive environment:

- Free Narcan & fentanyl test strip kits
- Free transportation assistance for clients coming to JCPH for services
- Monthly food distribution events on-site with Harvesters
- Expanded interpreter services for the health clinic and increased promotional materials in other languages
- Sensory Inclusive™ certification

During the spring, we engaged thousands of residents in our anonymous *Community Health Survey*, a collaborative effort that resulted in the comprehensive 2023 *Eastern Jackson County Community Health Assessment (CHA*). This assessment serves as a snapshot of our findings, with economic instability and mental health identified as the most pivotal challenges facing our communities.

Addressing these complex issues is no small feat: it will truly take all of us to make a change. Our sincere hope is that community leaders, organizations, and residents in Eastern Jackson County can leverage this data to create meaningful change in the aspects that touch their daily lives. Over this next year, we plan to work collectively with our local partners and community members on initiatives to address these key findings and improve the health of those living in EJC.

As we step into 2024, we look forward to the opportunity to work hand in hand with each of you. With your support, we are confident that together we can continue building a healthier and more resilient Jackson County.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the well-being of our community.



BRIDGETTE SHAFFER, MPH
JCPH HEALTH DIRECTOR

MISSION

To offer services, provide programs, and advocate for policies so all people have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy.

VISION

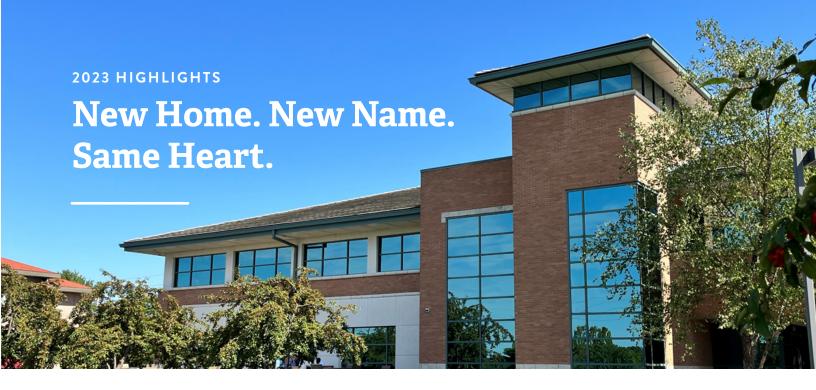
A community where all people can live their healthiest lives.

SERVICE AREA

Jackson County Public
Health (JCPH) provides
public health services to
over 278,692 residents.
Individuals served are
primarily located in Eastern
Jackson County (EJC),
which is defined as all areas
outside of Independence
and Kansas City.

Managed and operated by University Health.

Eligibility criteria for acceptance and participation in the programs of this agency are administered on a nondiscriminatory basis regardless of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, genetic information, or disability.



AFTER MORE THAN 80 YEARS

of serving the community from Independence, we made a significant move to Lee's Summit last June. Along with the relocation, our health department adopted the name *Jackson County Public Health (JCPH)*.

Throughout this change in name and location, our dedication to serving the community has only strengthened. The new, centralized location enables us to provide excellent clinical services to Eastern Jackson County residents in a more accessible setting, including additional ADA-compliant clinic rooms.

As the needs of our community and clinic have evolved since we first moved into our original building in 1934, we are thrilled to now have a space that aligns with these changes.

With the city of Independence re-establishing its own health department, our move to Lee's Summit positions us to efficiently provide services to residents within our jurisdiction. Additionally, our new building also provides a home for Jackson County's *Environmental Health* department and *WIC* program.

In 2021, Jackson County Executive Frank White, Jr. spearheaded efforts to acquire the building with the support of the county legislature. This acquisition underscores the county's commitment to enhancing public health services. The state-of-the-art facility mirrors the growth, resilience, and dynamic health landscape of Jackson County.

NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:









Community Health Assessment

At the end of 2023, Jackson County Public Health officially completed our Community Health Assessment (CHA), offering a data-driven snapshot of our county's health alongside community-driven health priorities.

JCPH is proud to offer the CHA as a comprehensive resource for residents as well as community partners and leaders across Eastern Jackson County, helping readers learn more about their community's health.

WHAT'S NEXT?

What we've learned from this CHA will help guide JCPH's work over the next five years, such as the creation of new programs and allocation of resources. As part of those efforts, we worked with our community partners to identify two key priority areas impacting Jackson County's health: Economic Stability and Mental Health. Those topics, along with data collected from the CHA, will help inform the CHIP process.

"While no document can ever capture the full scope of our residents' lived experiences, a Community Health Assessment enables us to identify emerging health trends and areas where public health interventions are most urgently needed."

BRIDGETTE SHAFFER, MPH
JCPH HEALTH DIRECTOR



Creating the 2023 Community Health Assessment

conducted on a 5-year cycle, the data in this CHA spans 2017 - 2023

CHA	COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT
FALL 2022	COMMUNITY HEALTH SURVEY WRITTEN Survey written by JCPH staff focusing on social determinants of health
FEB 2023	COMMUNITY HEALTH SURVEY LAUNCHED More than 22,000 households in Eastern Jackson County were asked to participate
APRIL 2023	COMMUNITY PARTNERS SURVEY CONDUCTED 40+ community partners were asked to participate
MAY 2023	DATA ANALYSIS KICKED OFF 296 data indicators analyzed, pertaining to 14 community health topics
JUNE 2023	EJC COMMUNITY HEALTH SUMMIT HELD JCPH worked with 40+ Community partners to analyze 8 data sets and identify CHIP priorities
DEC 2023	CITY REPORTS RELEASED 15 smaller, city-specific reports highlighted key statistics pertaining to EJC communities
MARCH 2024	COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT PUBLISHED

APRIL 2024 + BEYOND MOVING FORWARD JCPH begins working with community partners on health issues and goals, as well as drafting outcomes and strategies surrounding Economic Stability and Mental Health

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

CHIP

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

JCPH By The Numbers





our IRIS referral system completed

2,659 REFERRALS

over the tri-county partnership of Jackson, Johnson, and Wyandotte Counties





our Epidemiology & Data Analytics division processed

10,030 CASES

of communicable diseases and other reportable conditions









10,744 VACCINES GIVEN

5,694

INDIVIDUAL PATIENTS
IMMUNIZED





we distributed

11,874 COVID-19 KITS

including 3,265 COVID tests, 1,250 masks, and 1,500 hand sanitizers



708

NARCAN KITS DISTRIBUTED



81

FENTANYL TEST STRIP KITS DISTRIBUTED



Community Engagement & Policy

Our well-being is influenced by the community we reside in. That's why our Community Engagement & Policy Division (CE&P) is committed to creating programs and policies that foster the health and overall welfare of EJC residents.

Our CE&P team actively works towards alleviating health disparities within our community. They are involved in teaching free sexual education classes, linking vulnerable community members with essential resources, advocating for evidence-based health policies, and much more.

Providing Help For Our Neighbors

In 2023, JCPH worked harder than ever to lend a hand to our neighbors in need. At the end of the year, the department kicked off a *new partnership* with Harvesters food bank. One day each month, we began offering free fresh produce and nonperishable items.



At our first event in December, we distributed **996 pounds** of food!

JCPH also began partnering with the rideshare company Lyft to offer a complimentary round-trip ride to residents in EJC who need transportation to our clinic for any of the services we offer. Residents with questions can text or call us at 816-447-0421 or email us at JACOHDcommunityhealth@uhkc.org. Riders under the age of 17 must ride with an adult.

InCoLab - Tackling Community Problems

Most people want equitable well-being for all Jackson County residents, but very few know how to make it happen – especially in the face of complex challenges like economic instability and mental health. Through our flagship initiative, InCoLab, we provide backbone support, real-world tools, frameworks, and systems expertise to help community members, organizations, and communities consider how to make transformative, lasting change and shift strategies in meaningful ways that support thriving populations.

In 2023, we led a diverse group of changemakers through a process of *mapping the systems* surrounding economic stability and mental health access in Jackson County. This innovative exercise will contribute to a shared understanding of gaps and strengths, engage the community in our understanding of complex health challenges, identify strategic leverage points for community investment, and make a real difference in people's lives.

Partnering with Schools

Back in 2021, members of the CE&P division wrote a policy brief examining menstrual equity in EJC. Our team found 56% of EJC school employees reported period products were not available in restrooms.

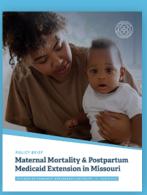
In our efforts to improve access to period products in schools, JCPH started collaborating closely with district nurses and administrators to ensure that menstrual hygiene products are readily available to students who need them most. In just one month of 2023, we distributed a total of 2,000 pads, 4,800 tampons, and 185 pairs of period underwear and also installed five free dispensers in three school districts!



This year, CE&P began offering FREE NARCAN. See page 17 to learn more about this program and how it has impacted EJC.



Proposed Landfill Impact Report



Postpartum Medicaid Policy Brief



2023 Policy Agenda

- 4 STAKEHOLDER NEWSLETTERS
- BRIEFS & REPORTS PUBLISHED
- 1 INFORMATIONAL TESTIMONY on Postpartum Medicaid submitted to the Missouri State Legislature

* 25 COMMUNITY EVENTS HELD

PRESCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN TAUGHT (+ health + goal setting, HOURS OF HEALTH **EDUCATION GIVEN** + future planning, HRS OF CHILDCARE PROVIDER TRAININGS + decision making. we provided 32 hours of + boundary free teenage pregnancy setting) prevention classes to teens

BREAST & CERVICAL CANCER SCREENINGS leading to diagnoses and treatments for 10 breast cancer and 3 cervical cancer cases

ADULT BRAIN INJURY CLIENTS SERVED

27 CAR 7 PACK 'N PLAY CRIBS



MEGHAN
POLICY COORDINATOR

One project by JCPH staffer Meghan drew some of the biggest publicity the health department received in 2023. She wrote an impact assessment on a proposed landfill in south Kansas City. While the primary concerns around the project are often economic, Meghan's impact assessment looked at the potential health impacts of the landfill.

Health Services

Our Health Services team provides Eastern Jackson County residents with *accessible health* services and preventative care. Services include:

- All required and recommended vaccinations for clients of all ages
- Travel vaccines and malaria prescriptions
- COVID-19 testing
- Tuberculosis (TB) skin tests
- Sexually Transmitted Infection assessment and treatment
- HIV testing
- Pregnancy testing
- Camp, sports, and pre-K physicals
- Hands-on CPR checkoffs per American Heart Association standards

Caring for Patients From Across the Globe

In 2023, our commitment to providing inclusive and accessible healthcare services reached new heights, particularly our intepreter services. We expanded our language offerings to cater to a broader spectrum of people seeking vital records and clinical services.

Throughout the year, our dedicated team offered services in 13 languages, including English, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, French, Hebrew, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Vietnamese, Swahili, Romanian, Portuguese, and Turkish. They spent more than 146 hours per month translating for clients.

Enhancing the Patient's Experience

With a new clinic came JCPH's highest patient satisfaction score ever. Our average patient satisfaction rating experienced a significant upswing, rising from 4.7 out of 5 to an impressive 4.81. November marked a historic milestone with an all-time high of 4.88.

This surge in satisfaction is a reflection of the positive experiences shared by our patients. Their reviews offer a glimpse into the warm and welcoming atmosphere found at our clinic:

"Very friendly staff, clean building, and easy to make an appointment. Could not recommend this place any more for your health needs."

"Everyone at this place is always friendly, observant, and listens well. I have always felt they have my wellness in mind. It's nice to feel so supported."

"From the kind greeting when we walked in the door to every encounter we experienced afterwards, everything was so welcoming and refreshing. Thank you."

Becoming More Accepting and Inclusive to All

One in six individuals in the United States has a sensory processing need.

In 2024 JCPH will officially be a Sensory Inclusive Certified location. We have partnered with a national not-for-profit, Kulture City, to bring supplies, information, and training to our department to better serve our community.

Upon a visit to JCPH, you will see signage throughout the main lobby informing clients on sensory inclusive services and tools we provide. Clients of all ages with sensory needs will have the opportunity to interact with Sensory Inclusive Bags, which include headphones, fidget toys, and feelings cards, and weighted lap pads to provide a calming and comforting experience for those who may need it.

JCPH now joins Arrowhead Stadium, Kauffman Stadium, the National WWI Museum and Memorial as well as LEGOLAND and the Sea Life Aquarium in providing Jackson County with sensory inclusive locations.

10,74.4 TOTAL VACCINES GIVEN

5,694 PATIENTS IMMUNIZED

1,604 COVID-19

703 FLU

8,437 OTHER

16,231 BIRTH CERTIFICATES 24,332 DEATH CERTIFICATES

824 TOTAL COVID-19 TESTS

775 TB SKIN TESTS

541 STI VISITS

Our team provided vaccinations during clinics at schools. libraries, long-term care facilities and the houses of homebound individuals. CLINICS



HOURS SPENT TRANSLATING & INTERPRETING **EACH MONTH**







ESTELA COVID OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Estela joined us in 2022 to strengthen our testing, vaccination, and supply distribution efforts. In 2023, Estela worked tirelessly with both the public and our community partners to make sure they were supported with COVID-19 testing kits and supplies.

A 5-star google review detailed her effort: "Shout out to Estela for explaining the [COVID test] procedure and making the experience smooth. Estela also gave me updated info about COVID-19 and what to do if I tested positive."

Epidemiology & Data Analytics

The Epidemiology and Data Analytics Division serves as the investigative arm of JCPH. The Epidemiology team *investigates reports of communicable diseases* in EJC to help identify and control their spread. Meanwhile, those in Data Analytics *analyze information* to help us evaluate the health and well-being of individuals living in our communities.

Investigating a Mass Outbreak

In April, JCPH investigated an gastrointestinal outbreak among attendees at a robotics competition at Lee's Summit North High School. More than **98 suspected cases** were reportedly tied to the event, with **700 exposures**. The majority of those affected were from the metro area.

Since many competing teams were from schools outside of Jackson County, JCPH coordinated with local health departments across Kansas, Oklahoma, and even Brazil to contain the spread.





KAREN, RN, BSN EPIDEMIOLOGY SPECIALIST

In 2023, Karen played a pivotal role in the extensive investigation of a fungal meningitis outbreak among U.S. residents who received epidural anesthesia at two clinics in Matamoros, Mexico. This groundbreaking investigation was published in the Journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases and recognized by the CDC's Healthcare-Associated Infections.

Tracking the Health of EJC Schools

This year, our epidemiologists achieved several milestones in monitoring and research, including the establishment of a School Syndromic Surveillance Program (SSSP).

Currently, 42 buildings are part of the SSSP, with four out of eight school districts reporting regularly. This information is now used to track disease trends within our local schools, to identify potential infectious outbreaks within the community, and to help keep kids and school staff healthy while also keeping absenteeism rates down.

Expanding Partnerships With Local Providers

One of the ways the Epidemiology and Data Analytics division works with local providers is by sending Health Alert Network emails. These messages allow us to quickly give our partnered healthcare providers a heads-up on emerging public health issues to be aware of in our region, whether that's sharing best practices during an RSV vaccine shortage or watching out for patients exhibiting mumps symptoms following an increase in local cases.

In 2023, our network expanded greatly, helping JCPH to inform dozens of local healthcare providers about emerging health issues in the community such as:

- Potential measles exposures
- Pertussis (whooping cough) concerns in Eastern Jackson County
- Potential lead exposure requests following a new state law on school testing requirements

Providing advanced knowledge of changing disease trends ensures physicians and labs are able to identify and report communicable disease cases and emerging issues to JCPH more quickly, allowing us to intervene and reduce the chances of secondary transmission. Their reports and data also serve as a valuable source for epidemiological research to better understand disease patterns and their impact on our community.

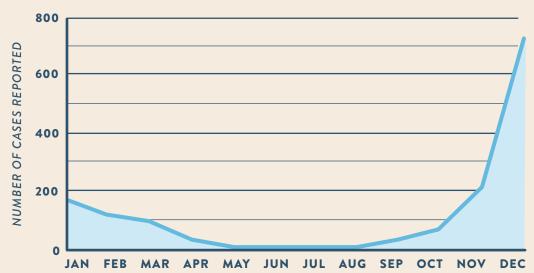


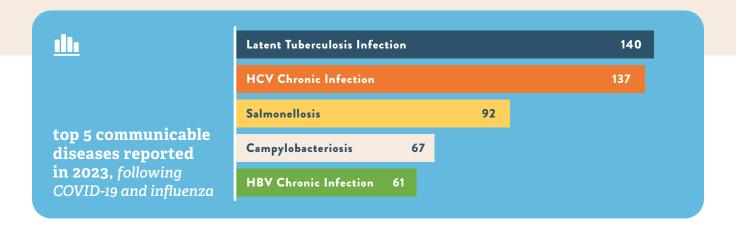
51 data requests completed

outbreaks in Long Term Care Facilities investigated & contained

2023 REPORTED FLU CASES BY MONTH IN EJC







Emergency Preparedness

Our Emergency Preparedness Team partners with local agencies and first responders to strengthen the community's ability to respond to a range of *public health emergencies and disasters*.

In 2023, JCPH did a deep dive into our training needs, especially for preparedness. The Emergency Preparedness Team conducted multiple assessments that were vital in identifying knowledge gaps among staff, serving as a foundation for future training, exercise, and planning activities. JCPH remains committed to continuous improvement and staying ahead in preparedness efforts.

Vaccinations on the Go

On October 20th, the entire health department came together for a *drive-thru vaccination clinic*. Orchestrated by the Emergency Preparedness Team, the clinic not only served as a convenient way for clients to receive their flu and COVID-19 vaccines, but also doubled as an *emergency preparedness exercise*.

In just five hours, JCPH efficiently administered and distributed a total of 235 doses of COVID and flu vaccines to 142 patients. Additionally, 55 boxes of Narcan and 35 fentanyl test strip kits were distributed. Beyond its primary objective of vaccination, the drive-thru played

a crucial role in staff training and stress-testing emergency response plans JCPH would use in the event of a large-scale emergency.

Strengthening Collaborations for Community Resilience

The Emergency Preparedness Division actively engaged in partner exercises throughout the year, fostering collaboration with local, regional, and state partners. These exercises showcased JCPH's commitment to building a resilient community through coordinated efforts with diverse stakeholders.

Key exercises included:

- Family Reunification Exercise for Lee's Summit School District: Addressing the critical need for efficiently reuniting parents with children during a crisis.
- Mass Fatality Exercise in Chillicothe, MO:
 Preparing for and managing challenges associated with mass fatalities.
- Family and Friends Reunification
 Exercise for the Kansas City Metro:
 Strengthening community resilience
 through effective reunification processes.





Zachary was the mastermind behind designing the vaccine drive-thru experience and the subsequent after-action report. His work will be used as a reference for drive-thru vaccine clinics for years to come.

Operations

Our Operations Division ensures the fiscal integrity and accountability of the health department. They manage vital day-to-day operations including purchasing goods and services, clinical billing, building and grounds services, and grant management, all with quality at the forefront.

2023 Fiscal Year Budget

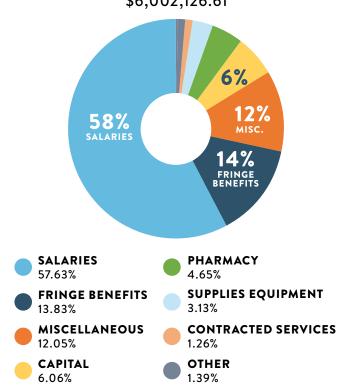
Our budget during the 2023 fiscal year totaled \$6,002,126.61. JCPH relies heavily on local, state, and federal grants to provide essential public health services in the community. In 2023, we received \$1,901,818.53 from local, state, and federal grants—a 15% decrease from the previous fiscal year. Grant revenues are expected to further decrease after fiscal year 2024-2025 due to the ending of public health infrastructure funding post-COVID-19. These projections are worrisome and we will continue to request for an increase in additional local health levy funds to support core public health services for our community.



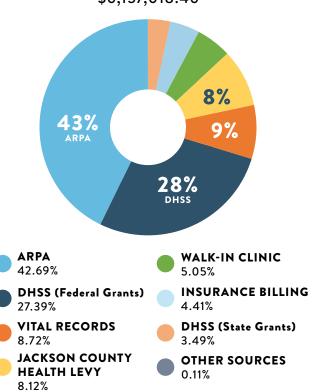
MERCADEZ & TIFFANY OPERATIONS STAFF

Our operations team goes above and beyond to serve both internal and external clients. Tiffany's clear explanations of insurance processes earned her praise, while Mercadez was commended for her meticulous management of purchases.

2023 FISCAL YEAR TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$6,002,126.61



2023 FISCAL YEAR TOTAL REVENUE \$6,157,018.46



Communications

The Communications division brings information from across JCPH to the general public — that includes press releases, social media posts, website announcements, promotional materials, and more!

Creating Our New Look

A major Communications focus in 2023 was raising public awareness of JCPH's new name and location while simultaneously unveiling our department's rebrand, which included updating all of JCPH's printed and online materials. More than a hundred items were redesigned to create a new cohesive look for the department, using a new logo and branding style designed by Communications.

Thousands of Homes Tuned In To Learn More About JCPH

At the end of June, our staff gave a number of press interviews highlighting our new building. At one point in the morning, viewer ratings showed close to 18,000 homes were tuned in, learning about all of our great services.

Getting Social

We also expanded our social media presence into the platforms NextDoor and LinkedIn, which proved crucial for reaching diverse audiences. In August of 2023, a simple post about our new Lyft program on social media led to additional media coverage. It was able to inform thousands of people about our new program that otherwise might have never known about it.

These initiatives collectively contribute to the growth, visibility, and impact of JCPH. The Communication team's work helps to bridge the gap between JCPH's services and the EJC community at large, letting residents know what resources are available to them.

687,679
TOTAL SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS

77,460
UNIQUE WEBSITE VISITORS

38 MEDIA MENTIONS in television, print and radio stories

POSTS PUBLISHED across all platforms

NEW ITEMS DESIGNED across over 150 individual projects





In 2023, the Communications team rebranded dozens of items big and small, including vehicles like our mobile services unit. This eye-catching design was created in-house by our very own Ben!

Ben's exemplary design work at JCPH doesn't just ensure that this vehicle is easy for our clients to recognize — it's also saved our department the tens of thousands of dollars that it would have cost to have an outside agency rebrand items like this one.

Strategic Initiatives

The Strategic Initiatives division plays a pivotal role in ensuring that all of JCPH's staff is prepared to address the public health needs of the community.

They measure the success of JCPH's efforts through performance management and quality improvement, and they also provide workforce development and training initiatives to help improve staff capabilities. This division is dedicated to achieving the goals outlined in our department's strategic plan and meeting the standards set by national public health entities.





In 2023, Avanthi presented at the Root Cause Coalition Conference. bringing national attention to JCPH's equity efforts and model practices. She highlighted the department's multi-pronged approach to improving maternal & child health in 2023.



ACCELERATING TOWARD ACCREDITATION

The SI Team is taking the lead on our journey to becoming a PHAB-accredited health department! In 2023, they submitted an application to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Accreditation is a national PHAB effort to strengthen public health infrastructure, performance, and quality. Achieving PHAB-accredited status is both an honor and a challenge — right now, there are just 8 accredited health departments in Missouri — but it's one that we're ready for!



PROMOTING RACIAL EQUITY

Continued efforts to address health inequities, with a specific focus on combating racism as a public health crisis. In 2023, JCPH introduced an internal Racial Equity Impact Assessment tool to help staff ensure that our new programs, policies, and initiatives are adequately considering the needs of different populations.



EMPOWERING EXCELLENCE

Provided nearly 1,000 professional development and training hours across the department, including staff trainings in leadership, grant management, data & public health communications, and general professional development.

Fighting the Opioid Epidemic

Over the past twenty years, there has been an unparalleled surge in opioid usage, addiction, and fatal overdoses in the United States. In Missouri, drug overdose stands as the primary cause of death among young adults, with 70% of those overdose fatalities linked to opioids.

In response to this crisis, JCPH began distributing free Narcan and fentanyl test strip kits. The nasal spray can reverse opioid overdoses and save lives, while the test strips detect if there is any trace of fentanyl in a pill, which can be fatal in even small quantities. These kits in homes across EJC now serve as crucial life-saving tools, particularly in situations where time is of the essence.



Our Narcan kits are FREE and can be requested in our walk-in clinic or online!

After an appointment one day in our clinic, one woman stopped by the front desk to ask about making another Narcan order. She told our staff she had come in and gotten two kits previously, and had given it to her son who was going to a concert. She told us she had to force him to take it with him, but he listened.

After coming home from the event, the woman's son said he was able to use it to save someone who overdosed at the concert. The woman shared her story as she placed an order for additional kits, telling our staff:

"The Narcan you gave me was able to save someone's life."

CE+P's new program was also highlighted this fall in the *Kansas City Star's "Deadly Dose" investigation*, which looked at the toll fentanyl has taken on our community and the response to it.





Executives / Officials



Charlie Shields
UNIVERSITY HEALTH
PRESIDENT + CEO



Lynette Wheeler
DPRN, RN, FABC
UNIVERSITY HEALTH
LAKEWOOD COO

Frank White, Jr.

Jean Peters Baker

Darryl Forte
COUNTY SHERIFF

DaRon McGee

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN
4th DISTRICT LEGISLATOR

Megan Marshall

LEGISLATIVE VICE CHAIRMAN

3 rd DISTRICT AT-LARGE LEGISLATOR

Manuel Abarca IV
1st DISTRICT LEGISLATOR

Jalen Anderson
1st DISTRICT AT-LARGE LEGISLATOR

Vanessa Huskey
2nd DISTRICT LEGISLATOR

Donna Peyton
2nd DISTRICT AT-LARGE LEGISLATOR

Charlie Franklin
3rd DISTRICT LEGISLATOR

Jeanie Lauer
5th DISTRICT LEGISLATOR

Sean Smith
6th DISTRICT LEGISLATOR

GENERAL INFORMATION 816-404-6415 askjcph@uhkc.org

816-404-6415 clientservices@uhkc.org

CLINIC APPOINTMENTS (IMMUNIZATIONS, STD TESTING, ETC.)

816-404-6416 clientservices@uhkc.org

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND POLICY DIVISION

816-404-6493 healthpromotions@uhkc.org

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY HOTLINE

816-404-9898 jacksoncountycd@uhkc.org

DHSS EMERGENCY/
DISEASE REPORTING (24/7)
1-800-392-0272 (hotline)

communications ann.bowler@uhkc.org

MEDIA INQUIRIES

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