

BG (RET) William Turner, Director

Laura Kelly, Governor

August 20, 2021

I'd like to introduce myself as the new Director for this agency. I am proud to be part of team whose mission is to serve veterans. I've recently had the opportunity to visit both of our state veterans' homes. I appreciate the tours and opportunity to meet staff. Kansas is fortunate to have these homes and qualified staff.

Recently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) announced that they are developing an emergency regulation which will require COVID vaccinations for employees in facilities that receive Medicare and Medicaid funds. The full press release from CMS is located at [Biden-Harris Administration Takes Additional Action to Protect America's Nursing Home Residents from COVID-19 | CMS](#). Both of our homes receive these funds. Currently, staff vaccinations at both homes are comparable to the averages in Kansas.

In the days ahead we will review incoming information and work with the appropriate agencies and individuals to determine our steps forward. As an agency, we are committed to keeping you informed. In the coming days you will receive additional information from your respective leadership team.

Vaccination opportunities will continue to be available. If you have questions about the vaccine, I encourage you to speak to someone you know who has received the vaccine. State agency guidance concerning the Coronavirus is located at [coronavirus \(ks.gov\)](#). Additional information is available at [www.cdc.gov](#) or [KDHE COVID-19 | Official Website \(kdheks.gov\)](#). You can also learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine safety here:

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine fact sheets:

[FDA Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet \(PDF\)](#)

[FDA Pfizer-BioNTech fact sheets in more languages](#)

Moderna COVID-19 vaccine fact sheets:

[FDA Moderna COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet \(PDF\)](#)

[FDA Moderna COVID-19 vaccine fact sheets in more languages](#)

The goal is and will continue to be protecting the health and safety of our residents and staff. If you have any questions at all, please reach out to your home's leadership for education and guidance.

Regards,



BG (RET) William Turner

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cc: Employees of KSH and KVH
KCVAO Leadership Team