

Press Release

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CDC Reports Surge in Pediatric Respiratory Infections

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Health Advisory because of increasing emergency department visits for children due to respiratory viruses including COVID-19, RSV, and influenza in Kansas and nationally.

The Reno County Health Department wants to remind people it is not too late to get vaccinated. [Vaccines for flu and COVID-19 can be administered at the same time.](#) The CDC recommends vaccination against influenza and COVID-19 to all eligible people aged six months and older who are not up to date.

There are other measures patients can take to prevent respiratory viruses.

- Stay home if they are sick and stay away from others who appear ill.
- Practice good cough etiquette (turn head away from others, cough into your arm or a tissue, discard tissue)!
- Keep your hands clean! – wash hands frequently (20 seconds with soap and water) especially after coughing or touching high touch services.
- Clean high touch surfaces often, like doorknobs, car handles, phones and keys.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Mask up if levels of respiratory illness are high – especially if your child has a chronic illness.
- Seek medical care EARLY to get the most benefit from antiviral treatment options for influenza and COVID-19.
- *Don't* take antibiotics they have leftover or are given by a friend or family member. These will not help with viral infections and may cause side effects.

The [Reno County Health Department](#) is administering vaccines during their normal operating hours. Walk-ins are accepted for ages 12 and over, but appointments are required for children 11 years or younger. Call 620-694-2900.

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