



Knox County Health Department

140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 4, 2021

Contact: Joint Information Center
jicmedia@knoxcounty.org

COVID-19 cases and deaths are decreasing in Knox County long-term care facilities

Knoxville, Tenn. – COVID-19 cases and deaths in long-term care facilities throughout Knox County are trending downward and have been for more than a month.

“Since COVID-19 first arrived in our community nearly a year ago, we have known that these individuals were at some of the highest risk for severe outcomes,” said Senior Director and Public Health Officer Dr. Martha Buchanan. “With the dedicated, statewide push to get those living and working in these facilities vaccinated, we are finally starting to see these numbers trend down and that is extremely encouraging.”

Local long-term care facilities recorded record-high COVID-19 cases and related deaths in January. Since then, both have steadily declined. Cases dropped 55% and deaths dropped by roughly 70%.

As it stands, all of Tennessee’s nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities have completed both doses of COVID-19 vaccinations, according to the Tennessee Department of Health. Further, Tennessee’s assisted care living facilities and residential homes for the aged were also projected to be completed last week.

Effective this week, TDH has ended visitation restrictions for long-term care facilities. KCHD continues to urge these facilities in Knox County to review [CDC Infection Control Resources](#) and Follow the Five Core Actions in order to protect residents and staff.

More than 101,000 vaccinations have been reported across the County, including first and second doses. As it stands, Knox County also leads the big four metro counties in percent of population vaccinated with both doses.

About Knox County Health Department:

The first health department in Tennessee to achieve national voluntary accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is dedicated to ensuring the conditions in which every resident can be healthy. As a chief health strategist for the community and with more than 240 team members, KCHD’s broad scope of work includes convening partners to improve community health, identifying community health threats, investigating disease outbreaks, conducting extensive outreach and education, preparing for public health emergencies, providing and connecting the public with medical care, enforcing food safety and air quality laws, and more. For more information, visit www.knoxcounty.org/health.

###

