



COVID-19 UPDATE | August 19, 2020

What you need to know

As we continue to manage through the COVID-19 pandemic, Kaiser Permanente is committed to making sure our customers have the latest information. When we receive updates, we will ensure you receive any information that may impact KP members. This is a challenging time for everyone, and Kaiser Permanente is here to support you with news and information to manage your Kaiser Permanente plan.

Kaiser Permanente joins late-stage COVID-19 vaccine study

Kaiser Permanente began participating in a phase 3 clinical trial to test an investigational vaccine against SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing the current COVID-19 global pandemic. Kaiser Permanente plans to enroll approximately 1,400 participants at 4 sites in California and Oregon. The goal for this trial is to enroll up to 30,000 participants at more than 120 sites around the world. The investigational vaccine being tested in this trial is BNT162b2, one of the vaccine candidates in development by Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech, which are also the sponsors of the study. [Article](#)

COVID-19 Webinar Series

Join us for a webinar series focused on common questions, the latest clinical news, and the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and well-being of your workforce. Our first webinar is **August 25: Back-to-school safety and answers to frequently asked questions-** Dr. John Rott, will speak about the scientific realities of coronaviruses and COVID-19, control measures, and Kaiser Permanente's response. Click on the links below to register.

Upcoming Sessions

Registration Link

• August 25, 10am PDT – COVID-19 – Updates on the Latest Science: <i>Back-to-school safety and answers to frequently asked questions</i>	Click Here
• September 17, 11am PDT – COVID-19 – Updates on the Latest Science: <i>Flu & TBD</i>	Click Here
• October 1, 1pm PDT – COVID-19 – Updates on the Latest Science	Click Here
• October 28, 1:30pm PDT – COVID-19 – Updates on the Latest Science	Click Here



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Obesity increases risk of death from COVID-19

In a study published in *Annals of Internal Medicine*, Kaiser Permanente research shows that obesity was associated with a substantial increased risk of death from COVID-19. However, it also found that the risk of death from COVID-19 associated with obesity is not uniform among those who are obese, but instead disproportionately affects men and people under 60 years of age. Read the full article [here](#).

Because obesity plays such a significant role in overall health, and now in increased risk associated with COVID-19, this would be a good time to connect with your account team to explore what lifestyle risk reports may be available for you or your customers.

Telehealth's Time

- **Increased Care through Telehealth:** In an effort to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, health care organizations across the country had to quickly pivot to telehealth so they could provide care to patients remotely. But at Kaiser Permanente and the Permanente Medical Groups, it wasn't so much of a pivot as a widening of existing services. The increased use of telehealth was implemented to reduce the need for patients to come into medical facilities. It also allowed care teams at the facilities to focus on caring for coronavirus patients and preserving resources for a potential surge. Read more [here](#).
- **Home care:** Targeted use of technology is one of the ways Kaiser Permanente helps members with chronic conditions manage their conditions. [Read more](#) about care for diabetics using home monitoring.
- **Shaping the future of telehealth:** Kaiser Permanente is actively shaping the future of care as a thought leader in telehealth. recently hosted Virtual Care, part of its ThoughtCAST digital event series, featuring an online panel of thought leaders from health care and technology discussing the trends and opportunities in virtual care. The cross-industry rapid response to COVID-19, by shifting to virtual, is increasing adoption of telehealth, decreasing exposure to risk, and preserving the use of personal protective equipment. Watch a recording of the [ThoughtCAST Virtual Care panel discussion](#).

Kp.org is a valuable resource for information and member communications, as well as their link to any telehealth services. Encourage your employees who are KP members to register on kp.org. <https://healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/register>.

For **facility updates** and re-openings, see www.kp.org/careoptions/scal. For updates in each region, select your region from the drop-down menu at the top of any kp.org page, then scroll to the Getting Care section. Spanish language also available.

Requests for Testing: Members should call the Appointment and Advice Call Center prior to visiting a facility for testing. They will be instructed to the most appropriate care.