



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Kansas Hospitals Urge Kansans to ‘Catch Up On Care’

(April 23, 2021) – According to the Kansas Hospital Association, which tracks inpatient and emergency department data for Kansas hospitals, nearly all health care services saw a decline in patient volume in 2020. From annual wellness exams and regular health screenings to specialized surgery, cardiac care, behavioral health and more, the pandemic caused fewer Kansans to seek necessary health care services in 2020 than in 2019 – even after hospitals safely reopened in the second half of the year.

To reverse the trend and minimize its negative effects on individual and population health in Kansas, KHA is urging people to reclaim their health by revisiting their health providers for all recommended visits and health screenings in 2021. To spread the word, KHA is launching a new, statewide [Catch Up On Care](#) campaign, complete with ads for consumers and tools for hospitals to promote the message as health care leaders in their own local communities.

“The numbers from 2020 are concerning when you consider the potential consequence of losing control over a chronic illness or missing a screening for cancer, heart disease, mental health and more,” said Chad Austin, KHA President and CEO. “With the *Catch Up On Care* campaign, we hope to see more Kansans visiting their health providers for the care they need to continue living healthy lives.”

In that way, Austin says the campaign promotes better health for all Kansans while also supporting the hospitals and health care providers who serve them. For the tens of thousands of people who missed important health exams in Kansas in 2020, the message cannot come soon enough.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 221 member facilities, of which 122 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA’s vision is: “Optimal Health for Kansans.”

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