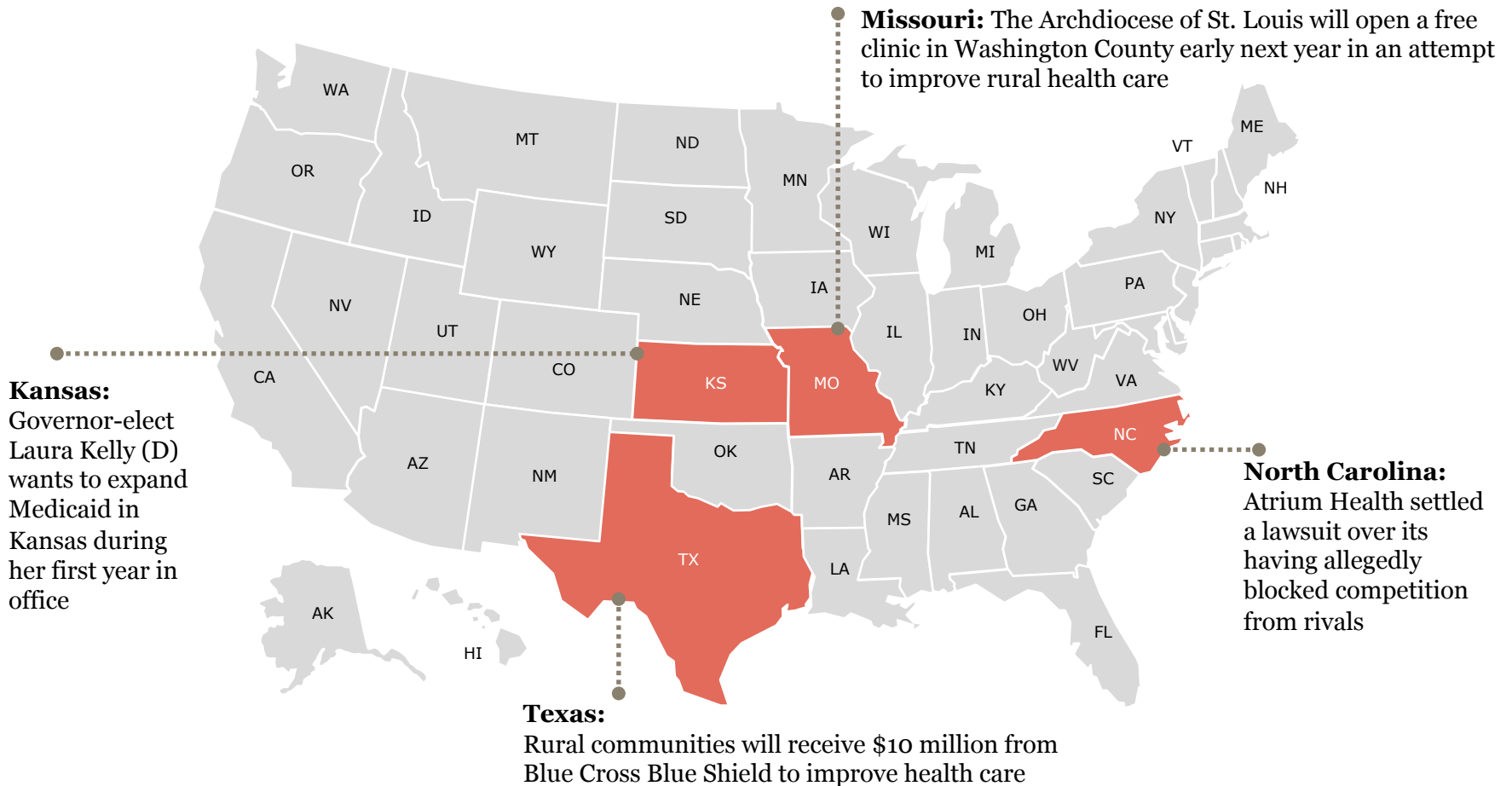


The states of health care: November 12th to 19th

Health care news stories from around the U.S.

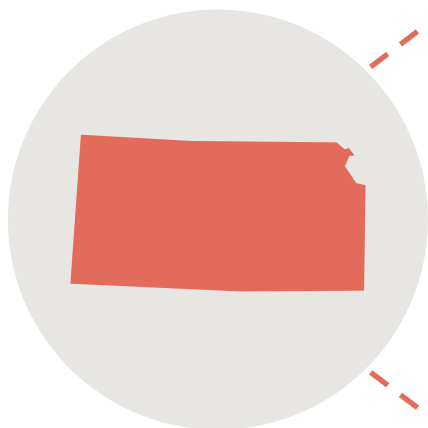


Texas: Rural communities will receive \$10 million from Blue Cross Blue Shield to improve health care



- Texas A&M University Health Science Center and Blue Cross Blue Shield are partnering in an effort to reduce costs and improve outcomes for rural Texans
- The University's Rural and Community Health Institute will work to improve rural hospital function and ambulatory care, and increase the use of health information and technology
- They plan to address the 35 Texas counties without a physician, 58 counties without a general surgeon, 147 counties without an obstetrician, and 185 counties without a psychiatrist

Kansas: Governor-elect Laura Kelly (D) thinks she can expand Medicaid in Kansas during her first year in office



- During Laura Kelly's (D) campaign against Kris Kobach (R), the candidate made Medicaid expansion one of her top priorities
- In 2017, the Kansas legislature approved expansion, but it was rejected by then-Governor Sam Brownback (R)
- Kelly stated in a recent interview, "we will be putting together a Medicaid work group and we will look at what other states have done with expansion..."
- The legislature needs only a simple majority in order to put a bill on the governor's desk

Missouri: The Archdiocese of St. Louis will open a free clinic in Washington County in an attempt to improve rural health care



- The free clinic will offer services for primary care, mental health care, and chronic disease management as well as housing and employment services
- The mobile clinic will start at St. Joachim Catholic Church and add another parish every six months, expecting to host 2,000 medical visits a month
- Dr. Sister Marie Paul Lockerd will run the 400-foot mobile trailer clinic, which will be staffed with volunteer nurses and staff members from various Catholic hospital systems
- At 17%, Washington County has the highest percentage of uninsured adults in the St. Louis area, with 22% of residents at or below the poverty level

North Carolina: Atrium Health settled a lawsuit alleging it blocked competition from rivals



- A Justice Department 2016 suit argued that Atrium Health had a market share of 50% in the Charlotte area
- The suit, also filed by North Carolina’s attorney general, stated that Atrium “uses its market power to impede insurers from negotiating lower prices with its competitors”
- Atrium Health employed language in its agreements with health insurers that restricted insurers from creating plans that took patients to lower-priced competitors
- In the settlement, Atrium said they would stop enforcing the clauses and not seek them in future contracts located in the Charlotte region