



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 25, 2020

Gov. Beshear reports 836 new COVID-19 cases, five deaths Saturday

(WKYT) - Governor Andy Beshear announced 836 new COVID-19 cases in Kentucky on Saturday. The state total now stands at 26,764 cases.

"Today's numbers continue a concerning increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in our commonwealth," said Gov. Beshear. "We expect to take additional steps next week if the case numbers don't stabilize."

Twenty-two new cases were from children ages 5 and younger.

"Yesterday, there were more than 74,000 new cases and more than 1,000 deaths reported across the country," said Gov. Beshear. "We know how to control this virus. We've seen states like New York – which had hospitals overflowing with sick patients in March and April – now reporting a positivity rate of 1% or less. If they can do it, we can do it. But we have to work together, stay smart, and wear face coverings."

Gov. Beshear reported five new deaths Saturday, raising the total to 696 Kentuckians lost to the virus.

The deaths reported Saturday include a 79-year-old man from Casey County; an 80-year-old man from Christian County; two women, ages 68 and 93, from Fayette County; and a 66-year-old man from Ohio County.

As of Saturday, there have been at least 582,521 coronavirus tests performed in Kentucky. The positivity rate currently stands at 5.41%.

Story: <https://www.wkyt.com/2020/07/25/gov-beshear-reports-836-new-covid-19-cases-five-deaths-saturday/>

Governor's Press Release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prld=281>

KDPH Daily Summary: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/COVID19DailyReport.pdf>

U.S. records 1,000 coronavirus deaths for fourth day, some progress seen

(Reuters) The United States recorded more than 1,000 deaths from COVID-19 for the fourth straight day on Friday but a top White House advisor on the pandemic said she saw signs that the worst could be past in hard-hit southern and western states. At least 1,019 fatalities due to COVID-19 were confirmed nationwide on Friday, following 1,140 on Thursday, 1,135 on Wednesday and 1,141 on Tuesday. Total cases across the United States rose by at least 68,800 on Friday to over 4 million. The numbers have been driven in large part by a surge in infections in Arizona, California, Florida, Texas and California.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-schools/u-s-records-1000-coronavirus-deaths-for-fourth-day-some-progress-seen-idUSKCN24P2FO>

Related story - Record coronavirus cases in every global region

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-global-cases/record-numbers-of-coronavirus-cases-in-every-global-region-reuters-tally-idUSKCN24Q08E>

For Hospital Interpreters, COVID-19's Uncertainty Brings A Unique Challenge : NPR

Story & Podcast: <https://www.npr.org/2020/07/25/895329264/for-hospital-interpreters-covid-19s-uncertainty-brings-a-unique-challenge>

Texas Hospital Must Turn Away Sickest COVID Patients

(Newser) One Texas county is so swamped with coronavirus patients that it will start sending home patients who are deemed to be the most likely to die. Read more: <http://newser.com/s294058>

NYC virus hospitalizations hit new low

Learn more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coronavirus-new-york-hospitalizations-new-low-governor-andrew-cuomo/>

Fauci assigned security after threats to himself and family

(Business Insider) Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top US infectious-disease expert, who serves on the White House coronavirus task force, says he and his family have been assigned personal security after receiving "serious threats."

Speaking on [CNN's "The Axe Files" podcast](#), Fauci said the threats were of a different magnitude from those he received while working on the federal government's response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the 1980s and 1990s. He said the threats had caused him and his family to be assigned personal security.

Read more: <https://www.businessinsider.com/fauci-given-personal-security-after-threats-family-2020-7>

High levels of antibiotic-resistant bacteria found on equipment in communal gyms

(ScienMag) Research presented at ASM Microbe Online found that 43% of Staphylococcus bacteria found on exercise equipment in university gyms were ampicillin-resistant, with 73% of those isolates being resistant to multiple additional drugs. The late Xin Fan, Ph.D., and her student Chase A. Weikel of West Chester University (WCU) conducted the research in cooperation with WCU's John M. Pisciotta, Ph.D., associate professor of Biology.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, roughly 120,000 S. aureus bacteremia cases resulted in 20,000 deaths in 2017. Skin abrasions are a common route of entry of pathogenic S. aureus strains. As highlighted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there is increasing public concern regarding communal areas as a bastion of infectious microorganisms.

Read more: <https://scienmag.com/high-levels-of-antibiotic-resistant-bacteria-found-on-equipment-in-communal-gyms/>

Mystery Salmonella Outbreak Hits 23 States

Health officials are struggling to find the source. A salmonella outbreak of no known origin has struck nearly two dozen states and hospitalized 31 people, [USA Today](#) reports. The CDC said on Friday that 212 cases have emerged in 23 states, with 8 new states listed since Tuesday.

Learn more: <https://www.newser.com/story/294084/mystery-salmonella-outbreak-hits-23-states.html>

New Case Of Dengue Fever In The Florida Keys Brings Total To 17

<https://news360.com/article/533801184>

Thousands in Puerto Rico still without housing since Maria

(AP) — Nearly three years after Hurricane Maria tore through Puerto Rico, tens of thousands of homes remain badly damaged, many people face a hurricane season under fading blue tarp roofs and the island's first major program to repair and rebuild houses hasn't completed a single one.

Maria hit more than 786,000 homes on Sept. 20, 2017, causing minor damage to some homes and sweeping others from their foundations. A federally funded program administered by local officials carried out relatively small repairs to some 108,000 homes the next year, while churches and nonprofits patched up thousands with private funds. Full story: <https://apnews.com/a2cf35e2f8893592ec4b59d90baae1ac>

The KHREF Emergency Preparedness Update is assembled several times a week. When events make it necessary, the Update may be sent out several times a day to keep our hospital and the healthcare community advised on preparedness news and information. Most of this information is compiled from open sources, and where possible reference links will be provided. There is an archive of [Emergency Preparedness Updates available here](#). If you would like to added or deleted, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact rbartlett@kyha.com (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.