



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 30, 2020

Tropical Storm Isaias Path Uncertain; May Slide Up East Coast



(CNN) Isaias -- the ninth named storm of 2020 -- formed Wednesday over the Caribbean Sea, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) says.

The storm is delivering 50 mph sustained winds extending outward up to 345 miles, and currently sits about 155 miles south of Ponce, Puerto Rico, NHC said. Isaias is forecast to make landfall over southern Dominican Republic before noon Thursday and then reach near Florida over the weekend.

Forecast models are split. Some models show a weak storm hitting the West Coast of Florida, while others show a much stronger storm lashing the East side of the state and moving toward the Carolinas. How the storm interacts over the Hispaniola could impact the intensity of the storm.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/30/weather/tropical-storm-isaias-forecast-puerto-rico-florida/index.html>

[R Bartlett note - Even before we potentially get visited by the remnants of this storm, there is some heavy rain in our forecast. Here is a [Hazardous Weather](#) rundown from the National Weather Service for the next week.)

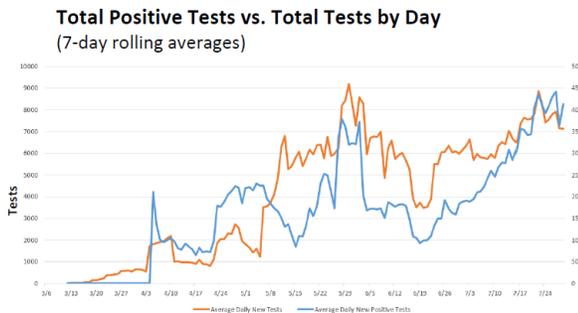
(*NWS Louisville*) Friday through Wednesday - Periods of showers and thunderstorms will occur into the weekend. Widespread rainfall totals will approach 2-4 inches by Sunday. Localized flooding may become a problem in locations that receive repeated bouts of thunderstorms.

(*NWS Paducah*) Friday through Wednesday - Scattered thunderstorms will be possible at times Friday through Saturday. Though torrential rainfall rates and deadly lightning will be the main storm hazards, an isolated damaging wind gust will also be possible in the stronger storms. In addition, there is a daily chance of thunderstorms Sunday through Tuesday. Lightning and heavy rain are the primary hazards that can be expected.

(*NWS Jackson*) Friday through Wednesday - Thunderstorms are possible at times from Friday through Wednesday and will be most widespread during the afternoon and evening hours. Periods of heavy rainfall can be expected to continue on Friday likely resulting in between 1 and 2 inches of event total rainfall for a good portion of the area. Localized amounts in excess of 3 inches are also possible in places that see the most persistent showers and thunderstorms through the end of this week

Governor Provides Update on COVID-19

([From Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear on Wednesday updated Kentuckians on the state's continuing efforts to fight the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).



“The commonwealth is at war with the coronavirus. It’s going to take how long it takes. But we know if we don’t put our best effort forward, it will take the lives of our people, it will hurt our economy and it will impact the education that our kids get,” said Gov. Beshear. “This is probably the most significant challenge that most of us will face in our lifetimes. We’ve got to come together as a state. We all have to do what it takes.”

Case Information: As of 4 p.m. July 29, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 28,727 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, **619** of which were newly reported Wednesday. Seventeen

of the newly reported cases were from children ages 5 and younger. Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported **five** new deaths Wednesday, raising the total to 724 Kentuckians lost to the virus. As of Wednesday, there have been at least 609,989 coronavirus tests performed in Kentucky. The positivity rate currently stands at **5.81%**. At least 7,495 Kentuckians have recovered from the virus.

Corrections: J. Michael Brown, secretary of the Governor’s *executive cabinet*, gave an update on COVID-19 cases in Kentucky’s correctional facilities. There are currently 379 active inmate cases and 53 active staff cases;

432 inmates have recovered and 69 staffers have recovered. In total, eight inmates have died due to complications from COVID-19. Secretary Brown added that the Governor was considering commuting the sentences of more offenders who are at least 65 years old and near the end of their sentences.

KDPH COVID-19 Daily Summary: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/COVID19DailyReport.pdf>

Related WDRB story on KY DOC Screening: https://www.wdrb.com/news/coronavirus/officials-screening-700-inmates-for-possible-release-amid-uptick-of-covid-19-cases-at-kentuckys/article_78484a8e-d1d5-11ea-b98c-8b1ab2188b34.html

KDPH Sends LTCF Ongoing Surveillance Testing Guidance Out

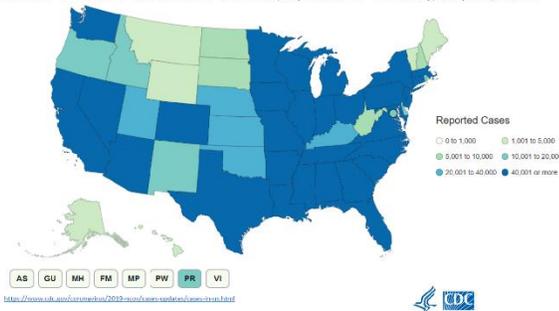
(Frankfort) Guidance is being sent out to LTCF, including Assisted Living Facilities, about ongoing surveillance testing. The guidance document can be found at: <https://chfs.ky.gov/cv19/LTCGuidanceSurveillanceTesting.pdf>.

If Assisted Living Facilities reaching out with questions, refer them to Carrie Anglin (Carrie.Anglin@ky.gov) with DAIL. If you have Skilled Nursing Facilities or Personal Care Homes with questions, please refer them to their contact in the Office of the Inspector General. Facilities can also be advised to reach out to their association point of contact for further clarification.

Coronavirus resurgence is moving to the Midwest after cases spike across the South and West

(CNN) The resurgence [in coronavirus infections](#) that has rocked the US South and West is now making its way to Midwestern states.

Number of COVID-19 Cases in the U.S., by State or Territory, July 29, 2020



"What inevitably is going to happen is that the states that are not yet in trouble, will likely get into trouble," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said Wednesday in an interview on MSNBC.

States including Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee are seeing an increase in the percentage of coronavirus tests coming back positive, he said, a development that preceded the spike in the South and West. [More than 4.4 million](#) cases of the virus and 150,708 deaths have been reported in the US, according to data from [Johns Hopkins University](#). The

White House coronavirus task force has warned Midwestern governors that the time to get ahead of the curve is now before the numbers start to skyrocket in their states, Fauci said.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/30/health/us-coronavirus-thursday/index.html>

Ohio virus hospitalizations hit new high, topping April mark

Read more: <https://apnews.com/a07224c18a89a1bd22382f37fee27f0b>

Related story - Florida Will Pause Coronavirus Testing Due To Impending Storm

(NPR) After the state's testing sites close Thursday evening, they won't reopen until at least Tuesday morning — part of the safety precautions for Tropical Storm Isaias.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/07/29/896895245/florida-will-pause-coronavirus-testing-due-to-impending-storm>

Second Related Story - Houston, Miami, other cities face mounting health care worker shortages as infections climb

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/534078190>

An ER visit could save your health or life.

Don't avoid hospitals during COVID pandemic

The coronavirus is a challenge, but hospitals safely care for patients who have communicable diseases, and we manage infectious disease every day.

Story link: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/07/30/hospitals-covid-safety-precautions-protect-all-patients-column/5527067002/>

KHA PSA Video: <https://youtu.be/YoelHCA96BE>

Norton Healthcare warns COVID-19 testing 'vulnerable' as supplies diverted to other states

Read more: https://www.wdrb.com/news/norton-healthcare-warns-covid-19-testing-vulnerable-as-supplies-diverted-to-other-states/article_d502880c-d0e5-11ea-9766-9bb00bcfef50.html

As pandemic rages, PPE supply remains a problem

Read more from CIDRAP: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/07/pandemic-rages-ppe-supply-remains-problem>

CDC Coronavirus [What's New?](#)

- [Cases & Deaths by County](#) Thursday, July 30, 2020
- [Prevent Getting Sick](#) Thursday, July 30, 2020
- [COVID-19 Electronic Laboratory Reporting Implementation by State](#) Thursday, July 30, 2020
- [Preparedness Tools for Healthcare Professionals and Facilities Responding to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) Wednesday, July 29, 2020

FDA Updates

- **FDA Reiterates Warning About Dangerous Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers** Containing Methanol, Takes Additional Action to Address Concerning Products (July 27): <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-reiterates-warning-about-dangerous-alcohol-based-hand-sanitizers>
- **FDA List of Hand Sanitizers consumers should not use:** <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-methanol#products>
- **FDA - July 29, 2020 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Posts New Template for At-Home and Over-the-Counter Diagnostic Tests for Use in Non-Lab Settings, Such as Homes, Offices or Schools** [See USA Today story below.]
- **FDA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Daily Roundup** July 28, 2020: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-daily-roundup-july-28-2020>

FDA opens door to rapid, at-home screening for COVID-19

(USA Today) The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday opened the door to COVID-19 testing that could be fast, cheap, and handled entirely at home — if companies don't find the rules too burdensome. Routine screening of people who don't know they have COVID-19 could transform the fight against the disease. So far, the FDA hasn't allowed anyone to sell tests for at-home use.

Read more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2020/07/29/fda-opens-door-rapid-home-covid-19-tests/5536528002/>

Why do so many COVID-19 patients lose their sense of smell? Scientists now know.

Find out more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/07/24/scientists-now-know-why-covid-19-patients-lose-their-sense-smell/5504964002/>

US officials: Russia behind spread of virus disinformation

(AP) U.S. officials say Russian intelligence officers are spreading disinformation about the coronavirus pandemic through English-language websites, trying to exploit a crisis that America is struggling to contain before the presidential election in November.

The information had previously been classified, but U.S. officials said it had been downgraded so they could more freely discuss it. Officials said they were doing so now to sound the alarm about the particular websites and to expose what they say is a clear link between the sites and Russian intelligence.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/dcf58d9a6aa496072597d6be0549f023>

Drug to treat severe COVID-19 fails in clinical trial

(USA Today) One of the most promising approaches to treating COVID-19 [has failed in a large clinical trial](#). The drug tocilizumab (sold under the brand name Actemra) had been expected to be effective against severe infections of the virus that causes COVID-19 because it tamps down the immune overreaction that often takes place in those patients.

The results are not yet published, but drug manufacturer Genentech said Wednesday that its large phase 3 trial did not improve results for patients hospitalized with severe COVID-19 or reduce deaths. Researchers found some indication that the drug might reduce the time those patients spend in the hospital, but the difference wasn't statistically significant.

Story link: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/nletter/health/2020/07/29/coronavirus-watch-drug-treat-severe-covid-19-fails-clinical-trial/5536754002/>

NPR investigation into Irregularities with Tele-Tracking Contract Award Process

The administration awarded a contract for a COVID-19 database to TeleTracking Technologies using a process reserved for innovative research. Its CEO had links to the New York real estate world.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2020/07/29/896645314/irregularities-in-covid-reporting-contract-award-process-raises-new-questions>

Johns Hopkins Health Security Headlines Extracts from [July 29, 2020](#) and [July 30, 2020](#)

[Staffing Considerations for Crisis Standards of Care Outlined in New Rapid Response to Government from National Academies Standing Committee](#) (NASEM) A new rapid expert consultation from a standing committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine outlines considerations for clinical

staffing needs during the implementation of Crisis Standards of Care (CSC), including adjusting staff responsibilities, providing “hazard pay” to staff, ensuring adequate time off, offering child care and other benefits, and leveraging health care coalitions to ensure appropriate transfer of patients between hospitals. This rapid expert consultation builds on previous National Academies reports on CSC, including a March 28 rapid expert consultation on the topic.

[Association Between Statewide School Closure and COVID-19 Incidence and Mortality in the US](#) (JAMA)

In this US population–based time series analysis conducted between March 9, 2020, and May 7, 2020, school closure was associated with a significant decline in both incidence of COVID-19 (adjusted relative change per week, –62%) and mortality (adjusted relative change per week, –58%). In a model derived from this analysis, it was estimated that closing schools when the cumulative incidence of COVID-19 was in the lowest quartile compared with the highest quartile was associated with 128.7 fewer cases per 100 000 population over 26 days and with 1.5 fewer deaths per 100 000 population over 16 days.

[Characteristics and Quality of US Nursing Homes Reporting Cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

[\(COVID-19\)](#) (JAMA) Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has taken an enormous toll on US nursing homes, claiming the lives of at least 7000 residents and staff across 4100 facilities and accounting for nearly 20% of COVID-19 deaths in the United States. Rates of deficiencies and complaints, defined as failures to meet or allegations of noncompliance with federal requirements, were higher in nursing homes that reported COVID-19 cases. The largest difference between nursing homes with and without COVID-19 cases was observed in county-level rates of COVID-19, suggesting that when the surrounding population case rate is high, area nursing homes are at a high risk of infections.

[Young People are Infecting Older Family Members in Shared Homes](#) (Washington Post) As the death toll escalates in coronavirus hot spots, evidence is growing that young people who work outside the home, or who surged into bars and restaurants when states relaxed shutdowns, are infecting their more vulnerable elders, especially family members. Front-line caregivers, elected officials and experts in Houston, South Florida and elsewhere say they are seeing patterns of hospitalization and death that confirm fears this would happen, which were first raised in May and June.

[Spotlight on Avian Pathology: Can We Reduce the Pandemic Threat of H9N2 Avian Influenza to Human and Animal Health?](#) (Avian Pathology) COVID-19 should be a “call to arms” for the poultry industry to reassess containment of the H9N2 subtype of low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses. Strains of this virus are a human pandemic threat and a severe economic burden on poultry production. Over the past 20 years they have spread throughout Asia, Africa, Middle East and parts of Europe. As a global industry, a critical need is to re-imagine production and marketing chains, especially in low and middle income countries, where the structure of much of the industry facilitates virus transmission, especially, but not only, in improperly managed live poultry markets and related value chains.

[SCIENCE & TECH SPOTLIGHT: Contact Tracing Apps](#) (GAO) Contact tracing apps are a relatively new technology that can help reduce transmission rates for infectious diseases like COVID-19. Using smartphones, the apps rapidly identify and notify people who may have been near an infected person and possibly exposed. As policymakers consider whether to adopt the use of contact tracing apps, they will need to weigh the benefits with potential challenges, such as accuracy of the technology, adoption rates, and privacy concerns.

MedPage Today: Emergency use authorization of convalescent plasma as a treatment for COVID-19 [could come as soon as next week](#). (Wall Street Journal)

Analysts Say Armed Groups at Protests Raise Specter of a 'Street War'

(NPR Analysis) Street clashes have erupted, involving a mix of protesters, authorities, extremists and agitators. With armed factions squaring off, terrorism analysts fear the worse is still to come.

3-Min podcast or read more: <https://www.npr.org/2020/07/30/896770081/analysts-say-armed-groups-at-protests-raise-specter-of-a-street-war>

Northern KY Town's Police Department Saved Money, Lowered Arrests by Hiring Social Worker to Assist Officers

(IACP News) The [New York Daily News](#) (7/29, Niemietz) reports, “A 17-person Kentucky police department saved hundreds of thousands of dollars, lowered its arrest rate and maybe even created a blueprint for the future of law enforcement by adding a social worker to its ranks.” WAVE-3 News “reports that after the City of Alexandria hired Kelly Pompilio to assist officers in 2016, it saved up to \$50,000 a year and saw arrests dip by 15%, according to the resourceful police department’s former chief. Pompilio told WAVE-3 that most of the calls she fields are domestic violence, mental health and substance abuse issues. Her duties augment those of fellow officials.” Pompilio “also said she provides ongoing services to families so they don’t have to tie up the 911 line with non-emergencies.”

Administration Announces Deployment of Agents to Cleveland, Milwaukee, Detroit

[Fox News](#) (7/29, Blitzer) reports, "The initiative first launched in Kansas City, Mo., on July 8, and expanded to Chicago and Albuquerque one week ago." Detroit, Cleveland, and Milwaukee "will see increased resources from the FBI, U.S. Marshals Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives that will aim to reduce crime, particularly gun violence."

"Tidal wave" of power shut-offs looms as nation grapples with heat

(NPR) Power shut-off moratoriums imposed at the start of the pandemic are beginning to expire. Customers and utilities face a backlog of missed bills that may eventually be passed on to ratepayers.

Podcast and read more: <https://www.npr.org/2020/07/28/892995058/tidal-wave-of-power-shut-offs-looms-as-nation-grapples-with-heat>

All 50 states have now issued warnings about those mysterious packages of seeds

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/29/us/seed-packages-brushing-scam-trnd/index.html>

'Silent Epidemic': Nearly 1 In 3 Kids Exposed To Damaging Levels of Lead

(NPR) It's the first time global data has been gathered on the extent of the problem. Experts are calling it a "groundbreaking" report. And the ill effects can last for a lifetime. The new report finds that some 800 million children worldwide have blood lead levels at or above 5 micrograms per deciliter – a level considered cause for intervention by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (There is [no safe level of lead exposure](#) in children.)

Lead exposure is particularly dangerous to children under 5, whose bodies absorb lead much more efficiently than adults and are at greatest risk of suffering lifelong physical and cognitive damage, the report notes. Childhood lead exposure has also been linked to aggression, hyperactivity and other behavioral problems, notes [Joseph Graziano](#), a professor of environmental health sciences and pharmacology at Columbia University and an expert on lead poisoning in children.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/07/29/896888484/silent-epidemic-nearly-1-in-3-kids-exposed-to-damaging-levels-of-lead>

KY Hospital Association TOWN HALL meetings

Save the Date: August 4, 3 PM ET

Feedback from the front-line in Texas and Florida hospitals

[Representatives from hospitals in both states on their experiences, lessons learned and recommendations.]

<https://join.onstreammedia.com/go/41054140/townhall>

Dial In: 1-877-594-8353 - Passcode: 56350822#

EMS: Patient Care and Operations

Monday, August 3, at 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET [Click here for registration](#)

Join EMS providers from across the country to discuss challenges faced in the COVID-19 response and what can be done to enhance patient care and emergency operations.

Critical Care: Lifesaving Treatment and Clinical Operations

Tuesday, August 4, at 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET [Click here for registration](#)

This resource webinar is intended for consultant physicians involved in critical care practice, fellows, residents, pharmacists, nursing staff, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, & allied health staff.

FDA: Respirators for Health Care Personnel Use during COVID-19 Pandemic

Tuesday, August 4, at 12:00 pm ET [Click here for connection information](#)

The FDA, along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), will host the second webinar in the webinar series on the topic of Importing Respirators for Health Care Personnel Use during COVID-19 Pandemic.

CDC Clinicians Call:

COVID-19 & Telehealth Implementation: Stories from the Field

Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 - Time: 2:00pm-3:30pm (ET)

Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608721092>

HHS Telemedicine Hack

Workflows and Documentation

Wednesday, August 5, at 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET [Click here for registration](#)

Telemedicine use has grown exponentially during the COVID-19 pandemic to support the wide adoption of telemedicine, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) is partnering with the ECHO Institute at the University of New Mexico and the Public Health Foundation's TRAIN Learning

Network to deliver a 10-week, virtual peer-to-peer learning community called Telemedicine Hack. This learning collaborative will be an opportunity for healthcare delivers to gain the knowledge and skills needed to implement video-based telemedicine into their practices. [Learn more here.](#)

NETEC WEBINARS

Next week's webinars will be divided into a two-part event (Wednesday, **August 5 and Friday, August 7**) focusing on [Supply Management and Inventory Control during COVID-19.](#)

In this webinar, participants will:

- Foster effective team strategies to assist in problem-solving to collectively control inventory and supply chain needs during the coronavirus pandemic
- Integrate approaches for optimizing PPE supply when caring for patients with COVID-19 including CAPRs/ PAPRs, masks, face shields, and other essential supplies.
- Discuss options for product substitution while maintaining a safe clinical environment as derived from case-based scenarios

Both webinars will be at Noon CT / 1:00 PM ET / 10:00 AM PT. [Register Now](#)

CMS: Lessons from the Front Lines: COVID-19
Friday, August 7, 12:30 p.m. ET, [Click here to join](#)

Join CMS Lessons from the Front Lines to learn about CMS flexibilities, best practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, updates from the federal response, and to hear perspectives from care providers.

To listen to the audio files and read the transcripts from CMS COVID-19 Stakeholder calls, visit the [CMS Podcast and Transcripts page.](#)

Final Facilitator Training Session "How to Play Earth Ex" on August 20th at 2 PM EDT.

This session will present the new Battle Rhythm Manager interface, outline each Phase of the 2020 exercise, and explore the new Monte Carlo inject engine. Participants will leave with a full understanding of how to implement the EARTH EX 2020 exercise to maximize its potential for their organization. **Register> [How to Play EARTH EX](#)**

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.