



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 5, 2020

Beirut reels from huge blast, as death toll climbs to at least 100; Over 4,000 injured

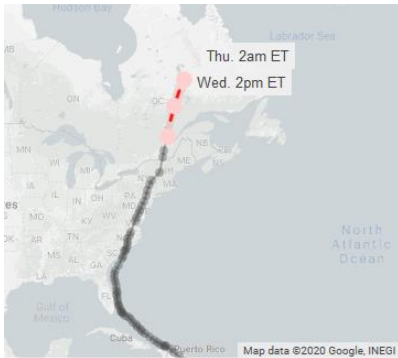
(Reuters) Lebanese rescue workers dug through the mangled wreckage of buildings on Wednesday looking for survivors after a massive warehouse explosion sent a devastating blast wave across Beirut, killing at least 100 people and injuring nearly 4,000. It sent a mushroom cloud into the sky and rattled windows on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, about 100 miles (160 km) away.

2,750 tonnes (>3,000 US tons) of ammonium nitrate, used in fertilizers and bombs, had been stored for six years at the port without safety measures. An official source familiar with preliminary investigations blamed the incident on “inaction and negligence”.

The Red Cross was coordinating with the Health Ministry to set up morgues because hospitals were overwhelmed. Sara, a nurse in Beirut’s Clemenceau Medical Center, described scenes at her hospital after the blast as “like a slaughterhouse, blood covering the corridors and the lifts”.

Read full Reuters story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-lebanon-security-blast/beirut-reels-from-huge-blast-as-death-toll-climbs-to-at-least-100-idUSKCN25107B>

After killing 5 across the East Coast, Isaias has made its way to Canada



(CNN) More than 3.1 million homes and businesses have no electrical power after the powerful storm Isaias whipped through the mid-Atlantic and Northeast on Monday and Tuesday. According to a tally from [Poweroutage.US](https://www.poweroutage.us), the outages were concentrated [mainly] in the tri-state area: As of Wednesday morning, power was out for nearly a million people in New Jersey, about 775,000 people in New York, and about 700,000 in Connecticut. In all, outages stretched from North Carolina up to Maine.

The storm system also killed [several people as it ripped through the East Coast](#) after making landfall as a Category 1 hurricane on Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina, Monday. The storm, now a post-tropical cyclone, has moved into southeastern Canada, bringing heavy rain and powerful winds over the province of Quebec. As of Wednesday morning, the storm's maximum sustained winds were about 40 mph and it is expected to get weaker, the

National Hurricane Center said, adding the storm is likely to dissipate Wednesday night or Thursday. Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/05/weather/post-tropical-cyclone-isaias-wxc/index.html>

USA Today - At least 20 tornadoes from Isaias along the East Coast Monday to Tuesday
Weather Service offices had issued nearly 100 tornado warnings across 10 states.
Read more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/08/04/tropical-storm-isaias-hurricane-why-did-cause-tornadoes/3290120001/>

KY COVID-19 Update

(From [Press Release](#)) As of 4 p.m. Aug. 4, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 32,197 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 700 of which were newly reported Tuesday. Eighteen of the newly reported cases were from children ages 5 and younger, including a 2-month-old and a 6-month-old in Jefferson County. In addition, a 1-year-old in Metcalfe County was positively diagnosed after being exposed to the coronavirus at church and recently traveled to Tennessee. Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported seven new deaths Tuesday, raising the total to 751 Kentuckians lost to the virus. As of Tuesday, there have been at least 650,093 coronavirus tests performed in Kentucky. The positivity rate currently stands at 5.24%. At least 8,406 Kentuckians have recovered from the virus. <[KDPH Daily Summary page link](#).>

Coverings for Kids Program: First Lady Britanny Beshear on Tuesday launched a new program, [Coverings for Kids](#), that will help Kentuckians to donate facial coverings directly to school districts. Starting on Tuesday, Aug. 11, people can drop off purchased or homemade facial coverings at district-level donation centers. The individual school districts will designate drop-off locations, which will be announced soon.

The Office of the First Lady and Office of the Lieutenant Governor, through the Kentucky Department of Education, will provide each district with the donated facial coverings along with information to promote their use. Learn more: [Coverings for Kids web page](#).



More free testing: The Governor also highlighted new free COVID-19 testing that is being provided by University of Louisville Health and a new drive-through option in Northern Kentucky. <[Read more on UofL testing here.](#)>

The testing sites available under the UofL program:

- ✓ Downtown Louisville – 499 S. Brook Street
- ✓ South Louisville – Mary & Elizabeth Hospital, 1850 Bluegrass Avenue
- ✓ Bullitt County – Medical Center South, 1903 W. Hebron Lane

The testing is free and available seven days a week. Appointments are required. Starting Aug. 5, Kentuckians can call 502-588-0414 to sign up.

In Northern Kentucky, new drive-through testing will be offered starting Thursday, Aug. 6, at the Atlantic Corporate Center, 25 Atlantic Avenue, in Erlanger. The testing is free, but by appointment only, and will be conducted from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In addition, beginning Tuesday, Aug. 11, drive-up testing will be available at St. Elizabeth Imaging, 7200 Alexandria Pike, in Alexandria. The testing will be performed from 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The testing is free, and no appointment or doctor's order is required.

For additional information about each location, visit kycovid19.ky.gov.

Related - As COVID-19 cases surge in Southeastern Kentucky public-health and local officials join forces

Read more from KyForward News: <https://www.kyforward.com/as-covid-19-cases-surge-in-southeastern-kentucky-public-health-and-local-officials-join-forces/>

[From AI Cross with KY Health News]

[Latest White House report has fewer Kentucky counties in danger zones, drops two points of preventive advice from previous report](#)

CIDRAP: Rate of new US coronavirus cases declines

The average daily case count for new COVID-19 cases each day in the past week has been just over 60,000 cases, which is a [9% decline](#) from the previous week, according to a new analysis from the *New York Times*. Yesterday, the country saw 602 deaths and 47,832 new cases in what is still a surging phase of the pandemic. According to the Johns Hopkins University [COVID-19 tracker](#), the United States has by far the most COVID-19 cases and fatalities in the world, with 4,751,853 cases and 156,301 deaths.

Read full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/08/rate-new-us-coronavirus-cases-declines>

[Survey: Home health workers stressed, overlooked amid COVID-19](#)

The workers feel invisible and face an uneven flow of information, supplies, and PPE.

Study: Health Care Workers Wearing Personal Protective Equipment Still 3 Times More Likely To Contract Coronavirus

(KDKA Pittsburgh) Even with personal protective equipment, a new study in *The Lancet* medical journal found health care workers are three times more likely to contract the coronavirus. The researchers used the COVID Symptom Tracker app and studied the data of more than 2 million people in the U.S. and the U.K. from late March to late April. This included 100,000 health care workers.

More than 20 percent of health care workers reported at least one symptom, such as fatigue or loss of smell or taste, whereas only 14 percent of the general population did. And 2,700 health care workers per 100,000 were infected compared to 240 per 100,000 in the general population. This was despite health care workers using gowns, gloves and masks.

The researchers also looked at demographics and found Black, Asians, and other minorities are five times as likely to be infected. Full story and video report: <https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2020/08/04/health-care-workers-coronavirus/>

Related - Researchers Say Mask Usage Key to Preventing Coronavirus Spike In Louisville

Learn more: <https://wfpf.org/researchers-say-mask-usage-key-to-preventing-coronavirus-spike-in-louisville/>

Related - Face Masks, Yes, But Don't Forget Hand-Washing Too

Read more: <https://news360.com/article/534557698>

OSHA "QuickTakes DYK?"

Did You Know? - OSHA generally recommends that employers encourage workers to wear medical masks or cloth face coverings at work to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. OSHA recently issued [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\) guidance](#) to address inaccurate claims that these masks and face coverings cause unsafe oxygen or harmful carbon dioxide levels for the wearer. [Get the facts here.](#)

Brush with Common Cold Might Help Protect Against COVID-19

(Drugs.com) Since the pandemic began, it's been known that the severity of [coronavirus](#) illness varies widely between people. Could the [common cold](#) be the reason why? It's still just a theory, but researchers in California suspect that if you've recently had a cold -- many of which are also caused by coronaviruses -- your immune system's T-cells might recognize SARS-CoV-2 and help fight it.

"We have now proven that in some people, preexisting T-cell memory against common cold coronaviruses can cross-recognize SARS-CoV-2, down to exact molecular structures," said study co-lead author Daniela Weiskopf, an assistant professor at the La Jolla Institute for Immunology. "This could help explain why some people show milder symptoms of disease while others get severely sick," she said in an institute news release.

The new research was spurred by evidence -- collected from COVID-19 patients around the world -- that immune system T-cells were reacting to fragments of SARS-CoV-2's makeup, even though these cells had never encountered the virus before.

Learn more: <https://www.drugs.com/news/brush-common-cold-might-help-protect-against-covid-19-91916.html>

From [AHA Today](#)

HHS releases COVID-19 laboratory data reporting specifications. The Department of Health and Human Services Friday released [specifications](#) for reporting certain COVID-19 laboratory data as required by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. Under recent [HHS guidance](#), all COVID-19 testing sites must begin reporting the data by Aug. 1 to state or local health departments for each individual tested to detect SARS-CoV-2 or diagnose COVID-19.

NIH to study synthetic antibody therapy; FDA authorizes first serology tests to display estimated antibodies. The National Institutes of Health today announced clinical trials to investigate the safety and efficacy of a synthetic antibody therapy in COVID-19 patients. One [study](#) seeks to enroll about 300 volunteers who have been hospitalized with mild to moderate COVID-19; the [other](#) seeks to enroll 220 volunteers who report symptoms of COVID-19 and test positive for the virus but do not require hospitalization.

In other news, the Food and Drug Administration Friday [authorized](#) two Siemens serology tests for COVID-19 that display an estimated quantity of antibodies present in the individual's blood.

Organization offers information on keeping essential workers, public safe from COVID-19. A [series of free videos](#) from Med Tac offers guidance on how essential workers and the public can stay safe during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Topics include cleaning contact surfaces and the science behind masks, along with more health care-focused information, such as preparing for care at home, care of seniors and telemedicine. Med Tac, an advanced first aid platform, said it relied on its network of 500 subject matter experts and 3,100 hospitals in 3,000 communities to create the COVID-19 content.

Link to MED TAC Coronavirus Information & videos: <https://www.medtacglobal.org/coronavirus-response/>

NIH Press Release on New COVID-19 testing tech: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-delivering-new-covid-19-testing-technologies-meet-us-demand>

7 US governors band together to purchase COVID-19 testing equipment

(Business Insider) Seven states - Maryland, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina, and Virginia - have entered into an agreement to purchase 3.5 million COVID-19 tests. "With severe shortages and delays in testing and the federal [Trump] administration attempting to cut funding for testing, the states are banding together to acquire millions of faster tests to help save lives and slow the spread of COVID-19," Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican, said in a statement.

Full story: <https://www.businessinsider.com/us-governors-band-together-to-purchase-covid-19-testing-equipment-2020-8>

**New Coronavirus Serology Test Tracking Dashboard
Suggests 19 Million Americans Possibly Infected**

(Newsweek) Known as [SeroTracker](#), it records seroprevalence, which is the number of people previously been infected with SARS-CoV-2—the virus that causes COVID-19—based on antibody, or "serology," testing. The tool indicates the U.S. is currently at 5.8 percent seroprevalence, based on 15,993 administered antibody tests. When compared to the approximate population of the U.S., the results could mean up to 19 million U.S. residents have been infected. A study related to the dashboard has been published in [The Lancet](#).

Full story: <https://www.newsweek.com/coronavirus-antibody-serotracker-dashboard-1522933> (May require subscription.)

**U.S. Grandparents Are Raising Millions of Kids, and It's Tough
About 2% of U.S. children -- 2.9 million -- are being raised by their grandparents**

(Drugs.com) Nearly 3 million children in the United States are being raised by grandparents, and life has placed these kids on a rocky road toward adulthood, a new study reports.

These children are much more likely to have experienced traumatic events that will influence their development, according to the report published online Aug. 3 in the journal *Pediatrics*.

For example, children in grandparent-led households are six times more likely to have had a parent or guardian serve time in jail, and four times more likely to have lived with someone who has a drug or alcohol problem, the researchers found.

By school age (6 to 17 years), these kids are almost twice as likely to be diagnosed with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder ([ADHD](#)), and they are five times more likely to be found to have ADHD during preschool (ages 3 to 5), the findings showed.

The good news is that grandparents appear to be up to the task!

Read more: <https://www.drugs.com/news/u-s-grandparents-raising-millions-kids-s-tough-91919.html>

How [Blue Streetlights](#) Might Affect Your Colon Cancer Risk

(Same may apply to "blue" screen on electronic devices!)

Curious? <https://news360.com/article/534557692>

[GETS and WPS](#) during COVID

Strong Upswings in Priority Services Activations and Usage

(CISA) The COVID-19 pandemic has caused large-scale changes to everyday work and home life. Telecommunications usage has shifted from urban areas and office buildings to residential areas as people stay at home and telework, use telehealth services, and conduct distance learning. Industry reports that during the highest peak of COVID-related network usage, customers were placing double the normal amount of wireless voice calls, with a 33% increase in duration for those calls; daily texting equaled New Year's Eve levels; Wi-Fi calling minutes were up 100%; home connections to company virtual private networks were up almost 50%; and Web browsing was up 20%.

During the early days of the pandemic, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency/Emergency Communications Division (CISA/ECD) launched a priority services initiative to refresh user base awareness at multiple levels of government and industry, and to maximize the availability of priority tools and their utilization. At the same time, the Priority Telecommunications Service (PTS) Program Office saw large increases in GETS and WPS subscription requests, with many from public health organizations. At its peak, the Program Office was handling 13 times the normal issuing of GETS cards, and 32 times the normal WPS volume of cellphone activations.

Is WPS available to FirstNet Users?

FirstNet provides always-on priority and pre-emption on voice and data services via First Priority®. WPS when combined with First Priority® extends voice priority beyond the FirstNet network all the way to the destination number. As a reminder, having FirstNet on a phone does not automatically enroll the phone with WPS.

Read more in [GETS/WPS NewsNotes](#)

Learn more about GETS and WPS: <https://www.cisa.gov/government-emergency-telecommunications-service-gets>

Nursing Home Residents Moved Out To Make Way For COVID-19 Patients

(NPR) In some nursing homes, 100% of the residents are positive for the coronavirus. That's by design. These facilities have volunteered to devote part or all of their buildings exclusively to treating COVID-19 patients, who bring in more government money. But to make room for them, the original residents can be forced out of the places they've called home.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/08/04/897239846/nursing-home-residents-moved-out-to-make-way-for-covid-19-patients>

**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from August 4, 2020**

[White House Opposes Requirement for Passengers to Wear Masks On Planes, Trains](#) (*Reuters*) The White House on Thursday said it opposed language in a bill before Congress that would require airline, train and public transit passengers and workers to wear masks amid the coronavirus pandemic.

[Covid-19 Risk Among Airline Passengers: Should the Middle Seat Stay Empty?](#) (*MedRxiv*) Researchers use recent data and research results to approximate the probability that an air traveler in coach will contract Covid-19 on a US domestic flight two hours long, both when all coach seats are full and when all but middle seats are full. The point estimates, which use 2019 data about the percentage of seats actually occupied on US flights, range from one death per 400,000 passengers to one death per 600,000. These death-risk levels are considerably higher than those associated with plane crashes but comparable to those arising from two hours of [everyday activities during the pandemic](#).

[Finding a Path to Reopen Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (*The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*)

Many studies demonstrated the crucial role that children played in the spread of this virus. When faced with the prospect of a devastating pandemic of COVID-19, it was natural that policy makers decided to close schools to try and slow or prevent transmission.

[The Three Key Hurdles for a Coronavirus Vaccine to Clear](#) (*WSJ*) Vaccines have transformed the world, saving hundreds of millions of lives. They are also by far our best hope to stop the Covid-19 pandemic. Our other choices for stopping the disease are staying apart, which hammers our economy and society, or building “herd immunity” through natural infection, which would mean more than a million deaths in the U.S. and 10 million or more deaths world-wide. But the push for a Covid-19 vaccine faces three key hurdles.

[Trump Signs Order Aimed at Boosting Rural Health Care, Telehealth](#) (*Politico*) President Donald Trump signed an executive order Monday aimed at boosting struggling health care providers in rural areas, as he also proposed a permanent extension of some telehealth policies that helped fuel virtual care’s explosive growth amid coronavirus lockdowns.

[WHO COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Progress Report - 1 February to 30 June 2020](#) (*WHO*)

WHO published the first COVID-19 Strategic Response and Preparedness Plan (SRPP) on 3 February, 2020. This report highlights the main points of progress that were made up to 30 June 2020 under the three objectives outlined in the SRPP: scaling up international coordination and support; scaling up country preparedness and response by pillar; and accelerating research and innovation. The report also discusses some of the key challenges faced so far, and provides an update on the resource requirements for the next phase of WHO’s response as part of an unprecedented whole-of-UN approach to the pandemic.

[Targetable Biological Mechanisms Implicated in Emergent Psychiatric Conditions Associated With SARS-CoV-2 Infection](#) (*JAMA*)

There is concern that environmental stressors, augmented by psychological factors, such as loss of control, fear of death and dying, and isolation, are contributing to the emergence of psychiatric outcomes of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Coronaviruses may induce cognitive, emotional, neurovegetative, and behavioral dysregulation through biological mechanisms, including direct neuroinvasion and triggering of immune activation. Increasing evidence has linked immune activation with depression and suicidal behavior, and according to several large meta-analyses, anti-inflammatory approaches have demonstrated efficacy in treating depression.

[Barda Reaches Deal with Regeneron for Ebola Treatment](#) (*Homeland Preparedness News*) The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) has reached an agreement with Regeneron Pharmaceuticals to procure Ebola virus treatment as part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) effort to prepare for public health emergencies. The treatment, known as REGN-EB3, is Regeneron’s investigational triple antibody cocktail treatment for the Ebola virus infection. It is currently under Priority Review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), with a target action date of Oct. 25.

How a Cheap Antibiotic-Resistance Test Could Save Lives

The threat of AMR is now so severe that many fear it could soon wipe out many of the advances medicine has made over the last century. With the world’s attention focused on combating COVID-19, it is easy to forget the other significant threat to public health and the global economy – the rapid rise of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Yet the problem has not disappeared. Indeed, the pandemic is [probably accelerating it](#). Predicted to cause [10 million deaths](#) a year by 2050 if left unchecked, AMR occurs where microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites, develop resistance to antimicrobial drugs (such as antibiotics, antivirals and antimalarials). Learn more: <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/how-cheap-antibiotic-resistance-test-could-save-lives-166218>

US DHS TRIPwire Report

Improvised Incendiary Device (IID) Thrown at Jefferson County Courthouse

On 2 August 2020, at approximately 2330 hours local time, Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office deputies and Louisville Fire Department crews responded to the Hall of Justice in Louisville after an improvised incendiary device (IID), described as a Molotov cocktail, functioned on the south side of the courthouse’s main entrance. The IID ignited plywood covering a window and melted some of the glass. No injuries were reported. The incident occurred while a crowd of approximately 30 people were setting fires outside the Hall of Justice and in the surrounding streets. According to authorities, the crowd had mostly dispersed by the time first responders arrived. No suspects have been arrested, and the FBI is leading the investigation.

WHAS-11 Story: <https://www.whas11.com/article/news/local/louisville-hall-of-justice-fires-jefferson-square-park-lmpd/417-e64c2a44-f47e-4912-8e74-e229529b6b28>

Stories from the IACP ["The Lead" News](#)

Here’s an interesting idea...

Police In Nice, France Use Cameras with Speakers to Enforce Coronavirus Rules

[Politico](#) (8/4, Braun) reports from Paris, “Take a walk along Nice’s famous Promenade des Anglais without a face mask and you’ll get shouted at. The city on the French Riviera is using cameras equipped with speakers so that police can forcefully remind people to respect rules to stop the spread of coronavirus, local media reported. ‘In the event of a brawl or large grouping, for example, the city’s police can talk directly to the people concerned and shout “Watch out! We can see you, a crew is coming,”’ Anthony Borré, Nice’s deputy mayor in charge of security, told local newspaper Nice Matin. The city also broadcasts pre-recorded messages every 30 minutes between 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. in areas where tourists and locals gather, reminding them of social distancing rules and the necessity of throwing away their trash.” Nice Mayor Christian Estrosi “on Monday issued a decree enforcing mask-wearing outdoors, a measure that goes further than the nationwide rules that masks must be worn in enclosed spaces.”

US To Award More Than \$35M In Grants to Organizations Supporting Trafficking Victims

[The Federalist](#) (8/4, Osburn) reports, “Ivanka Trump and the Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs announced Tuesday the Trump administration will award over \$35 million in grants to 73 organizations across 33 states to provide housing and support for victims of human trafficking.” The funds will “help cover costs of short-term housing, security deposits, utilities, and other related expenses, the White House said.” White House adviser Ivanka Trump said, “In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, combating human trafficking in the US and abroad is critical work. DOJ’s grant recipients are on the frontlines of this fight, ensuring that survivors across our country are afforded safe and stable housing and empowered with the support and resources they need to rebuild their lives.”

Registration for the 2020 Kentucky Harm Reduction Summit

Wednesday, August 19, 2020 and Thursday, August 20, 2020

10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. (EDT)

To be conducted virtually via Zoom with key note speakers, multiple breakout sessions, and two panel discussions. Additional information can be found at:

- **Registration:** <https://www.cecentral.com/live/18867> - see attached flier.
- **Agenda:** <https://www.cecentral.com/live/18867/agenda>

Accreditation/Continuing Education: <https://www.cecentral.com/live/18867/accreditation>

Message from CECentral for those who have registered: Please be sure to check your Inbox (or spam) for a confirmation from CECentral that your registration for the Summit is confirmed. If you did not receive a confirmation, please return to the registration site at <https://www.cecentral.com/live/18867> and complete your registration. It is very important that you make your Breakout Session selections so you can be assigned to the appropriate breakout Zoom rooms. Please call (859) 257-5320 8:30 AM-4:30 PM ET if you need assistance with registering. If there are question call Kyndall Raburn, Public Health Associate, at 502-892-8022 at kyndall.raburn@ky.gov

<p>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.</p>
