



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 14, 2020

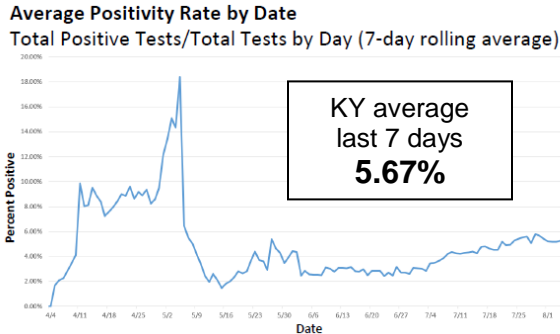
Coronavirus updates: CDC predicts death toll could reach 200,000 by Labor Day

(ABC) The [novel coronavirus](#) has now killed more than 753,000 people worldwide. Over 20.9 million people across the globe have been diagnosed with COVID-19, the disease caused by the new respiratory virus,

according to [data compiled by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University](#).

The actual numbers are believed to be much higher due to testing shortages, many unreported cases and suspicions that some national governments are hiding or downplaying the scope of their outbreaks.

The United States is the worst-affected country in the world, with more than 5.2 million diagnosed cases and at least 167,242 deaths. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predicted in its latest forecast that the U.S. coronavirus death toll could reach 200,000 by Labor Day as children across the country head back to school.



Its national ensemble forecast predicts that 4,200 to 10,600 new COVID-19 deaths will be reported for the week ending on Sept. 5 and that 180,000 to 200,000 total COVID-19 deaths will be reported by that date. There were 7,517 deaths recorded from Aug. 5 to 12, which marked a 2.3% increase in new deaths compared with the previous week. The national test-positivity rate remains at 6.5%.

Full story: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/coronavirus-updates-cdc-forecast-predicts-death-toll-200000/story?id=72367904>

UK researcher 'optimistic' about COVID-19 vaccine candidate tested in lab

(LEX 18) — A COVID-19 vaccine candidate tested at the University of Kentucky is yielding positive results, according to researchers. PDS Biotech developed the vaccine candidate using Versamune, a component used in cancer vaccine trials because of its T cell activating quality. UK researcher Jerry Woodward explained the vaccine candidate PDS0203 stands out because it activates both COVID-19 fighting antibodies and T cells.

Learn more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/uk-researcher-optimistic-about-covid-19-vaccine-candidate-tested-in-lab>

CDC Director Warns This Fall Could Be the Worst Ever For Public Health

(NPR) The U.S. now has more than 5 million cases and 166,700 deaths from the coronavirus. And with flu season approaching, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned on Wednesday that things could get a lot more grim. Robert Redfield said in an interview with [WebMD](#) that if Americans don't follow public health guidance, the country could be facing "the worst fall, from a public health perspective, we've ever had." Redfield called on Americans to wear a mask, social distance, wash their hands and "be smart about crowds" in order to bring the outbreak under control.

Beyond that, he said there's another step people should take to protect themselves and others: **get the flu vaccine**. While less than 50% of Americans did so last year, Redfield said his goal is to get that number up to 65%. He added the CDC has purchased an extra 10 million doses of the vaccine this year.

Influenza and pneumonia currently rank eighth on the [CDC's list](#) of leading causes of death in the U.S. The coronavirus is [on track](#) to be the country's third leading cause of death in 2020.

Story link: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/08/13/902388083/cdc-director-warns-this-fall-could-be-the-worst-ever-for-public-health>

The kids who are most at risk from the coronavirus

(Axios) The coronavirus isn't as deadly for children as it is for adults, but kids still get it and can still get seriously sick from it. The risk is higher for Black and Hispanic children.

Why it matters: In communities with high caseloads, cases among children could explode as schools reopen. And kids in the communities already hit hardest by the pandemic are the most at risk.

The big picture: We don't know much about children and the coronavirus, mainly because the closure of schools and day cares has limited kids' contact with other people, shielding them from the virus more than adults.

- Over the summer, camps and sports leagues have provided some evidence of how the pandemic plays out among children, and schools could soon provide fodder for what it looks like on a mass scale.

By the numbers: In the 20 states that report the age distribution of hospitalizations, plus New York City, between 0.6% and 8.9% of child cases ended up hospitalized, according to [a recent report](#) by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Hospital Association.

- The AAP report also found a 40% increase in child cases during the second half of July, yet another indication that the virus can spread easily among children when given the opportunity.
- A [separate CDC report](#) released last week found that, although children's hospitalization rate is low, children who *are* hospitalized are admitted to the ICU at almost the same rate as adults.

Full story: <https://www.axios.com/coronavirus-children-health-hospitalizations-9ef1ccf6-9d95-4c85-b67a-345821e0caee.html>

Health providers' scramble for staff and supplies reveals sharp disparities
A POLITICO survey of health care workers elicited dozens of stories from the front lines across the country.
Read more: <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/08/14/coronavirus-health-care-supplies-disparities-395105>

CDC: More adults reporting mental health challenges during pandemic

([AHA Today](#)) U.S. adults were more likely this June than a year ago to report adverse mental health conditions, substance use and suicidal ideation, according to a [report](#) released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 41% of adults completing the online survey June 24-30 reported an adverse mental or behavioral health condition. This includes 31% who reported anxiety disorder or depressive disorder symptoms; 26% who reported trauma- and stressor-related disorder (TSRD) symptoms related to COVID-19; 13% who reported substance use to cope with stress or emotions related to COVID-19; and 11% who reported seriously considering suicide in the past 30 days. The authors recommend that community-level prevention efforts prioritize young adults, racial/ethnic minorities, essential workers and unpaid adult caregivers, who were more likely to report mental health challenges.

CDC MMWR Report link: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6932a1.htm?s_cid=mm6932a1_w

Millions in US face losing water supply as coronavirus moratoriums end

Water shutoffs threaten basic anti-viral hygiene as debts mount amid the pandemic's economic fallout

(The Guardian) Running water had been guaranteed to about two-thirds of Americans as hundreds of utilities suspended disconnections amid warnings from public health experts that good hygiene, particularly hand-washing, was crucial to curtailing the devastating spread of the coronavirus.

But now at least 115 local moratoriums on water disconnections, including the statewide orders in Indiana and [Ohio](#), have expired. That leaves 46 million or so people at risk of having their taps turned off even as the pandemic rages.

Another 21 million people will lose the guarantee of running water by 1 September, according to analysis by the not-for-profit group Food and [Water](#) Watch (FWW), as numerous orders are slated to expire, including statewide moratoriums in Wisconsin and Maryland.

Full report: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/aug/14/water-shutoffs-moratoriums-end-coronavirus>

Too Many Kids Getting Seriously Hurt Riding ATVs: Study

(MedicineNet) All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are a big draw for adventure-loving kids, but a new study warns that the thrill ride can often land children in the ER. U.S. data shows that nearly 280,000 children were treated over a 25-year period for head and neck injuries caused by ATV accidents. That's about 31 children each day -- and nearly half of them were younger than 12, the researchers reported.

The fact that 46% of ATV-related head and neck injuries among kids occurred among those aged 12 or younger was particularly worrisome, said Dr. Gary Smith, director of the Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=245384>

Police Resigning In Response to Defunding of Departments

([IACP News](#)) The [Washington Times](#) (8/13, Mordock) reports that "angered by budget cuts and a lack of support from left-leaning politicians," police officer across the country "are fighting back by walking off the job." As "Mayors and city councils have bowed to protesters' demands to slash police department budgets and divert funds to social programs for minorities," police officers "are resigning or retiring en masse, creating a new crisis: police forces that are short-staffed and inexperienced."

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 add or delete, 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.