



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 21, 2020

KY Reports Fourteen New Coronavirus Deaths/38 over three days

(From [Press Release](#)) "Today's report is good news and bad news. This virus is still out there and still aggressively spreading," said Gov. Beshear. "But our positivity rate is now down to 5.18%, which is headed in the right direction."

As of 4 p.m. Aug. 20, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 41,626 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 726 of which were newly reported Thursday. Twenty of the newly reported cases were from children ages 5 and younger.

Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported 14 new deaths Thursday, raising the total to 856 Kentuckians lost to the virus. "That's 38 deaths in just three days. We have to understand that this is not just real, this virus takes lives from us," said Gov. Beshear. To see all recent daily reports, [click here](#).

August is Immunization Awareness Month, and today Gov. Beshear reminded Kentuckians of the importance of keeping themselves and their families up to date on vaccinations. The Governor shared an informational video on the topic as well, from [Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky](#), which can be [viewed here](#).

For veteran telemedicine doctor at UK, pandemic confirms need to improve systems of care

Learn more: <https://www.kyforward.com/for-veteran-telemedicine-doctor-at-uk-pandemic-confirms-need-to-improve-systems-of-care/>

1 in 5 nursing homes short on PPE and staff in virus rebound

(AP) One in five U.S. nursing homes faced severe shortages of protective gear like N95 masks this summer even as the Trump administration pledged to help, according to a study released Thursday that finds facilities in areas hard-hit by COVID-19 also struggled to keep staff.

Significantly, there was no improvement from May to July in the shortages of personal protective equipment, known as PPE, or in the staffing shortfalls, according to the analysis of federal data by academic researchers. The summer has seen the coronavirus surge across the South, and much of the West and Midwest.

Full story: <https://apnews.com/ff2bbfb4a7431e86cdca5132042d4a0e>

Covid-19 deaths should start dropping across US by next week

(CNN) [Covid-19 deaths in the US](#) should start dropping around parts of the country by next week, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director said, as Americans stick to mitigation efforts that help curb the spread of the virus.

So far, [more than 5.5 million Americans](#) have been infected and at least 174,255 have died, according to Johns Hopkins University. The country's seven-day average for daily deaths has topped 1,000 for at least 24 days in a row.

Mitigation measures like controlling crowds and shutting down bars work, CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield said Thursday, but it takes time until they're reflected in the numbers.

The daily average of new cases in the US has been on the decline for weeks. Redfield's message comes as one [Trump administration official said Covid-19 case trends](#) are now "going in the right direction."

But Redfield warned that while officials have observed cases fall across red zones in the country, cases in yellow zones across the heart of the US aren't falling.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/21/health/us-coronavirus-friday/index.html>

KY Public Health Clinical Update webinar

2019 Novel Coronavirus Situation in KY

August 25, 11:30 - 12:30 AM ET

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5071350457609345808>

Flu Season Could Pose 'Twindemic' For 2020, Doctors Say

(KDKA) There's a new term you could be hearing more this fall: twindemic. "There is a concern that as flu season approaches that we could potentially be dealing with both COVID-19 as well as the flu," says Dr. Marc Itskowitz, a primary care internist at the Allegheny Health Network, "It would challenge the capacity of our health care system to handle a surge of both flu patients as well as COVID patients." It is possible to be infected with both viruses at the same time. "That's a serious situation, because both viruses attack the lungs," says Dr. Itskowitz, "The symptoms of COVID and the flu overlap, and I think it would create a lot of dilemmas in terms of who should be tested, which viruses should be tested, and of course, we know our current testing ability is limited." Full story: <https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2020/08/19/twindemic-flu-and-coronavirus/>

(From MedPage Today) Pfizer and BioNTech [said their COVID-19 vaccine](#) is "on track to seek regulatory review of BNT162b2 as early as October 2020," and published phase I trial data in a [medRxiv preprint manuscript](#). The firms added that more than 11,000 people have been dosed in the ongoing pivotal phase II/III study, out of a planned total of 30,000.

Walgreens and CVS are encouraging [early flu vaccination](#) because of expected high demand and potential complications from COVID-19. (UPI)

Related - CDC Adopts ACIP Recommendations on Immunizations

Read more: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip>

FDA authorizes novel point-of-care antigen test

(From AHA Today) The Food and Drug Administration yesterday authorized emergency use of a [rapid point-of-care antigen test](#) to detect SARS-CoV-2 directly from nasal swab specimens.

Laboratories certified under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment to perform moderate, high or waived complexity tests and health care providers with a CLIA certificate of waiver, compliance or accreditation may use the test, made by LumiraDx UK Ltd.

Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Brett Giroir, M.D., [said](#) the novel "low cost" test "will significantly contribute to our scaling up and expanding testing platforms for SARS-CoV-2. This technology has built-in digital connectivity, almost everything we hope for in new testing platforms coming to market. Furthermore, its flexibility to perform diagnostic assays to detect indicators of various diseases, including inflammatory markers, could be transformative in providing improved access to quality health care."

KY Health News story: [Multimedia campaign aims to get Kentucky children immunized, reverse pandemic-driven decline in their vaccination rates](#)

Related - CVS, Walgreens enact COVID precautions for in-store flu shots

Learn more: <https://www.wave3.com/2020/08/17/cvs-walgreens-enact-covid-precautions-in-store-flu-shots/>

How Feds Decide On Remdesivir Shipments to States Remains Mysterious

The federal government is in charge of distributing one of the few treatment options for COVID-19: the antiviral drug remdesivir. But how are decisions made about which states need it most?

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/08/19/903946857/how-feds-decide-on-remdesivir-shipments-to-states-remains-mysterious>

Related - HHS data change coming - again!

Birx Stokes Hopes That Key Hospital Data Tracking Will Soon Return To CDC

(NPR) The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is working "to build a revolutionary new data system" for COVID-19 hospital data collection that the CDC will run upon completion, according to Dr. Deborah Birx of the White House Coronavirus Task Force. Birx's comments this week come a month after the Trump administration mandated that hospitals sidestep the agency and send critical information about COVID-19 hospitalizations and equipment to a different federal database managed by the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the CDC.

The July decision was met with an avalanche of criticism from medical institutions and public health groups. Weeks after the new reporting system was rolled out, the data were shown to be rife with inconsistencies and updated erratically.

Birx made the remarks Monday during a visit to the Arkansas Governor's Mansion, but she did not provide a time frame for the change.

Having the CDC run data collection again "would help us tremendously in getting back on track with respect to reporting and understanding what's happening with this pandemic across the region, the state and the nation," said Dr. Vineet Chopra, chief of the division of hospital medicine at the University of Michigan and a member of a federal advisory committee on hospital infection prevention.

HHS officials insisted the new system would be quicker and provide more complete data. But an NPR analysis showed that weeks after the data collecting change, information posted to the public HHS site was spotty, incomplete and riddled with errors.

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/08/20/904450628/white-house-stokes-hopes-that-key-hospital-data-tracking-will-soon-return-to-cdc>

First it was toilets in public rest rooms...

Masks in public restrooms?

Urinals may shoot 'plumes' of inhalable coronavirus particles into the air

Curious? <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/08/18/covid-spread-through-air-why-wear-face-masks-public-bathrooms/3374838001/>

Great American ShakeOut Drill is October 15 - Are you getting ready??

COVID-19 isn't the only risk that Emergency Preparedness Coordinators need to anticipate. We all need to remember that Kentucky is sitting on and close to several seismic zones. The Central US Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) is still planning on having the annual [ShakeOut](#) on October 15th. See the flyer below.

International ShakeOut Day is always the third Thursday of October (this year: October 15). While COVID-19 has brought many uncertainties and challenges, one thing's for sure: ShakeOut is still happening this year! It's actually a good idea to practice earthquake safety in different situations each year, and ShakeOut Organizers are here to support you.

Consider a training for your preparedness team. Here are some tools to help:

- ✓ **Ready.gov:** How to Prepare for an Earthquake: <https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/how-to-prepare-for-an-earthquake.pdf>
- ✓ **American Red Cross:** Earthquake Safety: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/earthquake.html>
- ✓ **FEMA:** Earthquake Safety At Home - PDF document (110 pages): https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_earthquakes_fema-p-530-earthquake-safety-at-home-march-2020.pdf
- ✓ CUSEC [Earthquake Safety Video Series](#)

Florida mosquitoes: 750 million genetically modified insects to be released

(BBC) Local officials in Florida have approved the release of 750 million mosquitoes that have been genetically modified to reduce local populations. The aim is to reduce insect-borne diseases but environmental groups warn of unforeseen consequences. *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are known to spread deadly diseases to humans such dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever.

Learn more: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-53856776>

Two tropical systems could threaten the Gulf Coast at the same time

Gulf Coast residents need to pay attention as not one, but *two* tropical systems could impact the area in the coming days.



The first system to watch is Tropical Depression Thirteen (TD-13 is now **TROPICAL STORM LAURA**), which is about 505 miles east of the northern Leeward Islands. Tropical storm watches have been issued for St. Maarten, Antigua, Barbuda, St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla, Saba and St. Eustatius. Additional watches were posted for Culebra and Vieques in Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands and St. Martin and St. Barthelemy.

The second system, Tropical Depression Fourteen (TD-14), is about 100 miles east-southeast of the Honduras-Nicaragua border. A tropical storm warning has been issued in Honduras from the border with Nicaragua westward to Puerto Castilla. A warning is posted in Nicaragua from Puerto Cabezas northward.

Story link: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/20/weather/atlantic-tropical-development-forecast-thursday/index.html>

National Hurricane Center: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Resources for Specific Risks

Flooding: Information and resources ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))

- ✓ **Print Materials** - Be Ready! Floods Infographic ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))

Carbon Monoxide (CO): Information and resources ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))

Print Materials

- ✓ Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning flyer ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)) ([Haitian Creole](#))
- ✓ Generator Safety Fact Sheet ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)) ([Haitian Creole](#))
- ✓ Door Hanger: Carbon Monoxide Hazard: Using a Generator ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))

Mold: Information and resources ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))

Print Materials

- ✓ 8 Tips to Clean up Mold ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
- ✓ Homeowner's and Renter's Guide to Mold Cleanup After Disasters ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
- ✓ What to Wear before entering a Home or Building with Mold Damage ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))

Food and Water Safety: Information and resources ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))

Print Materials

- ✓ Eat Safe Food ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
- ✓ Drink Safe Water ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
- ✓ Make Water Safe Factsheet ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))

CDC Wildfire Smoke and COVID-19 Website

Wildfire smoke can irritate your lungs, cause inflammation, affect your immune system, and make you more prone to lung infections, including COVID-19. Because of the pandemic, preparing for wildfires might be a little different this year. Know how wildfire smoke can affect you and your loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic and what you can do to protect yourselves. Visit CDC's Wildfire Smoke and COVID-19 website in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

EPA Smoke-ready Toolbox for Wildfires

Smoke from wildfires reduces air quality and puts individuals with underlying conditions (such as asthma, COPD, or heart disease) and others at risk of poor health outcomes. EPA, the U.S. Forest Service, and other federal, state, and community agencies and organizations work together to help prepare the public to reduce their health risk before a wildfire. The [Smoke-ready Toolbox](#) for Wildfires includes resources public health officials and others can use to help educate people about the risks of smoke exposure and actions they can take to protect their health. The toolbox also includes links to CDC's Wildfire Smoke and COVID-19 frequently asked questions and resources for environmental health professionals in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

To see a variety of CDC health resources in [languages other than English or Spanish](#), please visit our searchable Web page.

Skull Fractures, Broken Jaws: 'Beanbag' Rounds Shot at Protesters Cause Severe Harm

(HealthDay News) When police and National Guard troops mobilized during protests that broke out across the nation this spring following the death of George Floyd, they often resorted to the use of so-called "beanbag" rounds of ammunition when confronting crowds. Beanbag rounds -- a small cloth bag filled with lead shot and fired from a standard shotgun -- are thought to be strong enough to cause [pain](#) but not serious harm.

However, a new study by emergency physicians in Austin, Texas, suggests otherwise. They report a number cases of severe, maiming injuries -- including skull [fractures](#), brain hemorrhages and broken jaws -- all in young protesters hit by beanbag rounds. Although they are "purported to be 'less lethal' munitions that should not cause penetrating injuries," beanbag rounds "can cause serious harm and are not appropriate for use in crowd control," concluded a team led by Drs. Kristofor Olson and Laura Haselden, of the University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School. Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=245473>

Spokane police believe pipe bomb was found outside hospital ER

(KREM) Spokane police said the suspicious device found out Providence Sacred Heart Hospital on Thursday night appears to be a pipe bomb. A concerned citizen alerted Sacred Heart security about a potential pipe bomb just before 7 p.m. on Thursday, police said. The person had found the device in the area and, not knowing exactly what it was, brought it to the location to seek help.

Initial inspection of the device found outside Providence Sacred Heart Hospital shows that it did appear to be a "relatively small pipe bomb," police said.

Read more: <https://www.krem.com/article/news/crime/police-investigate-suspicious-device-near-sacred-heart/293-f11be034-452a-45a1-8e78-2f2d35847cf7>

Sprains, Strains? New Guidelines Urge OTC Painkillers, Not Opioids

<https://news360.com/article/535719928>

Microplastic particles now discoverable in every major human organ

Learn more: <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-08-autopsies-microplastics-major-human.html>

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.