



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for 8/22/2020

Kentucky COVID-19 Update

(From [Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear on Saturday updated Kentuckians on the state's continuing efforts to fight the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). As of 4 p.m. Aug. 22, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 43,066 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 814 of which were newly reported Saturday. Seventeen of the newly reported cases were from children age 5 and younger. School has resumed within the past several days in some areas of the commonwealth. Among children ages 6-18, 93 have tested positive or were identified as "probable" for having tested positive for COVID-19. "A hundred and ten kids 18 and under on today's report – we continue to see far too many," said the Governor

Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported eight new deaths Saturday, raising the total to 872 Kentuckians lost to the virus. As of Saturday, at least 819,265 tests had been administered. The COVID-19 testing positive rate, based on a seven-day rolling average, taking into account total positive tests reported by laboratories divided by total tests reported by labs, stood at 4.84 %. The number of Kentuckians who have recovered stood at 9,502.

KY Health News

[As last days of summer approach and pandemic continues, here are many tips to navigate outdoor and social gatherings safely](#)

Graves County health care worker among 14 new coronavirus-related deaths reported in Kentucky

Learn more: https://www.wpsdlocal6.com/coronavirus_news/beshear-graves-county-health-care-worker-among-14-new-coronavirus-related-deaths-reported-in-kentucky/article_06dcfc88-e322-11ea-a51a-976aadb557a3.html

At least 7 Covid-19 cases in Nebraska; 15 in Minn. tied to the South Dakota even

(CNN) Coronavirus cases linked to the Sturgis motorcycle rally in South Dakota last week have now reached across state lines. At least seven Covid-19 cases in Nebraska's Panhandle region have been tied to the rally. Minnesota also confirmed 15 cases of Covid-19 connected to the [80th annual Sturgis motorcycle rally](#), which took place August 7-16. South Dakota state health officials [announced Thursday](#) that a person who worked at a tattoo shop in Sturgis had tested positive for the virus and could have possibly exposed people during the event last week.

South Dakota state health officials [announced Thursday](#) that a person who worked at a tattoo shop in Sturgis had tested positive for the Health experts were concerned that this year's Sturgis motorcycle rally could be a "super spreader" event. The 10-day mass gathering typically draws crowds of more than 500,000 people from all over the country, including coronavirus hotspots.

Read full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/21/us/sturgis-motorcycle-rally-sd-covid-nebraska-trnd/index.html>

Related - FBI investigating COVID-19 data breach in South Dakota
<https://news360.com/article/535982204>

Federal government wants COVID vaccine distribution system in place and ready to roll by Nov. 1

Learn more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/08/21/covid-vaccine-government-wants-distribution-system-ready-nov-1/3413109001/>

[Pfizer and BioNTech's Favored Covid-19 Vaccine Has Fewer Side Effects Than Their First](#)

(STAT News) Pfizer and BioNTech surprised many industry watchers on July 27 when they announced they would conduct a large-scale study of a vaccine for Covid-19. The surprise? The vaccine that would be tested in a 30,000-patient trial wasn't the one for which the companies had presented data on July 1. The reason, the companies said, was that a second vaccine seemed to generate a similar immune response, but fewer side effects. On Thursday, they posted the results from all 332 people who received either vaccine, referred to as vaccines B1 or B2 — and indeed, B2 recipients experienced markedly fewer adverse events tied to the vaccine.

Related - Russia vaccine roll-out plan prompts virus mutation worries

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/535924520>

Related - [Russia's 'Sputnik V' COVID-19 Vaccine To Be Tested on 40,000 People: TASS Cites developer](#)

Effect of Remdesivir vs Standard Care on Clinical Status at 11 Days in Patients With Moderate COVID-19

(JAMA) In this randomized, open-label, phase 3 trial that included 584 patients with moderate COVID-19, the day 11 clinical status distribution measured on a 7-point ordinal scale was significantly better for those randomized to a 5-day course of remdesivir (median length of treatment, 5 days) compared with those randomized to standard care. The difference for those randomized to a 10-day course (median length of treatment, 6 days) compared with standard care was not significantly different. Hospitalized patients with moderate COVID-19 randomized to a 5-day course of remdesivir had a statistically significantly better clinical status compared with those randomized to standard care at 11 days after initiation of treatment, but the difference was of uncertain clinical importance.

Kids Are 'Silent Spreaders' of COVID-19

MedicineNet News: <https://news360.com/article/535954735>

Miami ICU nurse: I have never in my life seen so many deaths

(AP) — Their final breaths are tormented. Rublas Ruiz has seen too many of them -- the last gasps of 17 men and women who died of the coronavirus. A 41-year-old ICU nurse in Miami's Kendall Regional Medical Center, Ruiz has witnessed the desperate, pleading, wide-eyed, barely there gasps. Often, he ducks away to sob in the bathroom. It is a rare moment alone, when he can cast off the brave countenance. Then he splashes water on his face and returns to the floor that has been his work home since March.

Miami-Dade County has been the epicenter of the state's outbreak with about 2,000 deaths since March -- more than 20 percent of the state's total. As Florida cases skyrocketed this summer, Miami hospitals were especially overloaded in the second half of July.

Read full story: <https://apnews.com/c1b338cfa0d37d3858e711794b367156>

Related - As Pandemic Persists, Health Care Heroes Beginning To Crack Under the Strain

(NPR/KQED) Many doctors are suffering burnout five months into the pandemic. But the toll is compounded for Latino doctors serving heavily affected Latino communities. Some are now beginning to seek help.

<https://www.npr.org/2020/08/22/904695784/as-pandemic-persists-health-care-heroes-beginning-to-crack-under-the-strain>

Covid-19 vaccine: Experimental nasal vaccine proves effective in mice

A new vaccine that targets the novel coronavirus, which can be delivered through the nose, has been proven effective in preventing infection in mice susceptible to the virus, according to a new study published in the journal *Cell*.

Researchers at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis have developed a vaccine that targets the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Unlike other vaccines, this vaccine can be delivered in one dose via the nose.

Learn more: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/covid-19-vaccine-experimental-nasal-vaccine-proves-effective-in-mice-says-study/article32419491.ece>

Rural Hospitals Are Sinking Under COVID-19 Financial Pressures

(NPR/KHN) America's rural hospitals were struggling even before the pandemic. Now, the loss of revenue from months of deferred treatments and surgeries have pulled more to the brink, as federal relief fades.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/08/22/904455215/rural-hospitals-are-sinking-under-covid-19-financial-pressures>

Telehealth Skyrocketing Among Older Adults

(Medicine Net) More older Americans have been seeing their doctors virtually since the pandemic began than ever before, a new poll finds. During the first three months of the pandemic, one in four patients over 50 years of age used telehealth -- way up from the 4% who did so in 2019.

Comfort levels with telemedicine have also risen, the researchers said. In 2019, most older people had at least one concern about telemedicine, but by mid-2020, the number of those with concerns dropped, especially among people who had a virtual visit between March and June.

Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=245630>

Ketamine that's injected during arrests draws new scrutiny

(AP) Police stopped Elijah McClain on the street in suburban Denver last year after deeming the young Black man suspicious. He was thrown into a chokehold, threatened with a dog and stun gun, then subjected to another law enforcement tool before he died: a drug called ketamine.

Paramedics inject it into people like McClain as a sedative, often at the behest of police who believe suspects are out of control. Officially, ketamine is used in emergencies when there's a safety concern for medical staff or

the patient. But it's increasingly found in arrests and has become another flashpoint in the debate over law enforcement policies and brutality against people of color.

Read more: <https://apnews.com/a872ba9aeeba2f5b0624f8af77f928d3>

Teen Pot Use Makes a Comeback After Legalization

Read more: <https://news360.com/article/535814231>

Oh, great... NASA says an asteroid is headed our way right before Election Day

Well, 2020 just keeps getting better all the time!

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/22/us/asteroid-earth-november-2020-scn-trnd/index.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 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.