



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 24, 2020

[Gulf Coast braces for 'unprecedented' challenge as Hurricane Marco and Tropical Storm Laura surge toward landfall](#)

[RBartlett Note: While Marco is likely to dissipate quickly when it hits land, Laura looks like it will swing north and become our weather story this weekend. The first graphic below is from The Weather Channel, and gives predicted timing and winds. The graphic on the right is the rain story, with the potential for 2-6 inches across much of the state. Don't rule out some flooding advisories as this system gets closer. Let's keep our preparedness vigil up!]



National Hurricane Center link: https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/refresh/graphics_at3+shtml/205733.shtml?rainqpf

Weather Channel story: <https://weather.com/storms/hurricane/news/2020-08-24-tropical-storm-laura-hurricane-forecast-texas-louisiana>

National Weather Service Long Range Outlook:

<https://forecast.weather.gov/wwamap/wwatxtget.php?cwa=lmk&wwa=hazardous%20weather%20outlook>

NWS Louisville: Tuesday through Sunday - Storm chances will return Thursday and Friday as a cold front approaches the region and runs into a muggy air mass associated with the remnants of Laura. Once again the main hazards will be heavy rainfall and gusty winds.

NWS Paducah: Tuesday through Sunday - Daily chances for thunderstorms exist Thursday through Sunday. Primary hazards will be lightning and heavy rain, which may lead to some flooding issues.

NWS Jackson: Tuesday through Sunday - A few thunderstorms will be possible near the Tennessee border on Wednesday during the afternoon and early evening. Thunderstorms will be possible across all of eastern Kentucky Thursday through Sunday. There is a growing potential for heavy rains on Friday and Saturday.

Coroner identifies teen victim of fatal Fayette Mall shooting. 2 others wounded

(Herald-Leader) The Fayette County coroner's office has identified the victim who died after he was shot at Fayette Mall Sunday. Kenneth Wayne Bottoms Jr., 17, died Sunday from the injuries he sustained in the shooting. He was pronounced dead at University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital a couple of hours later, according to the coroner's office. Bottoms was one of three people shot in the altercation, police said. The other two were taken to the hospital.

Read more here: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/local/crime/article245189060.html>

Firefighters, military planes, troops arrive in California to fight massive blazes

(Reuters) - Crews from across the U.S. West, military planes and National Guard troops poured into California on Sunday to join the fight against two dozen major wildfires burning across the state, as officials warned of more dry lightning storms approaching. The worst of the blazes, including the second and third largest wildfires in recorded California history, were burning in and around the San Francisco Bay Area, where more than 200,000 people have been told to flee their homes.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-california-wildfire-idUSKBN25J0SH>

Kentucky COVID-19 Update from Sunday

(From [Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear on Sunday updated Kentuckians on the state's continuing efforts to fight the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). As of 3 p.m. Aug. 23, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 43,529 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 467 of which were newly reported Sunday. Seventy-nine of the newly

reported cases were from children ages 18 and younger. Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported nine new deaths Sunday, raising the total to 881 Kentuckians lost to the virus.

Related - KHA President says inpatient facilities keeping up with COVID demand

The president of the Kentucky Hospital Association says inpatient health care facilities have been able to keep up with demands during coronavirus. KHA CEO Nancy Galvagni said most recently there's been an uptick in cases in eastern Kentucky. But, she added bed availability has not been an issue.

"None of our hospitals are overwhelmed with COVID patients. Some are seeing more than they have in the past, but we have plenty of available beds, plenty of available ICU beds," said Galvagni.

Read and hear more: <https://www.weku.fm/post/kha-president-patient-facilities-keeping-covid-demand>



FDA Authorizes Convalescent Plasma as Emergency Treatment for COVID-19

(NPR) The Food and Drug Administration has issued emergency use authorization to treat hospitalized COVID-19 patients with convalescent plasma from people who have recovered from the virus. FDA Commissioner, Stephen Hahn, explained, "Convalescent plasma, is the liquid portion of the blood that contains the antibodies an individual develops in response to an infection and can be given to patients currently fighting that virus." He said this treatment has long been a part of the infectious disease arsenal, and it has already been in use for COVID-19 for a number of months.

While researchers will continue with randomized clinical trials and data collection, Hahn said independent experts and FDA scientists have concluded the treatment is safe and shows "promising efficacy," warranting approval for the authorization. This move will further expand access to the treatment, but is not the same as traditional FDA approval.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/08/23/905277083/fda-authorizes-convalescent-plasma-as-emergency-treatment-for-covid-19>

Administration considering fast-tracking UK COVID-19 vaccine

(Reuters) - The Trump administration is considering

fast-tracking an experimental COVID-19 vaccine being developed by AstraZeneca Plc and Oxford University for use in the United States ahead of the Nov. 3 elections, the Financial Times (FT) reported. One option being explored would involve the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) awarding "emergency use authorization" in October to the potential vaccine, which was developed by Oxford and licensed to AstraZeneca, the FT reported.

AstraZeneca denied having discussed an emergency use authorization for its potential vaccine with the U.S. government. The company said that the late-stage Phase 2 and Phase 3 trials for its vaccine candidate are still ongoing in the United Kingdom and other markets globally and that it did not anticipate efficacy results until later this year. However, the relatively small UK trial by AstraZeneca was not designed to produce sufficient data of the kind that would be required for emergency authorization in the United States, sources cautioned FT.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-usa-trump/update-1-trump-considering-fast-tracking-uk-covid-19-vaccine-before-election-ft-idUSL1N2FP09Q>

Related - Safer Pfizer COVID-19 mRNA Vax Candidate Moves Forward

(MedPage Today) With the international collaboration between Pfizer and BioNTech yielding a modified RNA COVID-19 vaccine candidate to progress to phase II/III trials, the manufacturers shared data late Thursday that helped inform the decision.

BNT162b2 was the winner: a single nucleoside-modified messenger RNA vaccine that elicited an immune response in healthy volunteers ages 18-55 at nearly four times the neutralizing geometric mean titers (GMT) compared with a panel of patients recovering from COVID-19 infection, and at nearly two times the GMT

response among older adults ages 65-85. The vaccine was also well tolerated, with fever as the most common systemic effect.

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U.S.-based Pfizer and German-based BioNTech announced interim [phase I results](#) in a press release, which were also published on the [medRxiv](#) preprint server.

While there were four vaccine candidates, [BNT162b1 and BNT162b2 emerged as the two front-runners](#), the manufacturers said in a press release on July 27. BNT162b2 was selected to progress to phase II/III, based mainly on a combination of immune response and favorable tolerability in phase I/II trials.

Not only did BNT162b2 have "mild to moderate and transient ... systemic events" (fever, fatigue, chills) and no serious adverse events, but in terms of immunogenicity, BNT162b2 "elicited T cell responses against the receptor binding domain (RBD) and against the remainder of the spike glycoprotein that is not contained in the BNT162b1 vaccine candidate," and "immune recognition of more spike T cell epitopes may have the potential to generate more consistent responses across diverse populations and in older adults," the manufacturers said.

Story link: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/88222>

Breaking News from MedPage Today

First Case of COVID-19 Reinfection Confirmed

Viral sequence disparity indicates Hong Kong case not simply prolonged infection

(MedPage Today) A 33-year-old man in Hong Kong may represent the first confirmed case of reinfection, researchers in Hong Kong said. The man was diagnosed with COVID-19 on March 26, hospitalized, then recovered. He tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 again on August 15, and whole genome sequencing of viral isolates from the two episodes indicated they were from different clades, reported Kwok-Yung Yuen, MD, of the University of Hong Kong, and colleagues in a manuscript they said had been accepted for publication in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, but not yet published. That is almost unassailable evidence that the man was infected a second time, and another indication, albeit far from definitive, that immunity to SARS-CoV-2 may not last very long. Interestingly, the patient was asymptomatic during his second infection, the authors said.

Reinfection was suspected in a few previous cases of COVID-19, but never documented.

Full story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/88234>

Police Maneuver Used To Stop Chases Has Resulted In 30 Deaths Since 2016

The [Washington Post](#) (8/23, Raviv, Sullivan) reports that in a PIT, or precision immobilization technique, a tactical driving maneuver used by police to end car chases, "the pursuing officer uses their cruiser to push the fleeing vehicle's rear end sideways, sending it into a spin and ending the pursuit." However, "the tactic can have deadly consequences. So far this year, nine people have been killed nationwide in PIT maneuvers. ... Since 2016 at least 30 people have died and hundreds have been injured – including some officers – when police used the maneuver to end pursuits, according to an investigation by The Washington Post."

Scientists inspired by 'Star Wars' create artificial skin able to feel

(Reuters) Singapore researchers have developed "electronic skin" capable of recreating a sense of touch, an innovation they hope will allow people with prosthetic limbs to detect objects, as well as feel texture, or even temperature and pain.

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-singapore-skin/scientists-inspired-by-star-wars-create-artificial-skin-able-to-feel-idUSKBN24Z13D>

From KY Forward News

How a U.S. Postal Service, a 'lifeline to rural America,' became the center of a federal frenzy

Read more: <https://www.kyforward.com/daily-yonder-how-a-lifeline-to-rural-america-became-the-center-of-a-federal-frenzy/>

Kentucky to expand, improve behavioral health treatment services, add additional certified clinics

The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) has announced that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has selected Kentucky to create, evaluate and certify community behavioral health

clinics through a two-year demonstration program. The clinics will treat children and adults, primarily those with mental illness, emotional disturbances and/or substance use disorders.

“Opioid-related deaths in Kentucky were up 5% in 2019, and on top of that, in 2020, the pandemic has made it harder for Kentuckians struggling with addiction or other behavioral health challenges to get the assistance they need,” said Governor Andy Beshear. “This project will help save and improve the lives of Kentuckians who receive expanded treatment services, and in doing so, it will positively impact their families as well.”

Certified community behavioral health clinics (CCBHCs) will be funded as part of Medicaid and must meet [all required criteria](#) for staffing, availability and accessibility of services, care coordination, scope of services, quality and other reporting and organizational authority.

Full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/kentucky-to-expand-improve-behavioral-health-treatment-services-add-additional-certified-clinics/>

From KY Health News:

[Learn more: Ky. study shows syringe exchange programs decrease infections associated with IV drug use, could result in 'big money saved'](#)

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

- [Cases & Deaths by County](#) Monday, August 24, 2020
- [Testing for COVID-19](#) Monday, August 24, 2020
- [Testing](#) Monday, August 24, 2020
- [COVID-19 Electronic Laboratory Reporting Implementation by State](#) Monday, August 24, 2020
- [Overview of Testing for SARS-CoV-2](#) Monday, August 24, 2020
- [Test for Current Infection](#) Monday, August 24, 2020
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Shared or Congregate Housing](#) Saturday, August 22, 2020
- [Food and Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) Saturday, August 22, 2020
- [CDC Media Telebriefing: Update on COVID-19](#) Friday, August 21, 2020
- [Travel during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) Friday, August 21, 2020
- [CDC COVID-19 Response Health Equity Strategy: Accelerating Progress Towards Reducing COVID-19 Disparities and Achieving Health Equity](#) Friday, August 21, 2020
- [Businesses and Workplaces](#) Friday, August 21, 2020
- [COVID-19 Forecasts: Deaths](#) Friday, August 21, 2020
- [Considerations for Schools](#) Friday, August 21, 2020
- [Schools and Childcare Programs](#) Friday, August 21, 2020
- [Worker Safety and Support](#) Friday, August 21, 2020

FDA [COVID-19 Updates](#)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today announced the following actions taken in its ongoing response effort to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- The FDA issued an [emergency use authorization](#) (EUA) to NovaSterilis, Inc. for its Nova2200, which uses the NovaClean decontamination process. Nova2200 can be used to decontaminate compatible N95 respirators for single-user reuse by healthcare personnel (HCP) to prevent exposure to pathogenic biological airborne particulates when there are insufficient supplies of face-filtering respirators (FFRs) during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The FDA issued a [letter to health care providers](#) (HCP) and health care facilities alerting them of the potential that passive protective barriers (those without negative pressure) pose an increased health risk to patients and HCPs when treating patients who are known or suspected to have Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- Testing updates:
 - To date, the FDA has currently authorized 218 tests under EUAs; these include 176 molecular tests, 39 antibody tests, and 3 antigen tests.

FDA Calls and Webinars

[Virtual Town Hall Series- Immediately in Effect Guidance on Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Diagnostic Tests](#)

[Wednesday, August 26, at 12:15 pm ET \[Click here for connection information\]\(#\)](#)

The FDA will host a virtual Town Hall for clinical laboratories and commercial manufacturers that are developing or have developed diagnostic tests for SARS-CoV-2. The purpose of this Town Hall is to help answer technical questions about the development and validation of tests for SARS-CoV-2.

[Regulatory Overview for Developers and Sponsors of Neurological and Physical Medicine Devices: An Introduction to the De Novo Pathway](#)

[Thursday, August 27, at 1:00 pm ET \[Click here for connection information\]\(#\)](#)

Representatives from the FDA will host a webinar for developers and manufacturers of neurological and physical medicine devices on the De Novo pathway, a potential pathway to market new medical devices for which there is no legally marketed predicate device.

Webinar Series - FDA's Surgical Masks Umbrella EUA

Tuesday, September 1, at 12:00 pm ET [Click here for connection information](#)

Representatives from the FDA will host a webinar on the FDA's surgical masks umbrella [emergency use authorization](#) (EUA). The FDA issued this EUA on August 5, 2020, in response to concerns relating to insufficient supply and availability of disposable, single-use surgical masks during COVID-19. **To ensure you are connected, please dial in at 11:45 a.m.**

Multiple Function Device Products: Policy and Considerations

Thursday, September 10, at 11:00 am ET [Click here for connection information](#)

Representatives from the FDA will host a webinar for device manufacturers and other stakeholders regarding the [Multiple Function Device Products: Policy and Considerations final guidance](#). FDA will discuss the guidance and respond to questions.

Safety and Performance Based Pathway Criteria for Certain Device Types Final Guidances

Thursday, September 24, at 1:00 pm ET [Click here for connection information](#)

FDA will host a webinar for industry and other interested stakeholders to provide an overview of the final guidances and answer questions about the performance criteria for [conventional foley catheters](#) and [cutaneous electrodes for recording purposes](#).

HHS/ASPR COVID-19 Clinical Rounds Learning Series

These interactive virtual learning sessions aim to create a peer-to-peer learning network where clinicians from the U.S. and abroad who have experience treating patients with COVID-19 share their challenges and successes; a generous amount of time for participant Q & A is also provided. Register for upcoming sessions below.

EMS: Patient Care and Operations

Monday, August 31, 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, September 1, 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.

Emergency Department: Patient Care and Clinical Operations

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

Join presenters to discuss emergency management resources and information that can be utilized to improve effective hospital and emergency department function during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Peach recall expanded: Salmonella outbreak prompts recall of Prima Wawona peaches sold at Walmart & SAMS, Kroger, Target, Aldi, elsewhere

(USA Today) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had identified 68 cases in nine states as of Wednesday in an investigation that is continuing. Fresno, California-based fruit distributor Prima Wawona said Saturday that it had issued a recall for all of its bulk and loose peaches distributed and sold from June 1 through August 3. It also recalled its bagged Wawona and Wawona Organic brand peaches distributed and sold from June 1 through August 19. [The company warned](#) that the products "could possibly be contaminated with Salmonella," which can cause fever, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and, in vulnerable people, can be fatal.

[R Bartlett note: Looking at some of the individual stores in the FDA notice, Kentucky and virtually ALL our neighboring states were listed.]

Learn more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2020/08/23/peach-recall-2020-salmonella-peaches-walmart-target-aldi-kroger/3424167001/>

FDA Notice: https://www.fda.gov/food/outbreaks-foodborne-illness/outbreak-investigation-salmonella-enteritidis-peaches-august-2020?_ga=2.57842154.155566402.1598276327-108625807.1596116970

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.