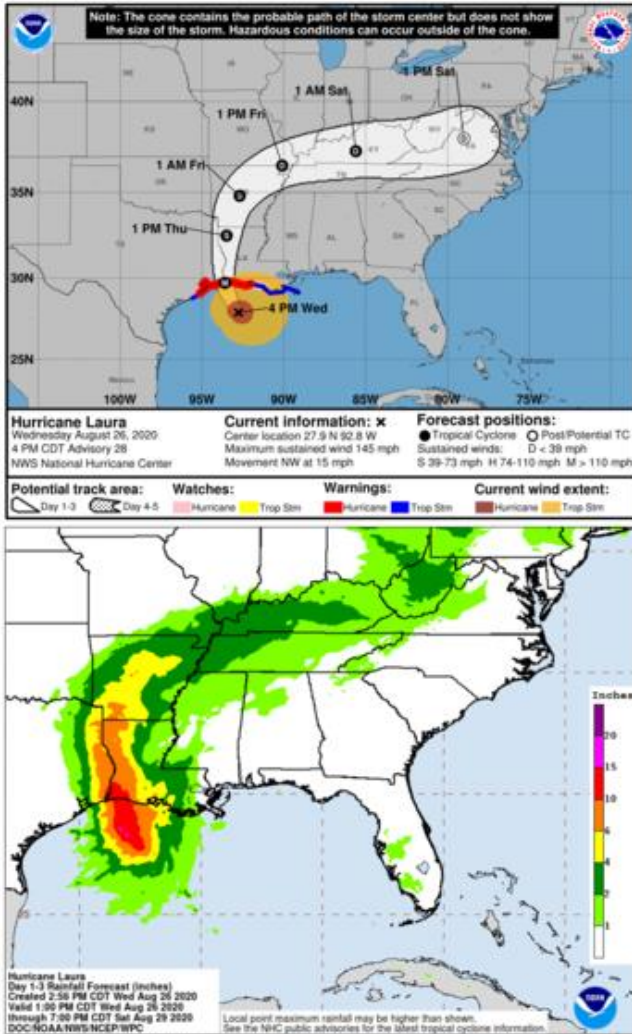




Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 26, 2020

NHC: Hurricane Laura Will Cause “unsurvivable storm surge and destructive waves” causing catastrophic damage in Texas and Louisiana



(ABC) Laura is a Category 4 hurricane with "unsurvivable storm surge" expected in some areas, according to the National Hurricane Center. "Unsurvivable storm surge with large and destructive waves will cause catastrophic damage from Sea Rim State Park, Texas, to Intracoastal City, Louisiana, including Calcasieu and Sabine Lakes," the NHC said in a statement. "This surge could penetrate up to 30 miles inland from the immediate coastline. Only a few hours remain to protect life and property and all actions should be rushed to completion." Parts of eastern Texas and western Louisiana are forecast to see "catastrophic wind damage," especially in places where the storm's eyewall makes landfall early Thursday morning, the NHC said. Residents in affected areas are being instructed to evacuate and are urged to brace for "widespread damaging wind gusts" that will spread well inland across parts of those areas.

ABC Update: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/laura-expected-category-hurricane-130-mph-winds/story?id=72619354&ocid=uxbndlbing>

----- **Kentucky Outlook** -----

NWS Louisville: Isolated storms will be possible through this evening. The main threat with any storms will be heavy downpours and gusty winds. Thursday through Tuesday, showers and storms are expected Thursday through Saturday as the remnants of Hurricane Laura approach and move through the region. One to three inches of rainfall with locally higher amounts will be possible through Sunday morning, leading to the potential for localized flooding issues.

NWS Paducah: Isolated to scattered thunderstorms are possible through the evening. Lightning and locally heavy rain are the primary hazards.

Thursday through Tuesday, a few thunderstorms are possible Thursday into Thursday night. A greater chance for thunderstorms arrives Friday into Friday night associated with the remnants of Laura. A few strong to severe thunderstorms will be possible with brief spin-up tornadoes and strong wind gusts. Heavy rainfall will pose a flooding threat as well.

NWS Charleston (for eastern KY): Thursday through Tuesday, tropical moisture will move over the area on Thursday and remain until Saturday. Flash flooding is possible.

NWS Wilmington (Northern KY): Thursday through Tuesday, the remnants of Hurricane Laura will bring tropical moisture for Friday into Saturday. Moderate to heavy rainfall will be possible, causing rises on area streams, creeks and rivers. Depending on the exact path and timing of the path, flooding may be possible.

NWS Alerts: <https://alerts.weather.gov/cap/ky.php?x=2>

NBC News – Wildfires in Western US
<https://www.nbcnews.com/western-wildfires>

Abandoned by authorities, fire-threatened California towns set up their own FEMA-like response. They couldn't get help from the state. Or the feds. So volunteer firefighters in two Santa Cruz mountain towns tapped an elite network of emergency responders.

Story link: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-08-24/fire-santa-cruz-mountains-firefighters-fema>

KY COVID-19 Update for August 26

(From [Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear on Wednesday updated Kentuckians on the state's continuing efforts to fight the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in the commonwealth. As of 4 p.m. Aug. 26, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 45,230 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 696 of which were newly reported Wednesday. One hundred and fourteen of the newly reported cases were from children ages 18 and younger, of which 22 were children ages 5 and under.

Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported seven new deaths Wednesday, raising the total to 902 Kentuckians lost to the virus. As of Wednesday, there have been at least 839,454 coronavirus tests performed in Kentucky. The positivity rate currently stands at 4.64%. At least 9,691 Kentuckians have recovered from the virus. To see all recent daily reports, [click here](#).

Information about COVID-19 and schools is also being made available. To view the reports, [click here for K-12](#) and [here for colleges and universities](#).

Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman reported on the Team Kentucky Fund. "I want to thank Community Action for your help and for everyone who has donated \$5, \$10, \$15 to help their fellow Kentuckians," she said. To date, \$3,545,027 has been donated to the Team Kentucky Fund. Lt. Gov. Coleman noted that through the state's partnership with Community Action Kentucky, for every \$1 given to the Team Kentucky Fund, \$1.70 goes to Kentuckians in need. Team Kentucky Fund top categories: electric: \$101,952.49; food: \$123,209.34; mortgage: \$102,287.30; rent: \$410,290.74; for a grand total: \$789,658.77. 2,421 vouchers had been issued that aided 1,032 households.

"While nationwide coronavirus surge may be slowing, officials see troubling signs in Middle America"

(CNN) New [Covid-19 cases in the US](#) may be on the decline, but some officials across the heartland reported worrisome news this week. Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly said Monday the state had reached an "unfortunate milestone" by reporting at least one case of the virus in every county. The state's infection rate, she said, "continues an alarming trend in the wrong direction." The state's seven-day average for new daily cases was 561 Monday, up from about 100 in mid-June, according to [Johns Hopkins University data](#).

In Kentucky, Gov. Andy Beshear warned cases could spike again as the state reported more deaths last week than "in any other week battling the virus." Beshear said the state is seeing "troubling signs" and is at "the same moment that Kentucky was at in the beginning of the summer."

"More people are trying to get out of the quarantine than the health department has recommended," the governor said.

The governors' messages come as, for the country as a whole, case and death rates are dropping, offering hope that the [summer surge may be waning](#). But, alarmed by [grim forecasts for what the fall and winter](#) could look like in the US, health experts say now isn't the time to ease prevention measures.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/25/health/us-coronavirus-tuesday/index.html>

Lexington students, faculty member test positive for COVID-19

Read more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/lexington-students-faculty-member-test-positive-for-covid-19>

CMS releases regulation making COVID-19 data reporting a Medicare condition of participation for hospitals

(From [AHA News Now](#)) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services today issued an [interim final rule](#) that, among other provisions, makes collecting and reporting COVID-19-data a condition of participation for hospitals that participate in Medicare.

The rule, which is effective upon publication in the Federal Register, will require hospitals to report daily data including, but not limited to, elements such as the number of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 positive patients, intensive care unit beds occupied, and availability of supplies and equipment, such as ventilators and personal protective equipment. By making this data reporting a CoP, the penalty for a hospital's noncompliance potentially may be termination from the Medicare program if appropriate corrective action is not taken.

In addition to the new CoP requirement, the interim final rule directs surveyors to inspect nursing homes for adherence to new COVID-19 testing requirements, with penalties including sanctions and civil monetary penalties. The rule also implements new laboratory reporting requirements in accordance with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. Failure to comply with these requirements could result in civil monetary penalties of \$1,000 a day for the first day and \$500 a day for each subsequent day. <[Full story](#)>

Interim rule: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-ifc-3-8-25-20.pdf>

Zoom glitches, briefly grinding US schools to a halt

(ABC) Teachers and parents got a brief glimpse of a new kind of pandemic-era nightmare Monday when Zoom — the video-conferencing service that powers everything from distance learning to business meetings to casual, socially distant get-togethers — abruptly went dead.

For roughly two-and-a-half hours Monday morning, many users were unable to load the Zoom website; others could neither host nor join scheduled meetings. Zoom fixed the problem by 11:30 a.m. ET, the company reported on its status page. The timing was less than ideal, since many schools across the U.S. were just starting online instruction after a summer surge in the coronavirus pandemic scotched many plans to reopen classes with students present in the flesh.

Read more: <https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/zoom-glitches-briefly-grinding-us-schools-halt-72578789>

Postal Service Slowdowns Cause Dangerous Delays in Medication Delivery

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/08/25/905666119/postal-service-slowdowns-cause-dangerous-delays-in-medication-delivery>

CMS releases COVID-19 training for nursing homes

(From [AHA Today](#)) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services yesterday released its national training program to prevent and control COVID-19 in Medicare- and Medicaid-certified nursing homes. The training incorporates best practices and lessons learned from COVID-19 outbreaks in nursing homes and CMS inspections, with input from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention experts. Topics range from basic infection control to telehealth, emergency preparedness and vaccine delivery. CMS offers an online self-assessment tool at its [Quality Improvement Organization website](#) to help nursing home staff identify their prevention training needs. To access the CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Nursing Home Staff & Management, visit the agency's [Quality, Safety & Education Portal](#).

According to the [Department of Health and Human Services](#), nursing homes must participate in the training to qualify for funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act's Provider Relief Fund.

CMS and CDC also will offer through Jan. 7 bi-weekly Q&A webinars on COVID-19 prevention for nursing home managers. [Register for the webinars here](#).

Nursing homes to receive N95 respirators from stockpile

The Defense Logistics Agency Friday will begin distributing 1.5 million N95 respirators from the Strategic National Stockpile to about 3,330 nursing homes in the Medicare and Medicaid programs that have less than a three-day supply, the Department of Health and Human Services [announced](#) yesterday. The agency will distribute the respirators based on the number of medical staff at each facility, as reported to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services database.

Johns Hopkins: Interim Framework for COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation & Distribution in US

(ASPR/DHS) Medical ethicists and experts at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security are researching COVID-19 vaccine distribution in the United States. Johns Hopkins research in this area has led them to published an [Interim Framework for COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation and Distribution in the United States](#). The intended audience for this report includes policy makers and technical experts in the US federal government currently working on vaccine allocation plans, those at the state and local levels who will be implementing allocation plans, community leaders, activists and the general public interested in influencing vaccine allocation decisions.

The purpose of this report is to offer an additional ethics framework for use in making decisions about allocation of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine. The approach takes into account considerations of medical risk, public health, ethics and equity, economic impact, and logistics. The authors note where their approach aligns or differs from the 2018 CDC guidance for vaccine allocation in a severe influenza pandemic, which is the most recent pandemic vaccine guidance from the US government.

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [August 25](#) & [August 26, 2020](#)

[Genetic Data Show How a Single Superspreading Event Sent Coronavirus Across Massachusetts — and the Nation](#) (*Washington Post*) Now, a sweeping study of nearly 800 coronavirus genomes, conducted by no less than 54 researchers at the Broad Institute, Massachusetts General Hospital, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and several other institutions in the state, has found that viruses carrying the conference's characteristic mutation infected hundreds of people in the Boston area, as well as victims from Alaska to Senegal to Luxembourg. As of mid-July, the variant had been found in about one-third of the cases sequenced in Massachusetts and 3 percent of all genomes studied thus far in the United States.

Similar story - 53 Coronavirus Cases Reportedly Linked to Maine Wedding Reception

Read more on NPR: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/08/24/905494669/53-coronavirus-cases-reportedly-linked-to-maine-wedding-reception>

FDA Chief Apologizes for Overstating Plasma Effect on Virus (ABC News) Responding to an outcry from medical experts, Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Stephen Hahn on Tuesday apologized for overstating the life-saving benefits of treating COVID-19 patients with convalescent plasma.

Sex Differences in Immune Responses that Underlie COVID-19 Disease Outcomes (Nature) A growing body of evidence indicates sex differences in the clinical outcomes of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) 1–5. However, whether immune responses against SARS-CoV-2 differ between sexes, and whether such differences explain male susceptibility to COVID-19, is currently unknown. In this study, we examined sex differences in viral loads, SARS-CoV-2-specific antibody titers, plasma cytokines, as well as blood cell phenotyping in COVID-19 patients.

Exclusive: Fauci Says Rushing Out a Vaccine Could Jeopardize Testing of Others (Reuters) The top U.S. infectious diseases expert is warning that distributing a COVID-19 vaccine under special emergency use guidelines before it has been proved safe and effective in large trials is a bad idea that could have a chilling effect on the testing of other vaccines.

Four Scenarios on How We Might Develop Immunity to Covid-19 (STAT) As the world wearies of trying to suppress the SARS-CoV-2 virus, many of us are wondering what the future will look like as we try to learn to live with it. Will it always have the capacity to make us so sick? Will our immune systems learn — and remember — how to cope with the new threat? Will vaccines be protective and long-lasting?

Smallpox Vaccine: Bavarian Nordic Announces Topline Results from Study on Freeze-dried Formulation (Outbreak News Today) Bavarian Nordic A/S announced topline results from the pivotal Phase 3 study of the freeze-dried formulation of its MVA-BN® smallpox vaccine. The Phase 3 lot-consistency study was agreed with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as the only Phase 3 study required to support licensure of the freeze-dried formulation.

How Bacteria-Eating Bacteria Could Help Win the War Against Germs (New York Times) Predatory bacteria carry immense promise in an extraordinarily small package. Deployed under the right circumstances, they could help people beat back harmful microbes in the environment, or purge pathogens from the food supply. Some experts think they could someday serve as a sort of living therapeutic that could help clear drug-resistant germs from ailing patients in whom all other treatments have failed.

Revved by Sturgis Rally, COVID-19 Infections Spread Fast and Far

(ABC) The hundreds of thousands of bikers who attended the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally may have departed western South Dakota, but public [health](#) departments in multiple states are trying to measure how much and how quickly the coronavirus spread in bars, tattoo shops and gatherings before people traveled home to nearly every state in the country. More: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/revved-sturgis-rally-covid-19-infections-move-fast-72578834>

Kentucky National Guard prepares for future deployments

Read more: <https://www.wkyt.com/2020/08/24/kentucky-national-guard-prepares-for-future-deployments/>

Medical Device Shortages during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) publishes a [device shortages list](#) to provide transparency to the American public, particularly those who use and/or purchase medical devices. The presence of a device type on this list does not necessarily indicate that patient care has been affected. During the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), the FDA has taken many actions to help ensure that patients and health care providers have timely and continued access to high-quality medical devices to respond effectively to the COVID-19 public health emergency. These actions include issuing Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) and guidance documents to provide recommendations and help expand the availability and capability for various diagnostic, therapeutic, and protective medical devices in high demand during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Related – FDA PPE EUAs

The FDA is [tracking emergency use authorizations](#) (EUAs) that have been issued for personal protective equipment (PPE). To help address concerns about availability during the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA has issued EUAs for certain PPE products including face shields, other barriers, and respiratory protective devices such as respirators. Additionally, the FDA has issued recommendations and policies about PPE which can be found here: [Recent Final Medical Device Guidance Documents](#).

Implementing Filtering Facepiece Respirator (FFR) Reuse, Including Reuse after Decontamination, When There Are Known Shortages of N95 Respirators

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 FFRs](#) were written to follow a continuum using the surge capacity approach in the order of **conventional** (everyday practice), **contingency** (expected shortages), and **crisis** (known shortages) capacities. N95 FFRs are meant to be disposed after each use. CDC developed contingency and crisis strategies to help healthcare facilities conserve their supplies in the face of shortages. When the availability of N95 FFRs become limited due to an expected shortage, supplies first should be conserved using contingency strategies.

Male Baldness May Increase Severe COVID-19 Risk

Learn more: <https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20200615/male-baldness-may-increase-severe-covid-19-risk>

New! Issue 11 of the ASPR TRACIE Exchange (COVID-19 Resources)

[See FULL ISSUE as Webpage here!](#)

New: Healthcare Coalition Infectious Disease Surge Annex Template

The 2019-2023 HPP Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) requires healthcare coalitions (HCCs) to develop a complimentary coalition-based infectious disease annex to their base medical surge/ trauma mass casualty response plan. The ASPR TRACIE [HCC Infectious Disease Surge Annex Template](#) aims to improve capacity and capabilities to manage a few patients with high-consequence pathogens or more patients during an epidemic or pandemic. Healthcare Coalitions are not required to use this template; however, HCCs are encouraged to utilize the template content in their planning process and tailor the template to meet their needs.

New: Interim Guidance: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) and Field Trauma Triage Principles

[This document](#) provides a brief overview of how COVID-19 impacts trauma triage for first responders, including emergency medical service, fire and rescue, and law enforcement.

CDC Coronavirus [What's News](#) extracts

- [Operational Considerations for Adapting a Contact Tracing Program to Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) Wednesday, August 26, 2020
- [Investigating the Impact of COVID-19 during Pregnancy](#) Wednesday, August 26, 2020
- [Worker Safety and Support](#) Wednesday, August 26, 2020
- [Contact Tracing: Frequently Asked Questions for Health Departments](#) Wednesday, August 26, 2020
- [Toolkit for People 15 to 21](#) Tuesday, August 25, 2020
- [Businesses and Workplaces](#) Tuesday, August 25, 2020
- [The kindness of strangers](#) Tuesday, August 25, 2020
- [What Warehousing Workers Need to Know about COVID-19](#) Tuesday, August 25, 2020
- [COVID-19 Employer Information for Warehousing](#) Tuesday, August 25, 2020

NPR: Africa Declares Wild Polio Is Wiped Out — Yet It Persists In Vaccine-Derived Cases

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/08/25/905884740/africa-declares-wild-polio-is-wiped-out-yet-it-persists-in-vaccine-derived-cases>

Teachers Sue After Being Shot 'Execution-Style' in Shooter Drill

(Newser) Teachers who say they were left physically and emotionally scarred by an active-shooter drill at an Indiana elementary school last year are suing the sheriff's department responsible. The Meadowlawn Elementary School teachers say four White House County Sheriff's deputies subjected them to "verbal threats, expletives, and screaming," and [shot them "execution-style"](#) at point-blank range with plastic pellets after ordering them to face a wall and kneel, the [Indianapolis Star](#) reports. One first-grade teacher was later diagnosed with PTSD.

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/295395/teachers-injured-in-active-shooter-drill-file-lawsuit.html>

Related story - Doctors Call For Immediate End To High-Intensity Active Shooter Drills In Schools

(HuffPost) For years, American parents have had to grapple with a deeply disturbing question: How do I explain to my children why they're being required to huddle close to their classmates, practicing what they'd do if a shooter was loose in their school? But high-intensity active shooter drills could very soon be a thing of the past. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) on Monday came out strongly [against all but the calmest, most mild version of those drills](#). The group said the drills have the potential to cause substantial emotional trauma in children, while their effectiveness remains largely unproven.

The new recommendations coincide with an unprecedented moment in U.S. education, as millions of students are embarking on yet another round of full-time or partial remote learning because of the [COVID-19 pandemic](#).

Experts with the AAP believe that in many ways, the new policy statement is timelier than ever, as such drills would be a particular drain on schools' limited resources and on children's mental health reserves.

Full story: <https://www.huffpost.com/entry/doctors-call-for-immediate-end-to-high-intensity-active-shooter-drills-in-schools> | 5f43fe1ec5b66a80ee164321?ncid=APPLENEWS00001

Feds Raids Pain Clinic in Hazard

In a story first appearing on *WYMT*, federal agents raided the Hazard location of the Kentucky Pain Management Services clinic on Roy Campbell Drive in Hazard, Kentucky. Agents from multiple investigative branches and services coordinated with the Kentucky State Police to enter the premises the morning of August 25, 2020.

It is unknown the target or targets of the investigation but people were seen leaving the building, getting in their cars, and permitted to vacate the premises. The FBI field office in Louisville was solicited for comment. A spokesperson for the field office confirmed the FBI was conducting judicially authorized activity at 311 Roy Campbell Drive in Hazard, Kentucky. There was nothing else the bureau elected to disclose.

Story link: https://www.nolangroupmedia.com/jackson_times_voice/fbi-raids-pain-clinic/article_de14f7c2-e6f2-11ea-82e2-7fdc69b3342e.html

Related - Syringe exchange programs could decrease IV drug-use infections, result in 'big money saved'

(KyForward News & KY Health News) A new analysis of Medicaid claims data suggests that Kentucky counties with syringe-service programs have slightly lower rates of diseases associated with intravenous drug use, such as HIV and hepatitis C.

The analysis estimated a progressive reduction of 0.5 percent per month, adding up to a 6 percent increase over a year. That can add up to savings, not only in lives, but money. So said Dr. Connie White, deputy commissioner of clinical affairs for the Kentucky Department for Public Health, at the Kentucky Harm Reduction Summit on Aug. 20.

Kentucky has more syringe-service programs than any other state in the nation, but 56 of the state's 120 counties still don't have one — and 20 of those are considered highly vulnerable to an HIV or hepatitis C outbreak among IV drug users, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Thirty-four of the state's most vulnerable counties have operational syringe exchanges.

The vulnerable counties without an exchange include Bell and Clinton, which rank sixth and 11th on the national list of 220; Cumberland, Casey, Edmonson, Harlan, Johnson, Lawrence, Lewis, Menifee, Monroe, Rockcastle and Wayne, also in Appalachian Kentucky; and eight in the rest of the state: Carroll, Gallatin, Green, Breckinridge, Grayson, Green, Allen and Hickman.

Kentucky has 74 operational syringe-service programs in 63 counties, with one more in Christian County approved but not operational. Bracken County's exchange is marked on the state's map as not yet operational, but it started operating July 8.

Read more: <https://www.kyforward.com/syringe-exchange-programs-could-decrease-iv-drug-use-infections-result-in-big-money-saved/>

Paramedics declared her dead – in spite of RN relative's insistence she was breathing & had pulse! Woman was in body bag 2 hours before found alive

(AP) An attorney for the family of a young woman found breathing at a Detroit funeral home after being declared dead said Tuesday the 20-year-old was in a body bag for some two hours before it was opened and she was discovered to be alive, with her eyes open.

Geoffrey Fieger, who was hired by Timesha Beauchamp's family, said she remains in critical condition at Sinai-Grace Hospital in Detroit, where she is on a respirator and her heart is beating on its own.

Read the rest of the story: <https://www.boston.com/news/national-news-2/2020/08/25/attorney-woman-was-in-body-bag-2-hours-before-found-alive>

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.