



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update - 2 for August 27, 2020

## September is National Preparedness Month

### *Disasters Don't Wait. Make Your Plan Today*

The Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH), within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), is reminding the public that households, businesses and communities can increase their preparedness by following this year's theme of **Disasters Don't Wait. Make Your Plan Today** during September – National Preparedness Month (NPM). Activities are divided up into the following four action steps to focus on for each week during September:



- Week 1: Sept. 1-5 [Make A Plan](#) - Know how to prepare for disasters that include how you will communicate with family and friends during disasters, reviewing insurance papers and much more.
- Week 2: Sept. 6-12 [Build A Kit](#) - You'll need items to survive during a disaster that includes supplies for use at home as well as a Go Kit of items you may need if you must evacuate quickly to a safer location.
- Week 3: Sept. 13-19 [Prepare For Disasters](#) - Find out the best way to limit impacts a disaster may have, like selecting the right insurance coverage or what can you do to your home to make it stronger and more resilient.
- Week 4: Sept. 20-26 [Teach Youth About Preparedness](#) - Take the time now and talk with your children to reassure them and teach lessons on preparedness. Make family preparedness a fun annual event.

For more information about learning more about each week and preparing for and responding to emergencies, visit <http://www.ready.gov>.

The Governor also emphasized the importance of taking COVID-19 precautions into account when developing preparedness plans. For example, keep extra masks in homes, offices and vehicles just like you might store non-perishable food and bottled water or a first aid kit.

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### Hurricane Laura triggers Chemical fire in Lake Charles, LA Prompts shelter-in-place advisory

(CBS) A large chemical fire has broken out over Lake Charles, Louisiana, hours after the eye of [Hurricane Laura](#) passed directly over the city. Louisiana State Police say they're responding to a chlorine leak at a company that makes chemicals along Interstate 10 just west of Lake Charles, which was hard-hit when the storm slammed into the Gulf Coast early Thursday.



Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards said the fire was burning Thursday morning just outside the city and advised storm survivors to shelter in place. He [tweeted](#) to residents in the area: "Shelter in place, close your windows and doors and TURN OFF YOUR AIR CONDITIONING UNITS."

Police say the chlorine leak is at the BioLab chemical manufacturing facility in Westlake. Authorities say they're working with plant managers to try and contain the leak.

CBS story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/chemical-plant-fire-lake-charles-louisiana-hurricane-laura-wake/>

**Related – CNN – Laura Smashes Louisiana & Texas Killing 4; 800,000 w/o Power**  
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/27/weather/laura-gulf-coast-weather-forecast-thursday/index.html>

**NEW - CDC Issues [HAN Alert 00435](#) on  
Hurricane Laura Clinical Guidance for CO Poisoning**

**NWS Louisville:** Weather story link - <https://www.weather.gov/lmk/LateWeekRainPotential>

**NWS Paducah:** Weather story link - <https://www.weather.gov/pah/weatherstory>

**Alerts by KY County:** <https://alerts.weather.gov/cap/ky.php?x=3>

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**CORRECTION** to an NWS Graphic sent earlier on potential Isolated Severe Storms Possible  
Wrong date on slide. They fixed it to the on-line version: <https://www.weather.gov/lmk/LateWeekRainPotential>

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## KY COVID-19 Update for Thursday, August 27

News cases: 775; Total cases to date: 45,978 (130 are kids 18 and under)  
New deaths: 8; Total COVID deaths to date:  
Positivity rate is 4.8%  
573 hospitalized (154 in ICU)



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**Daily COVID-19 Summary:** <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/COVID19DailyReport.pdf>

**Long Term Care Report:** <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/LTCupdate.pdf>

**KY Public Health K-12 School Covid-19 Report:** <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/K-12cv19report.pdf>

**Colleges & Universities Report:** <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/CollegeandUniversitycv19.pdf>

**New – Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Disease Clearance Guidance:**  
<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/Guidanceforreleasefromisolation.pdf>

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**CDC publishes article on Kentucky monitoring system to guide decisions in reopening and response** (KyForward News & KY Health News) As health departments across the nation help states safely reopen their economies and schools, the monitoring system Kentucky officials use to guide their decisions has been lauded in a recent federal report as an example for other states to follow. The [report](#), published in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, comes at a time when many Republicans and some commentators have said they need to know more about how Gov. Andy Beshear and his public-health chief are making their decisions around reopening, mitigation and response.

Health Commissioner Steven Stack has said he uses a variety of sources to guide his recommendations, but this report reveals the nitty-gritty of how one tool created by Kentucky’s epidemiologists helps guide the state’s decision-making on COVID-19.

The IMR combines multiple data elements that measure the prevalence and severity of the coronavirus, along with the state’s readiness to respond to it. The report says this information is use to generate a daily COVID-19 status score that can be used to asses the state’s ability to safely reopen. The report says state epidemiologists “developed the IMR after recognizing the need for a plain-language assessment that could facilitate reopening and ongoing response decision-making addressing multiple stakeholders.”

The assessment is compiled Monday through Saturday and distributed to about 90 stakeholders in and out of state government, including the governor’s office and local health-department directors. The system monitors five primary indicators: new coronavirus cases, deaths from COVID-19, health-care capacity, contact-tracing capacity and syndromic surveillance, which allows the state to track symptoms before a COVID-19 diagnosis is confirmed.

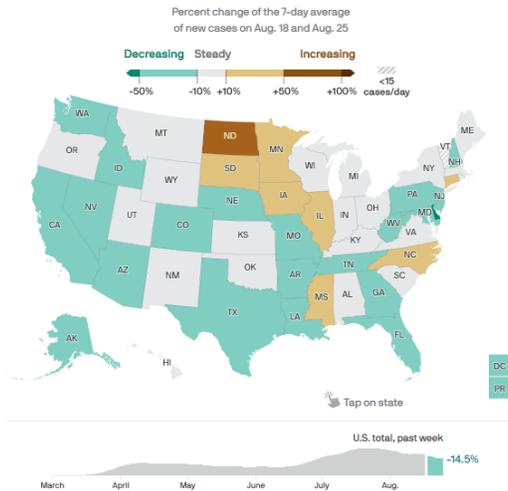
Learn more in full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/cdc-publishes-article-on-kentucky-monitoring-system-to-guide-decisions-in-reopening-and-response/>

### ----- **Tracking COVID-19 hospitalization rates in Indiana and Kentucky**

(WHAS-11) No drastic decline in hospitalizations since mask mandates. Graphs don’t reflect how the virus is spreading right now but could be weeks delayed. To put you at ease, both Kentucky and Indiana are far from the danger zone of surpassing the health care capacity. Click the link to see more, and the graphs.

Link: <https://www.whas11.com/article/news/kentucky/hospitalization-rates-in-indiana-and-kentucky-data-deep-dive/417-9b9722f4-c236-4165-a7c7-df8e4dbf9885>

## Change in new COVID-19 cases in the past week



Data: The COVID Tracking Project, state health departments; Map: Andrew Witherspoon, Sara Wise/Axios

## Coronavirus cases fell by 15% this week

(Axios) New coronavirus infections fell by almost 15% over the past week, continuing a steady downward trend.

Why it matters: The standard caveats still apply — progress can always fall apart, the U.S. is climbing down from a very high number of cases, and this is far from over. But this is undeniably good news. Things are getting better.

Where it stands: The U.S. is averaging roughly 41,700 new confirmed cases per day, down from about 49,000 per day last week and 65,000 per day at the height of the summer outbreak.

The pace of new infections fell in 20 states, including the summer hotspots of Arizona, Florida and Texas. California, which has been a stubborn holdout, finally saw a significant drop (31%) this week.

A handful of states across the South and Midwest headed in the wrong direction this week, as did Massachusetts, which was hit hard at the beginning of the pandemic but has since managed to keep the virus reasonably well contained.

Read full story: <https://www.axios.com/coronavirus-cases-united-states-getting-better-e282587c-d59e-459c-a72d-c3f7859efc40.html>

## Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extract from [August 27, 2020](#)

**[Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Shows Immunogenicity in Older Patients](#)** (*Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology News*) Moderna presented Phase I data showing that its closely-watched messenger RNA (mRNA) COVID-19 vaccine candidate mRNA-1273 showed immunogenicity in patients 55 years old and older that was roughly the same or higher than data seen in younger patients at the dosage the company is using in its Phase III trial. The presentation included Moderna's first release of detailed data on mRNA-1273 in patients older than age 55.

**[Verndari, Inc. Announces Funding from U.S. Government Agency BARDA to Accelerate Development of VaxiPatch™ Dermal Patch Vaccine Technology](#)** (*Business Wire*) Verndari, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company transforming vaccines with next generation science and delivery technology, announced today a federal government award to support development of Verndari's VaxiPatch™ alternative vaccine technology. Under the terms of the cost-shared \$1 million program, BARDA will provide 68 percent of the total funding and Verndari will provide the remainder. The funding will support further development of Verndari's vaccine technology, which is based on its patented VaxiPatch™ micro-needle dermal patch that is designed to provide a pain-free, significantly enhanced immune response with smaller doses at lower cost.

**Ten Essential Actions to Improve School Safety**  
**School Safety Working Group Report to the Attorney General**  
48 page PDF: <https://cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/Publications/cops-w0891-pub.pdf>

## [CDC COVID-19 What's New?](#)

- [Data on COVID-19 during Pregnancy](#) Thursday, August 27, 2020
- [Cases & Deaths by County](#) Thursday, August 27, 2020
- [Contact Tracing for COVID-19](#) Thursday, August 27, 2020
- [Investigating a COVID-19 Case](#) Thursday, August 27, 2020
- [People with Moderate to Severe Asthma](#) Thursday, August 27, 2020
- [Notification of Exposure: A Contact Tracer's Guide for COVID-19](#) Thursday, August 27, 2020
- [About Masks](#) Thursday, August 27, 2020
- [Cases in the U.S.](#) Thursday, August 27, 2020
- [Interim Operational Considerations for Public Health Management of Healthcare Workers Exposed to or Infected with COVID-19: non-US Healthcare Settings](#) Thursday, August 27, 2020
- [Preparing K-12 School Administrators for a Safe Return to School in Fall 2020](#) Wednesday, August 26, 2020

**FDA 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.**

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**Dengue breakthrough after mosquitoes laced with natural bacteria**

(The Guardian) Infecting mosquitoes with a naturally occurring bacteria dramatically reduces their ability to transmit dengue, according to a breakthrough study that could pave the way to eliminating the disease. Research conducted in [Indonesia](#), where dengue is endemic, found that releasing mosquitoes infected with the bacteria Wolbachia into parts of Yogyakarta city reduced the number of dengue infections by 77% compared with untreated areas.

The same method is also being applied in other countries where dengue is prevalent, with the aim of eliminating the disease as a public health concern.

During the study, buckets of mosquito eggs infected with Wolbachia were gradually distributed to homes in the city over a period of around six months. In total, about 6 million mosquitoes were released across an area of 13 square kilometres, where they then infected other wild mosquitoes.

**The infected mosquitoes did not behave differently, nor did their population fall, but their capacity to transmit the virus that causes dengue was vastly reduced.**

Full story: [https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/aug/27/dengue-breakthrough-after-mosquitoes-laced-with-natural-bacteria?CMP=oth\\_b-aplnews\\_d-1](https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/aug/27/dengue-breakthrough-after-mosquitoes-laced-with-natural-bacteria?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1)



Join KSHE, IAHS, and KSHPM for the 2020 Virtual Healthcare Coalition Conference. Network with colleagues and business partners and learn essential tools for successful healthcare management through presentations that support this year's theme: "Celebrating Healthcare Heroes." The HCC welcomes those who work in and service the following healthcare fields: Engineering/Facilities, Security/Safety and Purchasing/Materials Management.

The Healthcare Coalition Conference offers 4 education tracks available to attendees in various breakout sessions over the course of two days including:

- ✓ Management and Leadership
- ✓ Security and Safety
- ✓ Materials Management
- ✓ Toolbelt (Hands-on-Training)

[Register Today](#)

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HOWARD L. BOST MEMORIAL HEALTH POLICY FORUM WEBINAR SERIES

**Moving Kids Towards Natural Highs:**

Kentucky Opportunities to Prevent Youth Substance Use, Suicide and Risky Behavior



[Click on the picture for more](#) -> **REGISTER**

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](mailto: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.