



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 29, 2020

## KY COVID-19 Update

(From [Press Release](#)) - "Unfortunately, today, I'm reporting the fourth-highest number of positives for COVID-19 that we've reported since our first case on March 6," said Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear. "Thankfully, our positivity rate is still below five at 4.59%." He added, "Thankfully, our positivity rate is still below five at 4.59%." As of 4 p.m. Aug. 29, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 47,577 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 825 of which were newly reported Saturday. There were 145 newly reported cases of children age 18 and younger, with 15 being five years old or younger. Two among those age 5 and under were just eight months old. Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported three new deaths Saturday, all of whom were from Lincoln County. The total of Kentuckians now lost to the virus is 921.

### Hospitals Must Report COVID-19 Data or Be Penalized

(MedicineNet) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is changing [COVID-19](#) reporting requirements for hospitals again, drawing the ire of the two major U.S. hospital associations.

The rule, issued Aug. 25 by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, goes into effect immediately, without any chance for comment or revision. CMS said the public health emergency was reason enough to skip the normal bureaucratic process.

Hospitals that fail to follow the new regulations could be ousted from Medicare and Medicaid programs. CMS estimates that 6,200 hospitals participate in those two federal health programs.

Read more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=245891>

### Virus has spread too much for contact tracing to contain, but tracing can help if people cooperate

(KyForward News/Ky Health News) In wide swaths of Kentucky, tracing the contacts of people with the coronavirus is no longer preventing its spread, because the spread has become too wide. Instead, it is, at best, slowing the disease rate. And many people don't cooperate with the contact-tracing process.



That's according to several local health department officials, including Roanya Rice. She's the public health director at the North Central District Health Department, which includes Spencer County, where over 10 percent of residents have tested positive for the virus, as of last week.

Some people don't welcome contact tracing, which usually includes an official request that they isolate for 10 days in case they have the virus. Gov. Andy Beshear said this week that there has been a decline in cooperation by people who have been identified as a recent contact or have tested positive.

Local health officials say most people cooperate when a contact tracer reaches out. They say they have only rough and unscientific estimates on the percentage of people who are not cooperative, because

the state only recently provided a uniform platform for health departments to track cases. Department directors, when pressed, estimated noncompliance between 2 percent and 40 percent.

Full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/virus-has-spread-too-much-for-contact-tracing-to-contain-but-tracing-can-help-if-people-cooperate/>

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**First U.S. COVID-19 reinfection case identified in Nevada study**

Read more: <https://news360.com/article/536486613>  
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**What A Nasal Spray Vaccine Against COVID-19 Might Do Even Better Than A Shot**

A vaccine against the coronavirus needs to keep people from getting very sick and dying. But preventing the spread of the disease is also important, and vaccines delivered by nasal spray may do that.

Read more in NPR: <https://apple.news/A9Ph2eeVOQfKHV6oiJnQucw>

----- **COVID-19 Related Stories in the News** -----

- Kids can carry coronavirus in respiratory tract for weeks, study suggests  
Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/28/health/kids-covid-19-nose-throat-wellness/index.html>
- [FDA approves expanded emergency use of remdesivir in moderate COVID-19 patients](#)  
Gilead Inc said on Friday the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has authorized expanded emergency use for its experimental antiviral COVID-19 treatment, remdesivir.
- Study suggests COVID-19 treatment could lead to antimicrobial resistance  
<https://news360.com/article/536516512>
- Coronavirus can attack 21 different regions of the brain: Study  
<https://news360.com/article/536513275>
- Study finds how Covid-19 kills, offering possible ways to stop the pandemic  
<https://news360.com/article/536433240>
- University Stops Virus Outbreak 'in Its Tracks'  
<http://newser.com/s295510>
- "Single-use N95 masks can be reused after decontamination, study finds"  
<https://news360.com/article/536445918>

----- **Other Preparedness News** -----

- ADHD May Help Predict Adults' Car Crash Risk  
<https://news360.com/article/536515065>
- Are Opioids Prescribed Too Freely as Patients Are Moved to Nursing Homes?  
Drugs.com MedNews: <https://news360.com/article/536493850>
- Peach Recall Expanding Over Possible Salmonella Contamination After 78 Sickened In 12 States  
<https://news360.com/article/536485575>
- Laura victims may go weeks without power; US deaths reach 14  
<https://news360.com/article/536528321>

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.