



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 31, 2020

## KY COVID-19 Update for August 30

(From [Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear on Sunday, "With today's 462 new positive cases of COVID-19, this last week has been our single largest week ever for new cases of COVID: 4,503. It brings our total number of cases to date to 48,032" Seventy-nine of the newly reported cases were from children age 18 and younger, of which 13 were children ages 5 and under. The youngest is two months old. Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported nine new deaths Sunday, raising the total to 930 Kentuckians lost to the virus.

### CDC: 94% of Covid-19 deaths had underlying medical conditions

(WEYI) - The Centers for Disease Control released information showing how many people who died from COVID-19 had comorbidities or underlying conditions as they are sometimes referred to by doctors.

According to the [CDC](#), comorbidity is defined as: " more than one disease or condition is present in the same person at the same time. Conditions described as comorbidities are often chronic or long-term conditions. Other names to describe comorbid conditions are coexisting or co-occurring conditions and sometimes also "multimorbidity" or "multiple chronic conditions."

Comorbidity and underlying conditions can both be used to describe conditions that exist in one person at the same time. These can also contribute to a persons death who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Full story: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/Health/medical/cdc-94percent-of-covid-19-deaths-had-underlying-medical-conditions/ar-BB18wrA7?ocid=sf>

[Click here to read the entire report from the CDC.](#)

[Click here to read CDC Best Practices on how to stay safe during COVID-19.](#)

### US coronavirus cases near 6 million

#### Birx says don't wait for vaccine to 'do the right thing'

(CNN) As the United States nears [6 million Covid-19](#) cases, the coordinator of the White House coronavirus response urged Americans not to wait for a vaccine to stop community spread of the virus.

"Do the right thing today," Dr. Deborah Birx said. "Because if we do the right thing today, we go into the fall with much fewer cases."

As researchers race to develop a vaccine to get control of the virus that has infected [more than 5.9 million people](#) and killed 183,066 in the US, health experts and officials continue to say preventative measures, such as wearing a mask, practicing social distancing and avoiding crowds can keep infections low and economies open in the interim. But as the pandemic drags on, experts worry that the public has become fatigued or complacent in those measures.

"Right now, we gain freedom through wearing our masks and socially distancing," Birx said.

Full CNN story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/31/health/us-coronavirus-monday/index.html>

- ✓ CDC – Considerations for wearing Masks: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>
- ✓ CDC How to Wear Masks: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>

### *Is Better COVID-19 Testing Within Spitting Distance?*

#### **Saliva bested nasopharyngeal swabs in detecting viral RNA in small study**

Learn more: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/88325>

### **What A Nasal Spray Vaccine Against COVID-19 Might Do Even Better Than A Shot**

(NPR) The primary goal of a COVID-19 vaccine is to keep people from getting very sick and dying. But there's another goal — to prevent the spread of the disease — and it's not clear most vaccine candidates currently under development can do that. Some scientists think they can solve that problem by delivering a vaccine as a nasal spray. The injected vaccine might protect folks from getting sick terribly sick, but people still might have virus in their nose that could spread to others. Putting a vaccine directly into the nose offers another kind of immunity that occurs primarily in the cells that line the nose and throat.

## Plan to expand global access to Covid-19 vaccines nears fish-or-cut-bait moment

(STAT News) The coming few weeks represent a crucial moment for an ambitious plan to try to secure Covid-19 vaccines for roughly 170 countries around the world without the deep pockets to compete for what will be scarce initial supplies.

Under the plan, countries that want to pool resources to buy vaccines must notify the World Health Organization and other organizers — Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, as well as the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations — of their intentions by Monday. That means it's *fish-or-cut-bait time* for the so-called [COVAX facility](#).

Already, wealthy countries — the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, and Australia, among others, as well as the European Union — have opted to buy their own vaccine, signing bilateral contracts with manufacturers that have secured billions of doses of vaccine already. That raises the possibility that less wealthy countries will be boxed out of supplies.

Full story: <https://www.statnews.com/2020/08/28/plan-to-expand-global-access-to-covid-19-vaccines-nears-fish-or-cut-bait-moment/>

### **Related - Poll: Most Americans believe the Covid-19 vaccine approval process is driven by politics, not science**

Read more: <https://www.statnews.com/pharmat/2020/08/31/most-americans-believe-the-covid-19-vaccine-approval-process-is-driven-by-politics-not-science/>

### **Related - Alarm as FDA willing to issue Covid-19 vaccine before stringent safety testing**

Learn more: [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/30/fda-covid-19-vaccine-fast-track?CMP=oth\\_b-aplnews\\_d-1](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/30/fda-covid-19-vaccine-fast-track?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1)

### **Additional from Friday on Remdesivir**

#### ***FDA Broadens Emergency Use Authorization for Veklury (Remdesivir) to Include All Hospitalized Patients for Treatment of COVID-19***

(Reuters/Gilead) Gilead Sciences, Inc. (Nasdaq: GILD) announced (Friday) the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) expanded the Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) enabling use of the investigational antiviral Veklury® (remdesivir) to treat all hospitalized patients with COVID-19, in addition to the previous authorization for patients hospitalized with severe COVID-19. The expanded EUA is based on results from the Phase 3 SIMPLE trial evaluating Veklury in hospitalized patients with moderate COVID-19 pneumonia, as well as results from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) ACTT-1 trial in hospitalized patients with a range of disease severity. [<Read news release.>](#)

FDA EUA: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/covid-19-update-fda-broadens-emergency-use-authorization-veklury-remdesivir-include-all-hospitalized>

### **Pathophysiology of COVID-19-associated Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome: a Multicentre Prospective Observational Study**

(*Lancet Respiratory Medicine*) The aim of this study was to examine the functional and morphological features of COVID-19-associated ARDS and to compare these with the characteristics of ARDS unrelated to COVID-19. Patients with COVID-19-associated ARDS have a form of injury that, in many aspects, is similar to that of those with ARDS unrelated to COVID-19. Notably, patients with COVID-19-related ARDS who have a reduction in respiratory system compliance together with increased D-dimer concentrations have high mortality rates.

### **CDC Coronavirus [What's New?](#)**

- [Interim Guidance for Rapid Antigen Testing for SARS-CoV-2](#) Saturday, August 29, 2020
- [eCR Now: COVID-19 Electronic Case Reporting](#) Friday, August 28, 2020
- [Guidance for Dental Settings](#) Friday, August 28, 2020
- [Data Visualization](#) Friday, August 28, 2020
- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)-Associated Hospitalization Surveillance Network \(COVID-NET\)](#) Friday, August 28, 2020
- [COVID-19 By the Numbers](#) Thursday, August 27, 2020
- [Worker Safety and Support](#) Friday, August 28, 2020
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) Thursday, August 27, 2020
- [People with Moderate to Severe Asthma](#) 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
- [Considerations for Use of SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Testing in Nursing Homes](#) Thursday, August 27, 2020
- [About Masks](#) Thursday, August 27, 2020
- [Contact Tracing for COVID-19](#) Thursday, August 27, 2020
- [Investigating a COVID-19 Case](#) Thursday, August 27, 2020
- [COVID-19 Forecasts: Hospitalizations](#) Thursday, August 27, 2020

## **What we've learned for the next pandemic The big things are “Preparation” and “Investment”**

(Axios) **At some point, this will happen again.** Here are nine lessons the U.S. can apply in the next pandemic, Axios health care editor Sam Baker [writes](#):

1. **Move fast:** This is one of the sharpest dividing lines between the countries that handled the coronavirus well and the ones that handled it poorly.
2. **Diversify the preparation:** The global public health community had been preparing for a pandemic, but was too narrowly focused on flu.
3. **Have a backup plan for diagnostics:** Be nimble — even a flawed test is better than no testing.
4. **Build up contact tracing:** The basic playbook is testing, contact tracing and isolation, in that order. If testing is better in a future pandemic, we'll want to be able to do the second step, too.
5. **Accept risk on vaccines:** Governments, drug companies and philanthropies are accepting an unprecedented financial risk in the race for a vaccine, and it seems very likely to pay off.
6. **Walk the public** through the things you're asking of them: As scientists learned that masks were even more effective than they thought, a very reasonable evolution toward pro-mask guidance felt like confusion and whiplash.
7. **International cooperation** is key.
8. **Build a more equitable health care system:** We can't know now what will cause the next pandemic. But we know that the status quo of the U.S. health care system will put poor people and people of color at a disadvantage.
9. **The economic response** and the health response go together: Some European economies had more successful lockdowns in part because they had stimulus plans that allowed people to lock down without sacrificing their livelihoods.

**The bottom line:** The constant here is preparation and upfront investments — in big-picture systems, long-term planning and swift, early action once a crisis hits.

Source: <https://www.axios.com/coronavirus-pandemic-lessons-us-china-vaccines-testing-a8259319-942b-46f6-af51-d2be74248dc7.html>

### ----- **First Responders of 9/11 Hit Hard By COVID**

(IACP News) The [New York Post](#) (8/30, Campanile) reports that “dozens of emergency first-responders and others who were stricken with underlying illnesses linked to their work around Ground Zero have succumbed to the pandemic, a top victims’ lawyer told The Post.” Michael Barasch, whose law firm represents thousands enrolled in the Sept. 11 Victims Compensation Fund, said, “COVID attacks everyone, but the most vulnerable are those with respiratory illness who can’t fight the virus. ... It shouldn’t surprise us that so many in the 9/11 community are getting COVID and are unable to fight it.” Barasch “said 98 of his clients who recently died either contracted or are suspected of having gotten COVID-19.”

### ----- **Secret Service Records Spike In Coronavirus Cases After Trump Trips**

(IACP News) The [Washington Post](#) (8/28, Leonnig) reports President Trump’s “insistence on traveling and holding campaign-style events amid the pandemic has heightened the risks for the people who safeguard his life, intensifying the strain on the Secret Service.” Sources told the Post that over “the past two months, dozens of Secret Service agents who worked to ensure the security of the president and Vice President Pence at public events have been sickened or sidelined because they were in direct contact with infected people.” However, White House Deputy Press Secretary Judd Deere “said in a statement that the president ‘takes the health and safety of everyone traveling in support of himself and all White House operations very seriously, as well as those dedicated to covering him and this Administration.’”

### ----- **With science and scripture, a Baltimore pastor is fighting Covid-19 vaccine skepticism**

(STAT News) Liberty Grace Church of God's pastor, 60-year-old Terris King, has been facing an uphill battle since the Covid-19 pandemic hit, especially since the church he leads is in Baltimore's hardest-hit area. His decision to keep services virtual is unpopular. But King, who spent 30 years in government health care including as the founding director of CMS' Office of Minority Health, knows prioritizing science is important. This background has inspired him to speak to his congregants about vaccine skepticism, which is high among Black Americans, given medicine's historic mistreatment of the group. King plans to talk to his congregants weekly about Covid-19 vaccine developments and the importance of a flu shot. “I think that the nexus ... of religion and health care is one that has not been examined, utilized, and exhausted in the African American community,” King tells STAT's Amy Sokolow. Read more [here](#).

## **Everyone I Know Keeps Breaking Things Has the pandemic made us all klutzes now?**

(The Atlantic) Since the pandemic hit, I have broken, dropped, and bumped into things not only at home, but also out in the world, while setting up a picnic or loading groceries into my cart. Every time I complained to someone about denting, cracking, or obliterating another object, they chimed in with their own recent examples. It's possible that the pandemic has turned you into a klutz.

According to a May report from the Census Bureau, the rate of American adults who say they have symptoms of an anxiety disorder has [more than tripled](#) since the same time last year. Stress and anxiety are mental processes, but they can have unmistakably physical manifestations, such as sweating and heart palpitations. The internet is [full](#) of [pop psychology](#) about stress's potential to interfere with fine motor skills—potentially making it harder to securely grip an object or avoid obstacles in your path.

Read full story to learn more: <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/08/clumsy-quarantine-breaking-glass/615832/>

-----

## **U.S. Marshals find nearly 40 missing GA children**

(Macon Telegraph) Nearly 40 children are now safe and sound after a two-week operation involving state and federal authorities in Georgia. The U.S. Marshals Service, with help from state police and other local agencies, rescued 26 missing children and ensured the safe location of 13 others as part of "[Operation Not Forgotten](#)," the agency announced Thursday. The initiative was launched in early August in Atlanta and Macon.

The sweeping operation, which spanned 20 metro-Atlanta counties, also led to the arrests of nine suspects. Authorities were able to clear 26 warrants and filed additional charges for alleged crimes including sex trafficking, parental kidnapping, and drugs and weapons violations, according to the feds. The ages of those rescued ranged [from just three to 17 years old](#), authorities said at a news conference announcing the outcome of the operation. One child had been missing for almost two years.

Read more: <https://www.macon.com/news/state/georgia/article245322740.html>

-----

**EARTH EX 2020 - Release is TOMORROW! September 1st**  
**Register to play:** <https://battlerhythm.net/Registration/register.html>

## [Reopened Schools Find Health Risks in Water After Covid-19 Lockdowns](#)

(New York Times) The new coronavirus is not the only illness that teachers, students, parents and staff will have to worry about as some schools attempt to reopen this fall. Legionella could lurk in the water supplies of school buildings, and some measures to keep people in schools safe from coronavirus may even increase risks from deadly illnesses caused by the bacteria.

-----

## **Hurricane Isaias shows why storm fire safety matters**



(US Fire Administration) On Aug. 3 around 11 p.m., Hurricane Isaias made landfall at Ocean Isle Beach as a Category 1 hurricane. Local authorities issued voluntary evacuations two days earlier. Residents knew that flooding would be a concern, but no one expected the fires that occurred over the next few days.

Learn more and see safety tip graphics: [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/current\\_events/082720.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/current_events/082720.html)

-----

## **Great ShakeOut scheduled for October 15**

(ShakeOut) Despite the pandemic, the annual [Great ShakeOut worldwide earthquake drill](#) is still happening. The exercise is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2020, and provides an opportunity for states and municipalities to promote earthquake safety to people in earthquake-prone areas. Those interested in working on earthquake preparedness with their communities this year can [register to take part in the Great ShakeOut](#), learn more about the program and access available resources.

There are also several new resources available focusing on earthquake safety. The [Central United States Earthquake Consortium](#) (CUSEC) added six new capabilities to the [CUSEC Regional Information Sharing Platform](#) (RISP).

In addition to this resource, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guide [Earthquake Safety at Home](#) shows readers why earthquakes matter where they live and how they can "Prepare, Protect, Survive, Respond, Recover and Repair" from an earthquake. Consider sharing these resources with your communities prior to the Great ShakeOut.

-----

## Status of federal training facilities for first responders

(From [EMR InfoGram for Aug 27](#)) Here is an update on the status of the federal facilities whose mission is to train first responders. This information is current at the time of this writing but may change at any time, see their individual websites to keep up-to-date on their status.

Residential classes at the [National Fire Academy](#) (NFA) in Emmitsburg, Maryland, are currently suspended. Those interested in NFA courses offered at the state level should contact their state fire training agency for the status of those courses. NFA continues to offer online self-study and online mediated courses, and there is currently one upcoming course offered through Zoom.

Both the [Emergency Management Institute](#) (EMI) and the [Center for Domestic Preparedness](#) (CDP) are closed to residential classes until further notice.

EMI has a robust [catalog of over 200 independent study](#) courses available for you to take from home. Many offer continuing education credits.

The CDP offers several [Virtual Instructor-Led Training options, webinars](#) and [online courses](#) at this time.

The [Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers](#) (FLETC) restarted training on June 17, 2020, under the revamped training protocols in the "Operation Reconstitution"

[The details of the re-start plan can be found in this press release](#). FLETC has four facilities around the country, [check out the course catalog](#) for current offerings.

Again, this information is subject to change. Please see each training center's website for updated information.

-----

### **DHS & ASPR - Healthcare and Public Health Sector**

#### **ONC Working Session: Patient Identity and Matching TONIGHT - Monday, August 31, at 9:30 pm - 4:30 pm ET**

[Click here for connection information](#)

Join the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) for a final working session on patient identity and patient matching. We invite individuals and organizations to provide input and insight into existing challenges and promising innovations in patient identity and matching. ONC is encouraging feedback from all attendees and presentations are not required. This final session will focus on the following key areas: privacy and security, research and evaluation, standards, and innovation. Feedback received will help inform ONC's report to Congress on evaluating the effectiveness of technical and operational methods that improve identification of patients

#### **FDA Webinar Series - CDC/NIOSH's Surgical N95 Respirator Guidance Tuesday, September 1, at 12:00 pm ET**

[Click here for connection information](#)

During this webinar, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) will present information on the guidance, and representatives from the CDC/NIOSH, FDA, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will be available to answer your questions.

#### **ASPR TRACIE Calls and Webinars**

##### **Hidden Consequences: How the COVID Pandemic is Impacting Children Series- Child Health and Wellness Webinar**

**Wednesday, September 30, at 1:30 - 2:45 pm ET**

[Click here for registration](#)

ASPR TRACIE and [ASPR's Pediatric Centers of Excellence](#) are collaborating on a webinar series focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children. Topics will include impacts on child health and wellness, child emotional and social effects, the impact of COVID-19 on children with special healthcare needs, and how secondary/other disasters may affect children during the pandemic. [The first webinar](#) is focused on child health and wellness.

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.