



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 1, 2020

## KY COVID-19 Update for August 31

(From [Press Release](#)) – Gov. Andy Beshear on Monday 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. 31, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 48,396 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 381 of which were newly reported Monday. Forty-three of the newly reported cases were from children ages 18 and younger, of which two were children ages 5 and under. The youngest was a 1-year-old from Madison County. Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported three new deaths Monday, raising the total to 933 Kentuckians lost to the virus. As of Monday, there have been at least 877,443 coronavirus tests performed in Kentucky. The positivity rate currently stands at 4.42%. At least 10,375 Kentuckians have recovered from the virus. To see all recent daily reports, [click here](#).

Yesterday was recognized by the Governor as International Overdose Awareness Day, a global event held on Aug. 31 each year to bring awareness to the overdose epidemic, reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths and acknowledge the grief of family and friends left behind. Those needing access to naloxone or more resources on how to respond to an overdose can find more information on [the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy’s webpage](#). Kentuckians struggling with substance use disorders, either themselves or within their families, can call 833-8KY-HELP (833-859-4357) to speak with a specialist about treatment options and available resources. A live specialist will help locate everything from medication-assisted treatment to faith-based care, and walk through all the variables, such as location and cost. Callers can speak to a specialist from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (EDT), Monday through Friday. During non-business hours, callers may leave a message and the call center staff will get back in touch with them.

### **Child Care Guidelines Updated**

Eric Friedlander, Secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, spoke Monday about changes to the emergency regulations relating to child care, which aim to balance the safety and health of our children, caregivers and the public. Among the provisions in the new guidance:

- ✓ Help for parents to meet needs of nontraditional instruction (NTI) days by aiding background checks on providers and ensuring staffers are: masked; using proper hygiene; enforcing health checks and small groups; and have a plan in place for when someone tests positive for COVID-19.
- ✓ Expanding the maximum number of allowed children to 15 for licensed child-care facilities.
- ✓ Certified homes, licensed infant and 1-year-old classrooms may return to typical group sizes.
- ✓ \$2,500 startup incentive bonus through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to encourage new providers.

### **Related – WFPL Story on Child Care changes:**

<https://wfpl.org/kentucky-announces-changes-to-child-care-facilities-guidance-to-increase-capacity-during-pandemic/>

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### **Norton to launch clinic for patients with long-term COVID-19 symptoms**

(WLKY) Soon, a clinic will open at the Norton Healthcare Pavilion dedicated to those with long-term symptoms from COVID-19. According to Norton Healthcare’s Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Joseph Flynn, 87% of COVID-19 patients report lasting pulmonary and neurological effects. Norton Healthcare has treated 1,601 COVID-19 patients since the pandemic began and with the positivity rate in Jefferson County still above 9% those numbers are only expected to increase.

Norton is now launching a new long-term care clinic to help treat those patients who experience those lasting symptoms and free up space for active patients. The clinic officially opens Sept. 15, but how long it will be needed remains unclear. Norton also plans to open a long-term care pediatric unit at the Novak Center.

Full story & video report link: <https://wlky.com/article/norton-to-launch-clinic-for-patients-with-long-term-covid-19-symptoms/33853037?src=app>

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### **Fauci says Labor Day will be key to containing coronavirus this fall Important to avoid super-spreader events**

(MarketWatch) Dr. Anthony Fauci, the federal government’s top infectious disease expert, says Labor Day weekend will be key in determining whether the U.S. gets a “running start” at containing the coronavirus this fall. Fauci said Monday he has a “great deal of faith in the American people” to wash their hands, practice social distancing, wear masks, avoid crowds, and congregate outside during the weekend celebrations. He said it’s

important to avoid a surge in coronavirus cases like those seen after the Memorial Day and July 4th holidays. He made the comments on a White House conference call with governors.

Story: <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/fauci-says-labor-day-will-be-key-if-theres-hope-of-containing-coronavirus-this-fall-2020-08-31>

***Related story* - [Persistence of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 in Aerosol Suspensions](#)**

(Johns Hopkins) Researchers aerosolized severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 and determined that its dynamic aerosol efficiency surpassed those of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus and Middle East respiratory syndrome. Although researchers performed the experiment only once across several laboratories, our findings suggest retained infectivity and virion integrity for up to 16 hours in respirable-sized aerosols. (CDC EID, 9/2020)

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**American public is worried that a coronavirus vaccine will be motivated by politics**

(Stat News) For months, FDA officials, congressional lawmakers and public health experts have openly worried about whether Trump's tendency to openly pressure the FDA to approve a coronavirus vaccine before the November election will increase vaccine hesitancy. And a [new poll](#) from STAT News and Harris Poll provides a fascinating — albeit complicated — answer to that question. The new poll finds that 78% percent of Americans worry the Covid-19 vaccine approval process is being driven more by politics than science and a whopping 83% worry about the eventual vaccine's safety. However, people still seem eager to get the vaccine: 67% of those surveyed said they would get the vaccine as soon as it was available.

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

***Related story* - Large trials for the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine begin in the U.S.**

(NBC) Phase 3 clinical trials for the much-anticipated [Oxford](#) COVID-19 vaccine are set to begin in the United States Tuesday, with participants in Madison, Wisconsin rolling up their sleeves for the injection.

The University of Wisconsin is one of dozens of test sites in the U.S. for the vaccine candidate, made by AstraZeneca in partnership with the U.K.'s University of Oxford. Tuesday's trial will mark the start of the third phase 3 trial in the U.S. for a COVID-19 vaccine, following Moderna and Pfizer.

Dr. William Hartman, an assistant professor of anesthesiology at UW Health and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, doesn't expect preliminary data until at least Thanksgiving. Participants must be followed for at least a month after that second shot to measure their levels of [antibodies against the coronavirus](#). With that timeframe in mind, it would be around Thanksgiving before the company has at least preliminary data, Hartman said.

Full story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/large-trials-oxford-covid-19-vaccine-begin-u-s-n1238887>

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**Covid-19 infections among health care workers may be going undetected  
Virus may impair heart functions**

(Reuters) A high proportion of COVID-19 infections among U.S. healthcare personnel appear to go undetected, according to a report on Monday in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Between April and June, among more than 3,000 frontline workers in 12 states, roughly 1 in 20 had antibody evidence of a previous COVID-19 infection, but 69% of those infections had never been diagnosed. Among those with antibodies to the novel coronavirus, about one-third did not recall having symptoms in the preceding months, nearly half did not suspect that they had been infected, and some two-thirds had never had a positive COVID-19 test. Infections among frontline healthcare personnel may be going undetected, the study authors say, because some infections may be only minimally symptomatic or asymptomatic and also because personnel with symptoms may not always have access to testing. COVID-19 antibodies were less common among workers who reported using a face covering for all patient encounters and more common among those who reported a shortage of personal protective equipment. The researchers call for more frequent testing of healthcare personnel and universal use of face coverings in hospitals. ([bit.ly/2DizVKk](https://bit.ly/2DizVKk))

***Virus may impair heart's beating, contracting***

Following recent reports that the new coronavirus can invade heart muscle cells comes the discovery that infected cells show impairments in function. In test tube experiments, researchers infected "myocytes," or heart muscle cells, with the new coronavirus and found that before the infected cells die, they progressively lose their "electrophysiological and contractile properties." This means they have trouble transmitting the electrical impulses that regulate heartbeats and shortening or lengthening their fibers so the heart can expand and contract to pump blood. ([bit.ly/31KM0Ba](https://bit.ly/31KM0Ba))

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-science/covid-19-often-goes-undiagnosed-in-hospital-workers-virus-may-impair-heart-functions-idUSKBN25R2LK>

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

- [Cases & Deaths by County](#) Tuesday, September 1, 2020
- [Testing Data in the U.S.](#) Monday, August 31, 2020
- [Cases in the U.S.](#) Monday, August 31, 2020

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**EPA relaxes limits on toxic waste from coal power plants**

(Bloomberg) The administration is relaxing Obama-era requirements stemming toxic heavy metal pollution from coal-fired power plants. Under the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) rule unveiled Monday, electricity companies would have more time and flexibility to treat power plant wastewater that contains mercury, arsenic and other toxic heavy metals. Older coal power plants that are shutting down or switching to natural gas by 2028 will also be exempted from the requirements altogether.

- ✓ Rule allows more time to treat mercury and other heavy metals
- ✓ Voluntary program would encourage more stringent approach

Read more: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-08-31/trump-scales-back-limits-on-toxic-waste-from-coal-power-plants>

**EARTH EX 2020**  
**Available for Play**  
**September 1st - October 31 Worldwide**



**Register to play:** <https://battlerhythm.net/Registration/register.html>

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**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.