



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 8, 2020

KY COVID-19 Update from Monday, September 7, 2020

([From press release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear on Monday updated Kentuckians on the state's continuing efforts to fight the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). As of 2 p.m. Sept. 7, Gov. Beshear announced at least 53,064 cases in the commonwealth, 291 of which were newly reported Monday. Fifty-two of the newly reported cases were from children age 18 and younger, seven of which were ages 5 and under. The youngest was just 1 month old. The Governor announced no new deaths on Monday, leaving the total at 996 deaths attributed to COVID-19.

FDA Sets Up Vaccine Safeguards to Counter Pressure from Politics

(Bloomberg) Food and Drug Administration leaders are insulating the agency's vaccine reviewers from outside political pressure by sticking by June guidelines that set the standard for what it will take for a vaccine to pass through the agency, said one official familiar with the planning, who asked for anonymity discussing private deliberations. They're also making clear to FDA staff that the political noise shouldn't influence the agency's decisions. That's why pharmaceutical companies including Pfizer Inc., Moderna Inc. and Johnson & Johnson [pledged](#) on Tuesday to only submit vaccines for approval or emergency use authorization after demonstrating safety and efficacy through a phase 3 clinical study.

Full story: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-09-08/will-a-vaccine-be-politicized-fda-sets-up-safeguards>

Related - Covid-19 Vaccine Race Turns Deep Freezers Into a Hot Commodity

([NewsPoints](#) Summary & WSJ) Drug, logistics and public-health officials assemble a cold-storage supply chain as experimental vaccines approach the end of late-stage testing.

- Drug, logistics and public-health officials in the US are working to assemble a cold-storage supply chain as experimental vaccines for COVID-19 approach the end of late-stage testing, reported The Wall Street Journal.
- According to the news source, some of the candidates now in Phase III trials must be stored at temperatures potentially as cold as minus 80 degrees Celsius, or minus 112 Fahrenheit. Hospitals, pharmacies and doctors' offices are expected to be vaccination sites, but they have few such specialized freezers.
- To ensure its coronavirus vaccines remain frozen at minus 70 degrees Celsius, Pfizer created a temperature-controlled container about the size of a suitcase that can keep between 1000 and 5000 doses cold for 10 days before requiring more dry ice.
- "Hopefully the vaccines are going to be used as quickly as they're made, and therefore cold-chain storage is only to get it where it's needed, rather than stored for long periods," said James Robinson, a consultant helping the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, which is financing coronavirus vaccine projects.
- However, some other COVID-19 vaccines in clinical testing do not require ultracold temperatures, including Johnson & Johnson's candidate, which is expected to be shipped commercially at standard refrigeration. AstraZeneca expects its vaccine to need refrigeration, a spokesman said.
- Meanwhile, earlier this year, Moderna stored its vaccine at minus 70 degrees Celsius in preparation of clinical trials. Since then, it has done further study and now plans to ship the shots at minus 20, the company said.

Full story (May require subscription): <https://www.wsj.com/articles/covid-19-vaccine-race-turns-deep-freezers-into-a-hot-commodity-11599217201>

South Dakota dismisses 'elite class of so-called experts,' carries on with state fair after Sturgis rally fueled COVID-19 surge

(USA Today) South Dakota is one of the nation's hot spots for COVID-19 infections. That didn't stop another large-scale event from kicking off Thursday. The rural South Dakota State Fair, which reported an attendance of [205,000 people last year](#), is set to run through Labor Day with more hand-washing stations, social distancing reminders and an encouragement — but not a requirement — for attendees to wear masks. It comes on the heels of the state's two largest events: [The Sturgis Motorcycle Rally](#) and the The Sioux Empire Fair.

But as cases surge in the state, public health officials are grappling with the impact of the Sturgis rally, which gained national attention as one of the largest events to be held since the onset of the pandemic. The event

has so far been [linked to one death](#). In South Dakota, 118 residents who attended the rally subsequently tested positive for COVID-19. Nationally, about 300 cases have been linked to the rally.

Read more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/09/03/south-dakota-covid-19-sturgis-rally-state-fair-kristi-noem/5709042002/>

During pandemic, Black families put trust in Black doctors

(AP) [Research suggests](#) Black patients have better outcomes when treated by Black doctors and nurses. Yet, only 5% of doctors nationwide are Black, and only 2% are Black women, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges. Learn more: <https://apnews.com/7884ddc0460e2b351ec27dcf4753a6bc>

NPR - Advice On How To Care For Older People In The Pandemic

Learn more (w/podcast): <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/09/04/908288079/how-to-care-for-older-people-in-the-pandemic-and-a-printable-guide>

COVID-19 Etiquette: 6 Common Conundrums

<https://www.npr.org/2020/07/28/896134292/covid-19-etiquette-6-common-conundrums-and-a-printable-pocket-guide>

Mexico has world's most health worker deaths from pandemic, Amnesty International says

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/536957222>

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

- [Cases & Deaths by County](#) Tuesday, September 8, 2020
- [Considerations for Restaurants and Bars](#) Sunday, September 6, 2020
- [Interim Guidance for Rapid Antigen Testing for SARS-CoV-2](#) Friday, September 4, 2020
- [COVID-19 Published Science and Research](#) Friday, September 4, 2020

Second case of human plague reported this summer in Colorado

Read more: <https://news360.com/article/537044296>

US gives first-ever OK for small commercial nuclear reactor

(AP) U.S. officials have for the first time approved a design for a small commercial nuclear reactor, and a Utah energy cooperative wants to build 12 of them in Idaho.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Friday approved Portland-based NuScale Power's application for the small modular reactor that Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems plans to build at a U.S. Department of Energy site in eastern Idaho.

The small reactors can produce about 60 megawatts of energy, or enough to power more than 50,000 homes. The proposed project includes 12 small modular reactors. The first would be built in 2029, with the rest in 2030.

NuScale says the reactors have advanced safety features, including self-cooling and automatic shutdown. The Department of Energy has spent more than \$400 million since 2014 to hasten the development of the small modular reactors, or SMRs.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/910766c07afd96f6e2bd875e16087464>

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 added or deleted, 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.