



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 9, 2020

### KY Governor Expects Rise In COVID Cases After Holiday Weekend

(WFPL) Gov. Andy Beshear told Kentuckians not to get too excited about the low number of new COVID-19 cases Tuesday. He reported 273 new cases of the coronavirus during his media briefing, bringing the state's total to approximately 53,319. Beshear said Tuesday's update is likely low because labs were closed for the Labor Day holiday. The governor added that those positive results came from a small sample size, just 1,393 tests. Beshear reported a 3.91% positivity rate and 1 new death from the virus. (KDPH COVID-19 site: <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>)

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/beshear-expect-rise-in-covid-cases-after-holiday-weekend/>

Press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=353>

### Announces Healthy at Home Eviction Relief Fund Website

(From press release) Gov. Andy Beshear announced the launch of the *Healthy at Home* Eviction Relief Fund website, [teamkyhherf.ky.gov](http://teamkyhherf.ky.gov), where Kentuckians now can visit and apply for assistance. Kentuckians can visit the site to seek information on how to obtain a portion of \$15 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act money the Governor pledged to support the *Healthy at Home* Eviction Relief Fund. Details of the application of the funds include:

- Eligible landlords can be reimbursed for missed rent payments and receive some advance rent payments to keep tenants in their homes;
- For eligible tenants, the program pays up to 90 percent of past-due rent and may also cover up to two months of future rent;
- For approved applications, payments will be made directly to eligible landlords; and
- Kentuckians may submit applications beginning Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020.

On Friday, Gov. Beshear, who has taken repeated steps to keep people from being evicted at the height of the pandemic, updated the state's [executive order](#) on evictions to reflect the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [moratorium](#) on residential evictions through Dec. 31. More information about eligibility and how to apply is available at [teamkyhherf.ky.gov](http://teamkyhherf.ky.gov).

### AstraZeneca Vaccine Trial Paused After Patient Gets Ill

(Bloomberg) [AstraZeneca Plc](#) stopped giving shots of its experimental coronavirus vaccine after a person participating in one of the company's studies got sick, a potential adverse reaction that could delay or derail efforts to speed an immunization against Covid-19.

The pause stemmed from a standard review of the company's vaccine trials after one person developed an unexplained illness, AstraZeneca said in a statement. The move was intended to give researchers time to examine safety data while maintaining the integrity of the trials, the company said.

The vaccine, which AstraZeneca is developing with researchers from the University of Oxford, has been viewed as one of the leading candidates. The partners are aiming to enroll as many as 50,000 participants for late-stage trials that are underway in the U.K., the U.S., Brazil and South Africa, with others planned for Japan and Russia.

"This is a routine action which has to happen whenever there is a potentially unexplained illness in one of the trials, while it is investigated, ensuring we maintain the integrity of the trials," AstraZeneca spokeswoman Michele Meixell said in a statement. She said that it's too early to determine the sick participant's specific diagnosis.

A volunteer in the U.K. trials was diagnosed with transverse myelitis, an inflammation of the spinal cord generally caused by infections, the New York Times said, citing a person close to the situation that it didn't name.

The development has the potential to disrupt one of the most closely watched scientific sprints in history. Data Safety Monitoring Boards in the U.S. and U.K. are "conducting an in-depth review of the company's vaccine candidate which is standard procedure when an adverse event occurs."

Paul Offit, a pediatrician and vaccine expert at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, said the AstraZeneca shot involves giving large doses of a monkey adenovirus engineered so it can't replicate. It is therefore important for researchers to investigate whether the adverse event wasn't somehow being triggered by a reaction to that large viral dose, he said.

Full story: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-09-08/astrazeneca-shares-fall-on-report-of-vaccine-trial-setback>

-----  
**Sturgis fallout**

**The coronavirus and a \$12 billion Sturgis motorcycle rally**

(Newsweek) The public health costs associated with treating coronavirus patients whose infections were linked to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally last month is estimated to be \$12.2 billion, according to a [new research paper](#) analyzing the rally's health and economic impacts.

The 80th annual rally can be tied to [more than 260,000 COVID-19 cases](#) in the month since it took place in Sturgis, South Dakota, between August 7 and 16, researchers said. IZA Institute of Labor Economics, an international research institute, published its analysis of the rally's role as a "super-spreader" event this month. IZA's researchers used an estimate on the average cost of treating a COVID-19 patient who survives the virus that the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) published last month. According to the SSRN paper, the average cost of treating an individual who does not die as a result of contracting the virus is \$46,000. When that number is applied to the number of cases connected to the Sturgis rally, the resulting public health cost is more than \$12.2 billion.

Read full story: <https://www.newsweek.com/sturgis-motorcycle-rally-cost-122-billion-public-health-due-coronavirus-spread-economists-1530422>

-----  
**From Trust for America's Health – Security & Preparedness Update** -----

- *NBC News (video):* [Coronavirus: Front-line workers speak out on effectiveness of contact tracing](#)
- *NBC News:* [U.S. closes in on grim pandemic milestone: the 200,000th COVID-19 death](#)
- *CNN:* [The US coronavirus death toll is projected to reach 410,000 in the next 4 months if mask use wanes](#)

-----  
**COVID-19's impact on households in four major U.S. cities**

At least half of households in four U.S. cities report serious financial problems as a result of Covid-19, according to a [new poll](#). Here's a snapshot of the report, which compiled responses from nearly 3,500 adults:

- **New York City:** A third of households reported using most or all of their savings, while majorities of Black and Latinx households report serious financial trouble.
- **Houston:** 60% of households say they've had trouble caring for children during the pandemic. And 45% report internet connection issues for school or work, or that they have no high-speed internet at home.
- **Chicago:** Nearly a quarter of households report someone who hasn't been able to get medical care due to the pandemic, and more than half of these report negative health consequences as a result.
- **Los Angeles:** About 60% of households report some job loss, including reduced hours or furloughs. Nearly two-thirds of households with incomes less than \$100,000 report serious financial trouble.

-----  
**CMS issues new COVID-19 reporting guidance for labs and long-term care facilities**

([AHA Today](#)) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services recently issued new [surveyor guidance](#) for COVID-19 laboratory test result reporting for Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments-certified laboratories. Laboratories are expected to be in compliance with the new requirements no later than Sept. 23. After that date, laboratories not in compliance will be subject to civil monetary penalties. CMS also released new enforcement regulations for long-term care facility COVID-19 reporting requirements.

-----  
**From shipping to security, a Covid-19 vaccine supply chain takes shape**

Read more: <https://www.statnews.com/pharmalot/2020/09/08/covid19-vaccine-supply-chain-cold-chain/>

-----  
**FEMA NIMS Alert 24-20:**

**COVID-19 Supplement to Planning Consideration: Evacuations and Shelter in Place.**

FEMA released a planning supplement to help communities plan for evacuations and shelter-in-place operations during the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.

The "[COVID-19 Supplement for Planning Considerations: Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place](#)" supports and builds off of "[Planning Considerations: Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place](#)," released in 2019.

Evacuation and shelter-in-place protective actions are prompted by a variety of threats and hazards. As communities continue to face threats and hazards that may warrant the use of these protective actions, many jurisdictions across the nation are also facing widespread concerns and impacts due to COVID-19. The supplement provides COVID-19 related questions to key principles and critical considerations from the 2019 "Planning Considerations: Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place".

These questions can assist emergency management planners as they review, revise and implement evacuation or shelter-in-place plans. The supplement focuses on ensuring planners take in consideration the potential impacts and constraints resulting from COVID-19 and make necessary adjustments in order to ensure continuity of essential functions and services. To download the document, please visit [FEMA.gov](#).

-----  
**Blaze Traps 14 California Firefighters**

(Newser) A fast-moving wildfire in the mountains along California's central coast trapped 14 firefighters, who deployed emergency shelters as the blaze overran a fire station, authorities say. Several firefighters were treated for burns and one was hospitalized in critical condition Tuesday, the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) reports. The US Forest Service says the Nacimiento Station in the Los Padres National Forest was destroyed. Elsewhere in the state, helicopters rescued more than 100 campers, hikers, and others trapped in Sierra National Forest by the Creek fire, reports the [Los Angeles Times](#). Another 200 [were rescued over the weekend](#). The [New York Times](#) reports that major fires are also burning in Oregon and Washington state, where a blaze has destroyed 80% of the buildings in Malden, population 200. Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/295955/blaze-traps-14-california-firefighters.html>

-----  
**In-home schooling alert**  
**Deputies Show Up After Boy Holds Toy Gun in Online Class**

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s295941>

-----  
**US Police Departments Reject Activists' Demands For Major Changes**

(IACP News) The [Washington Times](#) (9/8, Mordock) reports, "Police departments say they won't bow to demands by social justice warriors for sweeping changes to policing protocols." A Washington Times survey of police departments "across the country and national law enforcement organizations found most opted for slight adjustments to standard operating procedures rather than major overhauls."

**Related - ABC News Analysis: Not All Protest Violence Is Linked To Civil Disobedience**

[ABC News](#) (9/8, News) reports, "The images are stark – people clashing with police, buildings on fire, vandalism, shootings and even killings. Some, including President Donald Trump, appear to have conflated some of the violence across the nation with protests that have sprung up in the wake of the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police," but "an ABC News examination of a string of fatal and non-fatal confrontations that have occurred amidst the unrest has found the alleged motive for most of the carnage in those incidents are not directly linked to peaceful civil disobedience." ABC News adds, "Some of the deaths have allegedly been perpetrated by suspects with their own agendas that do not include social justice, others have allegedly been carried out by agitators seeking to use the protests as cover for their own purposes, including looting and other violent acts. Some may have resulted from personal disputes."

**Join the OSHA National Safety**  
**Stand-Down - To Prevent Falls in Construction**

September 14-18, 2020

Learn more: <https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/>

**CDC Clinician's Call – Testing & Treatment of Seasonal Flu during COVID-19 Pandemic**

September 17, 2-3 PM ET

ZOOM Link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1604984692>

-----  
**Google enlists the military to test its cancer-detection AI**

(STAT News) Google just scored an important deal with the Department of Defense to have its AI models be embedded into microscopes at Veterans Affairs hospitals and other military health facilities to help pathologists better detect breast, colon, and prostate cancers. The deal marks an important step in taking the company's AI software to the next level — so far, its technology's potential to detect cancer earlier and with more accuracy has only been shown through research papers. This new deal may yield some real-world evidence to support what Google touts, such as whether the tool can improve survival and benefits for patients. Although Google's algorithms have seemed impressive, "they've done nothing with them, or at least they haven't come out into the public domain," pathologist Rajiv Dhir tells STAT's Casey Ross. "Since this is a federal-private collaboration, the hope is that it leads to something," he says. STAT Plus subscribers can read more [here](#).

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](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.