



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 15, 2020

## Kentucky school districts will soon get county-level COVID-19 data for reopening decisions

(WDRB) Kentucky school district leaders will soon get more detailed COVID-19 data to help them decide when to transition to remote learning, Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Steven Stack said Monday. Once counties reach report more than 25 daily COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents, schools there should transition to nontraditional instruction, he said. The new metrics, based on local COVID-19 caseloads, will ultimately allow district leaders to determine whether it's safe to have students in classes, Stack said.

GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
Minimal Community Transmission "On Track" < 1 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY <i>In Person or Remote Learning</i>	Increased Community Transmission "Community Spread" >1 - 10 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY <i>In Person or Remote Learning</i>	Heightened Community Transmission "Accelerated" >10 - 25 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY <i>Consider Remote Learning ONLY</i>	Substantial Community Transmission "Critical" >25 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY <i>Remote Learning ONLY</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain best health practices for social distancing, mask use, handwashing, and sanitation as per <a href="#">Healthy At Schools Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12)</a></li> <li>➤ Encourage small group cohorts in classrooms for in person instruction to reduce transmission</li> <li>➤ Cancel field trips/assemblies or other large group activities</li> <li>➤ <a href="#">Adhere to Governor's current guidance regarding group gatherings</a> (see Guidance and Requirements)</li> <li>➤ Encourage the school community to actively continue COVID-19 safety guidelines</li> <li>➤ Limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers and activities who are not from the local geographic area, e.g., community, town, city, county</li> <li>➤ At any level, if an outbreak is determined by the LHD, guidance may be provided to close a classroom or individual school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain best health practices for social distancing, mask use, handwashing, and sanitation as per <a href="#">Healthy At Schools Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12)</a></li> <li>➤ Encourage small student cohorts in classrooms for in person instruction to reduce transmission</li> <li>➤ Cancel field trips/assemblies or other large group activities</li> <li>➤ <a href="#">Adhere to Governor's current guidance regarding group gatherings</a> (see Guidance and Requirements)</li> <li>➤ Local officials, school administrators and public health leaders will coordinate additional mitigation needed</li> <li>➤ Address with school community need to actively engage in heightened safety precautions to prevent ongoing cases or school closure</li> <li>➤ At any level if an outbreak is determined by the LHD, guidance may be provided to close a classroom or individual school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Assure highest level of best health practices for social distancing, mask use, handwashing, and sanitation as per <a href="#">Healthy At Schools Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12)</a></li> <li>➤ Consider requiring small student cohorts in classrooms for in person instruction to reduce transmission</li> <li>➤ Cancel field trips/assemblies or other large group activities</li> <li>➤ <a href="#">Adhere to Governor's current guidance regarding group gatherings</a> (see Guidance and Requirements)</li> <li>➤ Local officials, school administrators and public health leaders will collaborative to implement aggressive mitigation measures both in schools and in communities</li> <li>➤ Encourage school community to aggressively engage in safety precautions to prevent ongoing increase in cases resulting in school closure</li> <li>➤ If the decision is made to move to remote learning, <a href="#">schools may at their own discretion bring small groups of students into the building to receive targeted services that supplements learning</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Essential staff entering facility, must practice best health practices for social distancing, mask use, handwashing, and sanitation as per <a href="#">Healthy At Schools Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12)</a></li> <li>➤ Suspend in person instruction activities until Yellow Level is achieved at a future weekly decision point</li> <li>➤ Activate remote learning</li> <li>➤ <a href="#">Continue essential student support services including meals, student engagement and special education services</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">Schools may at their own discretion bring small groups of students into the building to receive targeted services that supplements learning</a></li> <li>➤ Community must return to Yellow Level at future weekly checkpoint before resuming in person learning</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">Athletic activities allowed per KHSAA</a> (see COVID-19 Fall Resumption Documents)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">Athletic activities allowed per KHSAA</a> (see COVID-19 Fall Resumption Documents)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">Athletic activities allowed per KHSAA</a> (see COVID-19 Fall Resumption Documents)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Suspend all school-related athletic (per KHSAA guidance) and extracurricular activities</li> </ul>

Read/see more: [https://www.wdrb.com/in-depth/kentucky-school-districts-will-soon-get-county-level-covid-19-data-for-reopening-decisions/article\\_5974ce7e-f6c5-11ea-85cb-33cab4614e05.html](https://www.wdrb.com/in-depth/kentucky-school-districts-will-soon-get-county-level-covid-19-data-for-reopening-decisions/article_5974ce7e-f6c5-11ea-85cb-33cab4614e05.html)

Related KY Health News story: <http://kyhealthnews.blogspot.com/2020/09/beshear-administration-lays-out.htm>

Information about COVID-19 and schools is also being made available. To view the reports, [click here for K-12](#) and [here for colleges and universities](#).

### ----- KY COVID-19 Update

(From press release) Gov. Andy Beshear on Monday updated Kentuckians on the state's continuing efforts to fight the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). "We've now conducted over a million COVID tests in Kentucky," the Governor said.

The Governor covered a number of topics, but as of 4 p.m. Sept. 14, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 57,282 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 342 of which were newly reported Monday. Fifty-three of the newly reported cases were from children ages 18 and younger, of which 12 were children ages 5 and under. The youngest was a 1-month-old from Russell County. Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported five new deaths Monday, raising the total to 1,065 Kentuckians lost to the virus. To see all recent daily reports, [click here](#).

**KY Public Health COVID-19 Update Webinar  
Tuesday, September 22, 11:30-12:30 PM ET**

Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6149963668452379148>

During the presentation, they will give a brief update on the current COVID-19 situation in Kentucky and will cover topics including vaccine, school-opening background and issues, pediatric multi-system inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) situation, healthcare exposure guidance, and reporting and surveillance for COVID-19. After the webinar, all registrants will receive a link to a video archive of the presentation along with a copy of any slides so will be able to view at a later time if you are unable to attend. [Sent at the request of: Dr. Doug Thoroughman, CDC, Acting State Epidemiologist]

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**University of Pittsburgh scientists discover antibody that 'neutralizes' virus that causes coronavirus  
Its component is 10 times smaller than a full-sized antibody**

(Fox) Scientists at the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Medicine have isolated “the smallest biological molecule” that “completely and specifically neutralizes” SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes **COVID-19**. The antibody component is 10 times smaller than a full-sized antibody, and has been used to create the [drug](#) Ab8, shared in the [report](#) published by the researchers in the journal Cell on Monday. The drug is seen as a potential preventative against SARS-CoV-2.

According to the report, the drug has been “highly effective in preventing and treating” the SARS-CoV-2 infections in mice and hamsters during tests. The drug also reportedly does not bind to human cells, which suggests it will not have negative side effects in people. Also, according to the report, the team at University of Texas Medical Branch Center for Biodefense and Emerging Diseases and Galveston National Laboratory tested Ab8 and found it blocked the virus from entering cells. In mice trials, those treated with Ab8 had 10-fold less of the amount of infectious virus compared to those that were untreated.

Full story: <https://www.foxnews.com/health/university-pittsburgh-antibody-neutralizes-coronavirus>

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**Gilead CEO: We're studying new ways to treat coronavirus with remdesivir outside of the hospital**

(CNBC) [Gilead Sciences](#) CEO Daniel O'Day told CNBC on Monday that the company is continuing to study new ways to use its [coronavirus](#) treatment remdesivir on patients, including potentially outside of the hospital all together. Gilead [in May](#) received emergency approval for remdesivir from the Food and Drug Administration, allowing it to be used on people who were severely ill with Covid-19 in the hospital. The antiviral drug, which is administered through an [intravenous infusion](#) has been shown to help [shorten the recovery time](#) of some hospitalized patients.

Reuters reported last week that some large hospital systems in the U.S. are [limiting their use of remdesivir to severely ill people](#). In late August, the FDA [expanded its emergency authorization](#) to allow all hospitalized Covid-19 patients to receive the drug.

Read more: <https://www.cNBC.com/2020/09/14/gilead-ceo-daniel-oday-on-ways-to-use-remdesivir-to-treat-coronavirus.html>

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**ASPR TRACIE: COVID-19 Maintaining Healthcare Safety,  
Critical Care Load-Balancing, & Behavioral Health Resources**

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) released an [Express message](#) to include the following new resources:

[Maintaining Healthcare Safety During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)- this speaker series, in collaboration with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, highlights short presentations featuring healthcare professionals sharing their experiences as they worked through the operational realities of maintaining and prioritizing healthcare safety during COVID-19.

Critical Care Load-Balancing- the COVID-19 Healthcare Resilience Working Group released two resources to help jurisdictions manage COVID-19 patient surge: [Critical Care Load-Balancing Operational](#)

[Template](#) and [Considerations for Assessing Regional Patient Load-Balancing Effects during COVID-19](#).

[Behavioral Health Compendium](#)- this compendium is designed to help regional emergency coordinators and federal and state planners support stakeholders in various areas of COVID-19 response and recovery, with sections featuring grants, online resources and trainings, waivers and flexibilities, and data sources.

For More Information:

- ✓ [ASPR TRACIE](#) Fact Sheet
- ✓ [ASPR TRACIE](#) website
- ✓ [ASPR TRACIE Novel Coronavirus Resources](#) webpage

## **Administration pulls controversial Medicaid fiscal accountability rule**

(Fierce Health) The administration has pulled a rule that aimed to boost fiscal integrity in Medicaid, which drew ire from hospitals who painted it as a cut to Medicaid payments.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Seema Verma said in a [statement](#) posted on Twitter that the feds heard the concerns from providers, leading to a decision to retract the Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Rule, which it first published in November 2019.

"We've listened closely to concerns that have been raised by our state and provider partners about potential unintended consequences of the proposed rule, which require further study," Verma said. "Therefore, CMS is withdrawing the rule from the regulatory agenda."

Hospitals [including KY Hospital Association] [pushed CMS to retract the rule](#), arguing that it could cost billions in reimbursements to providers.

Full story: <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payer/trump-administration-pulls-controversial-medicaid-fiscal-accountability-rule>

### ***Related* - Some Urban Hospitals Face Closure or Cutbacks as the Pandemic Adds to Fiscal Woes**

(Kaiser Health & NPR) Experts fear that the economic pressures of the COVID-19 crisis are helping push some urban hospitals over the edge at the very time they are most needed in low-income communities.

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/09/15/912866179/some-urban-hospitals-face-closure-or-cutbacks-as-the-pandemic-adds-to-fiscal-woe>

### **Medicaid Rolls Swell Amid the Pandemic's Historic Job Losses, Straining State Budgets**

(Washington Post) The spiraling demand for Medicaid due to job losses is colliding with a diminished ability by states like Nevada to pay for it.

Story link: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/covid-medicaid-enrollment-increases/2020/09/14/84b6249a-e6f1-11ea-97e0-94d2e46e759b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/covid-medicaid-enrollment-increases/2020/09/14/84b6249a-e6f1-11ea-97e0-94d2e46e759b_story.html)

## **Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [September 15, 2020](#)**

### **Tracing Asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Carriers Among 3674 Hospital Staff: a Cross-sectional Survey**

(*EClinicalMedicine*) A single-center cross-sectional study of 3,764 hospital staff members describes clinical characteristics of staff and various factors that may be associated with infection in the hospital environment.

**Ethical or Exploitative—Should Prisoners Participate in COVID-19 Vaccine Trials?** (*Science*) Prisoners are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 but have also been excluded from trials out of concern that they might be coerced into participating or exploited if they do. Now, some researchers argue that including prisoners in studies could offer outside health benefits.

**UK Tests if COVID-19 Vaccines Might Work Better Inhaled** (*AP*) British scientists are beginning a small study comparing how two experimental coronavirus vaccines might work when they are inhaled by people instead of being injected. In a statement on Monday, researchers at Imperial College London and Oxford University said a trial involving 30 people would test vaccines developed by both institutions when participants inhale the droplets in their mouths, which would directly target their respiratory systems.

**Stillbirth Rate Rises Dramatically During Pandemic** (*Nature News*) A slew of studies from around the world has reported a disturbing trend: since the coronavirus pandemic started, there has been a significant rise in the proportion of pregnancies ending in stillbirths, in which babies die in the womb. Researchers say that in some countries, pregnant women have received less care than they need because of lockdown restrictions and disruptions to health care. As a result, complications that can lead to stillbirths were probably missed, they say.

**Trump Health Aide Pushes Bizarre Conspiracies and Warns of Armed Revolt** (*New York Times*) Michael R. Caputo, the assistant secretary of public affairs at the Department of Health and Human Services, accused the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of harboring a "resistance unit" determined to undermine President Trump, even if that opposition bolsters the Covid-19 death toll.

**'They're Still Not Taking this Seriously': Whistleblowing Nurse Warns of Covid-19 Safety Neglect at ICE Facility** (*The Washington Post*) At an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in Georgia, coronavirus safety precautions are routinely ignored, while detainees are denied medicine and checkups, a nurse at the facility claims in a federal complaint filed Monday.

### **FEMA NIMS Alert 26-20: National Engagement Period: NIMS Resource Typing Definitions**

Today's release includes [job resource typing definitions](#) under the Emergency Medical Services core capability. To provide comments on the draft, complete the [feedback form](#) and submit the form to [fema-nims@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-nims@fema.dhs.gov) no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on Thursday, October 15.

## Why are we seeing so many flies lately?

Curious? [https://www.wdrb.com/news/why-are-we-seeing-so-many-flies-lately/article\\_792bdf06-f6d3-11ea-817a-ff8f3eb1eb3c.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/why-are-we-seeing-so-many-flies-lately/article_792bdf06-f6d3-11ea-817a-ff8f3eb1eb3c.html)

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### Webinar on Updated ASIS International Standard for Workplace Violence and Active-Assailant Prevention, Intervention, and Response Thursday, September 17, 2 PM ET

(CPPS) The Center for Personal Protection and Safety (CPPS) is hosting a free webinar to discuss the newly updated ASIS International Standard for Workplace Violence and Active-Assailant Prevention, Intervention, and Response. Hosted by Jake Newton, VP of Security Solutions, and Dave Benson, Senior Advisor of Global Operations and Threat Mitigation, this webinar is designed to build understanding and familiarity with the new standard and to keep you informed on any impact it has on your CPPS products and services. In this webinar we will discuss the following:

- Background of progression to the current standard and other prevailing guidance for workplace violence prevention & intervention
- Changes with the current standard compared to the old one
- Impact of the standard on workplace violence prevention practices
- Influence of the standard on CPPS programs (particularly the Safe Workplace Certification)

[Register for the Free Webinar](#)

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.