



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 18, 2020

KY COVID-19 Update from Thursday

(From [press release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear on Thursday said that as of 4 p.m. Sept. 17, there were at least 59,370 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 628 of which were newly reported Thursday. Seventy-six of the newly reported cases were from children ages 18 and younger, of which 14 were children ages 5 and under. The youngest was only 2 months old.

“Good news”, he said. “We are still below 4% in our positivity rate at 3.82%.” Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported 11 new deaths Thursday, raising the total to 1,093 Kentuckians lost to the virus. To see all recent daily reports, [click here](#).

There were a variety of other topics covered in the press conference. To read more go to the “[Press Release](#)”.

CDC – Decreased Flu Activity May Be Due To COVID Mitigation

(CDC) Following widespread adoption of community mitigation measures to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, the percentage of U.S. respiratory specimens submitted for influenza testing that tested positive decreased from >20% to 2.3% and has remained at historically low inter-seasonal levels (0.2% versus 1–2%). Data from Southern Hemisphere countries also indicate little influenza activity.

Interventions aimed against SARS-CoV-2 transmission, plus influenza vaccination, could substantially reduce influenza incidence and impact in the 2020–21 Northern Hemisphere season. Some mitigation measures might have a role in reducing transmission in future influenza seasons.

Read full MMWR Report: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6937a6.htm?s_cid=mm6937a6_w

Internal AstraZeneca safety report sheds light on neurological condition suffered by vaccine trial participant

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/17/health/astrazeneca-vaccine-trial-document/index.html>

High ratings, more COVID tests tied to fewer nursing home outbreaks

(CIDRAP) Three studies on COVID-19 prevention in nursing homes published today in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* suggest that regular testing of residents and staff to identify asymptomatic infections may help contain outbreaks and that Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) star ratings could serve as a proxy for coronavirus outbreak risk.

Read about all three: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/09/high-ratings-more-covid-tests-tied-fewer-nursing-home-outbreaks>

ASPR TRACIE Resource for LTC COVID-19 Considerations for Long-Term Care Facilities

Long-term care (LTC) facilities (including nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, and assisted living facilities) are a healthcare setting of particular concern during the COVID-19 pandemic. LTC facility residents tend to have characteristics that put them at increased risk of severe illness or death due to COVID-19, including older age and presence of comorbid conditions. According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, there have been 198,153 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 119,701 suspected COVID-19 cases, and 49,871 COVID-19 deaths in residents as of August 16, 2020.

Increased risk of exposure is also a concern for LTC facility staff, who have close physical contact with patients, often work extended shifts due to a workforce shortage, and may not be familiar with robust infection prevention programs. In addition to their own increased risk of exposure, LTC facility staff present an increased transmission risk. The relatively high proportion of staff working in more than one facility and the ability of the virus to be transmitted by asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic persons are two factors that facilitate the introduction and transmission of the virus within and among LTC facilities.

This toolkit is a compilation of considerations for LTC facilities based on lessons learned during the early months of the pandemic accompanied by resources to inform planning and response efforts. This toolkit was created with the assistance of John Hick, MD, Hennepin Healthcare, and subject matter experts from two of our partner agencies: the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC), and Alicia Livinski, MPH, MA, Biomedical Librarian at the National Institutes of Health.

Document source: <https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/aspr-tracie-covid-19-long-term-care-considerations-toolkit-final.pdf>

Global COVID-19 total closes in on 30 million

(CIDRAP) The global total today approached 30 million COVID-19 cases, as cases in India continued to accelerate and flare-ups in Europe prompted targeted measures.

In addition, World Health Organization (WHO) officials warned of the impact on healthcare workers, part of the observance of [World Patient Safety Day](#). The global total climbed to 29,976,621 cases, and 942,758 people have died from their infections, according to the Johns Hopkins [online dashboard](#).

Heavy impact on health workers: At a [media briefing](#) today, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, PhD, said a key to keeping patients safe is keeping healthcare workers safe. He said about 14% of COVID-19 cases reported to the WHO are among healthcare workers and that, in some countries, the proportion is as high as 35%. He noted, though, that data are limited, and it's often not clear if health workers were exposed on the job or in their communities.

Full report: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/09/global-covid-19-total-closes-30-million>

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

- [Cases & Deaths by County](#) Friday, September 18, 2020
- [Cases in the U.S.](#) Thursday, September 17, 2020
- [New CDC data finds adult obesity is increasing](#) Thursday, September 17, 2020
- [COVID-19 Forecasts: Cases](#) Thursday, September 17, 2020
- [COVID-19 Parental Resources Kit – Young Adulthood](#) Thursday, September 17, 2020
- [Considerations for Outdoor Farmers Markets](#) Thursday, September 17, 2020
- [COVID-19 in Children and Teens](#) Thursday, September 17, 2020
- [Children, Teens, and Young Adults](#) Thursday, September 17, 2020
- [Help Stop the Spread of COVID-19 in Children](#) Thursday, September 17, 2020
- [COVID-19 Forecasts: Hospitalizations](#) Thursday, September 17, 2020
- [Previous COVID-19 Forecasts: Hospitalizations](#) Thursday, September 17, 2020
- [Data on COVID-19 during Pregnancy](#) Thursday, September 17, 2020
- [Keep Children Healthy during the COVID-19 Outbreak](#) Thursday, September 17, 2020
- [Ten Clinical Tips on COVID-19 for Healthcare Providers Involved in Patient Care](#) Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Related – New CDC Guidance on NICU Infections

CDC link: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/NICU-s aureus/index.html>

FDA COVID-19 What's New [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: Daily Roundup](#)

[AHA Today](#) – *Related* - FDA Approves New Sedation Option Amid COVID-19

The Food and Drug Administration this week [approved dexmedetomidine hydrochloride in 0.9% sodium chloride injection](#) for the sedation of initially intubated and mechanically ventilated patients in an intensive-care setting and of non-intubated patients prior to and/or during surgical and other procedures. The drug helps address short supplies of sedation options due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Side effects of the drug include low blood pressure, slow heart rate and dry mouth.

FDA link: https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/ob/results_product.cfm?Appl_Type=A&Appl_No=208266#31

Military Confirms It Looked for Availability of 'Heat Ray' System in D.C.

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/16/913748800/military-police-leaders-weighed-deploying-heat-ray-against-d-c-protesters>

Reminder – Earth Ex 2020 is on-line and available for play through Oct 31

[Click here to register for EARTH EX 2020](#)

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 (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.