



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 19, 2020

Federal courthouse in Louisville to close next week in anticipation of decision in Breonna Taylor case

(DHS) Department of Homeland Security has identified four federal buildings as "high risk" targets in Louisville. The Gene Snyder U.S. Courthouse & Customhouse, at 601 W. Broadway, will be closed from Monday, Sept. 21, to Friday, Sept. 25, according to Tom Moore, the facilities manager of the General Services Administration. The decision to close the courthouse was made due to the "possibility of civil backlash" that could occur next week in connection with an announcement regarding Attorney General Daniel Cameron's investigation into the Taylor case, Moore said.

Read more: https://www.wdrb.com/news/federal-courthouse-in-louisville-to-close-next-week-in-anticipation-of-decision-in-breonna-taylor/article_1179cc16-f9e8-11ea-9227-fb94919c34d9.html

----- KY COVID Update for September 18

([Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear on Friday updated Kentuckians on the state's continuing efforts to fight the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). "Our positivity rate has now dropped to 3.6%; that is our lowest rate in months," said Gov. Beshear. "When we asked for people to push off in-person classes in our schools until Sept. 28, it was so we could get our positivity rate down to a safer level."

As of 4 p.m. Sept. 18, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 60,128 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 777 of which were newly reported Friday. Ninety-seven 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. Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported eight new deaths Friday, raising the total to 1,101 Kentuckians lost to the virus.

As of Friday, there have been at least 1,115,105 coronavirus tests performed in Kentucky. The positivity rate was 3.60%, and at least 11,168 Kentuckians have recovered from the virus.

----- Controversial coronavirus testing guidance came from HHS and didn't go through CDC scientific review, sources say

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/18/health/covid-19-testing-guidance-cdc-hhs/index.html>

Related - CDC updates, again, guidelines on testing people without coronavirus symptoms

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/18/health/covid-testing-guidance-update-cdc-bn/index.html>

----- CEO says Kings Daughter Ashland reaches capacity due to COVID-19

(WSAZ & WKYT) According to the President/CEO of KDMC, Kristie Whitlatch, they are working to open a third nursing unit to care for COVID-19 patients. Whitlatch says multiple nursing units dedicated to one virus are unprecedented in their 120-year history.

Learn more: <https://www.wkyt.com/2020/09/18/hospital-reaches-capacity-due-to-covid-19/>

----- Fauci says he'll take responsibility if US COVID-19 vaccine is faulty

(Business Insider) Dr. Anthony Fauci replied in the affirmative on Thursday when asked by MSNBC's Chris Hayes whether he would "take the heat" for any problems with a vaccine. This week, CDC Director Robert Redfield and President Donald Trump clashed over the timing of a vaccine. Redfield projected that a vaccine wouldn't be widely available until the new year - a sentiment largely echoed by health experts - but the President argued one could come sooner. Fauci's comments come amid concern that President Donald Trump is politicizing public-health departments and may seek to rush through a vaccine in time for November's presidential election.

Story link: <https://www.businessinsider.com/fauci-says-will-take-responsibility-if-us-virus-vaccine-faulty-2020-9>

Related - [Americans increasingly skeptical of COVID vaccine, poll finds](#)

----- Doctors Should Watch for Punctured Lungs in COVID Patients

<https://news360.com/article/537873177>

----- CNN COVID-19 Latest Updates includes California recall of more than 10 million N95 masks

(CNN) More than 10 million N95 masks purchased using a \$90 million contract are being recalled by the state of California, according to Brian Ferguson, spokesperson for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES).

The state was notified on Sept. 11 that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) had withdrawn its temporary certification of N95 masks made by the Santa Clara-based company Advoque Safeguard and immediately began recalling them, Ferguson told CNN.

According to Ferguson, 10.2 million of these masks have been received and 7.2 million of those had been distributed as of Sept. 8.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) notified all recipients of these masks of the change in certification and directed these masks “no longer be used in settings requiring the use of this essential PPE,” Ferguson said.

About the masks: N95 masks, which filters at least 95% of airborne particles, are the most common respirators approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC has recommended N95 masks for essential workers to reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus.

Ferguson explained that the NIOSH certification is an explicit requirement of all state contracts for N95 masks to ensure that frontline workers can be confident that the masks meet federal health and safety standards.

“It is a condition of the contract, and is incumbent upon the vendor, to maintain this certification,” he said.

Despite the state’s recall of all N95 masks made by Advoque Safeguard, the company announced in a letter to its customers and distributors on Wednesday that it is not conducting a recall of their masks, but have established a “product replacement program” as a courtesy to their customers.

“NIOSH has not asked us to implement a recall but has requested that we be diligent in informing our customers of the situation, and we are doing so,” Advoque Safeguard co-founder and chief technology officer Jason Azevedo said in a statement to CNN. “Additionally, Advoque Safeguard has instituted an exchange program for N95 respirators.”

The exact reason for the recall is unknown and has not been explained. CNN has reached out to the CDPH and NIOSH for additional details.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-09-18-20-intl/index.html>

Pets May Get COVID-19 More Than Realized

MedicineNet Health News: <https://news360.com/article/538146661>

More Than 1 in 3 U.S. Pediatricians Dismiss Vaccine-Refusing Families

Read more: <https://news360.com/article/537965697>

Cyber Attack on Hospital Suspected in German Woman's Death

(UK Daily Mail) A woman in [Germany](#) has become the first healthcare cyberattack death after a hospital was unable to admit her because its systems had been the target of an attack.

German prosecutors opened a homicide investigation on Friday into the incident which happened in the western city of Dusseldorf in September.

The female patient, suffering from a life-threatening illness, had to be turned away on the night of September 11 by the city's University Clinic and died after the ambulance carrying her was diverted to Wuppertal, 30 kilometres (20 miles) away. The University Clinic in Dusseldorf, capital of Germany's most populous state of North Rhine-Westphalia, was hit by a ransomware attack on September 10 that penetrated its systems via a flaw in a Citrix VPN system. The hospital's IT operations remain affected and it is still unable to admit patients brought in by ambulance, it said on Friday.

Full story: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8748265/Worlds-healthcare-cyberattack-death-German-hospital-turn-woman-away-hack.html>

Health officials find West Nile virus in mosquito sample from Charlestown, Indiana

(WDRB) No human cases of West Nile have been reported in Indiana this year, but 80 percent of people infected with the virus do not develop symptoms.

Read more: https://www.wdrb.com/news/health-officials-find-west-nile-virus-in-mosquito-sample-from-charlestown-indiana/article_b4c9c41c-f8e8-11ea-8caa-7f92f5471828.html

Firefighter dies battling wildfire sparked by gender reveal

<https://news360.com/article/538130272>

DHS Agencies Launch Toolkit for IPAWS Alert System Planning

(ExecutiveGov) The [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA) and the [Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology](#) (DHS S&T) Directorate have published a new toolkit intended to help local and state communities implement a certain warning system.

The "[Integrated Public Alert and Warning System \(IPAWS\) Program Planning Toolkit](#)" is designed to [guide authorities in using IPAWS, a FEMA-supported local alerting system](#), DHS said Tuesday.

IPAWS sends alerts and emergency-related information to notify the masses about ongoing catastrophes. The system uses other platforms, such as Wireless Emergency Alerts and the Emergency Alert System, to send notifications to televisions, radios and mobile phones.

FEMA and S&T based the toolkit on the latest technologies applicable to alerting systems and public safety.

Story source: <https://www.executivegov.com/2020/09/dhs-agencies-launch-toolkit-for-ipaws-alert-system-planning/>

FEMA
Incident Command System (ICS) Curricula Train-the-Trainer

October 26-30, 2020

This course is 5 days in length by TEEX.

Class times are 9:00 am to 6:00 pm (EST)

Learn more: [1608 - Training Opportunity - K449 ICS Curricula TtT FY21](#)

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.