



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 20, 2020

KY COVID-19 Update from Saturday

(WKYT) - Governor Andy Beshear announced 1,002 new COVID-19 cases in Kentucky on Saturday. The state total now stands at 61,106 cases. The positivity rate is 3.82%.

“Remember, high number of cases lead to a higher number of deaths several weeks down the line,” said the Governor. “Now that our kids are going to be going back to school in many places in some form or fashion, now that we have more sports, let’s make sure that we cut our contacts, wear our masks and socially distance. Let’s do better – everyone around us is depending on it.”

Of the newly reported cases, 145 were from children ages 18 and younger, 29 of those cases were kids five or younger. The youngest is 5 months old.

The Governor also reported seven new deaths Sunday. That brings the total COVID-19 related deaths in Kentucky to 1,108.

Story link: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2020/09/19/gov-beshear-1002-new-covid-19-cases-7-deaths-saturday/>

Press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prld=375>

Random COVID testing begins at UK

(WLEX) On Friday, the University of Kentucky began a regimen of random testing among its student population as part of continued efforts to use science and data to drive decisions around keeping the community safe.

The announcement, recommended by UK’s START team, follows a productive dialogue in which senior leaders engaged earlier in the week with Dr. Deborah Bix, the national coronavirus response coordinator.

Guided by recommendations from federal experts, as well as the START team of world-class clinicians and specialists, officials said they believe this initiative will continue to make the campus a safer place to fulfill UK’s missions of education, research, service, and care. Data gathered through this process will further inform decisions.

Full story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/random-student-testing-begins-at-uk-on-friday>

Morehead hospital says COVID-19 surge came from patients who delayed treatment for other conditions

Learn more: <https://www.kyforward.com/morehead-hospital-says-covid-19-surge-came-from-patients-who-delayed-treatment-for-other-conditions/>

Envelope addressed to White House contained ricin

(AP) — Federal officials intercepted an envelope addressed to the White House that contained the poison ricin, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The letter was intercepted at a government facility that screens mail addressed to the White House and President Donald Trump, the official said. A preliminary investigation indicated it tested positive for ricin, a poison found naturally in castor beans, the official said.

The official was not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Federal investigators were working to determine where the envelope originated and who mailed it. The FBI, the Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service were leading the investigation.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/d02c0bc1847b89a0700f9d4e7daba809>

Magnitude 4.5 earthquake rattles Southern California

<https://news360.com/article/538164122>

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.