



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 24, 2020

Kentucky COVID Update

(From [Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear on Thursday updated Kentuckians on the state's continuing efforts to fight the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). As of 4 p.m. Sept. 24, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 64,158 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 745 of which were newly reported Thursday. One hundred and seven of the newly reported cases were from children ages 18 and younger, 20 of which were children ages 5 and under. The youngest was just 6 days old. Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported 13 new deaths Thursday, raising the total to 1,137 Kentuckians lost to the virus.

As of Thursday, there have been at least 1,301,407 coronavirus tests performed in Kentucky. The positivity rate was 4.57%, and at least 11,570 Kentuckians have recovered from the virus.

From CIDRAP

COVID-19 cases climbing in US, Europe, Canada

After a steady decline from summer peaks through the beginning of September, new COVID-19 cases appear to be on the rise again in the United States. According to data from the [New York Times](#), there have been 41,822 new cases per day in the country over the past week, a 14% increase from the previous 2 weeks. Among the states seeing the largest increases in new cases over the past 14 days are Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota. And the United States is far from the only country seeing a rise in COVID-19 cases as the fall begins.

Learn more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/09/covid-19-cases-climbing-us-europe-canada>

CDC director says more than 90% of Americans remain susceptible to the coronavirus

(CNBC) The comments cast even greater doubt on the feasibility of achieving so-called herd immunity, which is reached when enough of the population has developed immunity against the virus so that it cannot efficiently spread.

Read more: <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/09/23/cdc-director-says-more-than-90percent-of-americans-remain-susceptible-to-the-coronavirus.html>

US experts vow 'no cutting corners' as vaccine tests expand

(AP) — A huge international study of a COVID-19 vaccine that aims to work with just one dose is getting underway as top U.S. health officials sought Wednesday to assure a skeptical Congress and public that they can trust any shots the government ultimately approves. Hopes are high that answers about at least one of several candidates being tested in the U.S. could come by year's end, maybe sooner.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-michael-pence-archive-peru-ef4354a02d857ef70190b087eb737986>

Falling COVID-19 viral loads may explain lower rates of ICU use, deaths

The findings of two studies presented at this week's virtual European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) Conference on Coronavirus Disease suggest that patients' loads of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, declined as the pandemic progressed, which may help explain falling rates of coronavirus-related intensive care unit (ICU) use and deaths. Both unpublished studies were observational, however, so they cannot determine cause and effect, only highlight the association.

Read more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/09/falling-covid-19-viral-loads-may-explain-lower-rates-icu-use-deaths>

A 'distressed' Birx questions how long she can remain on White House task force

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/23/politics/deborah-birx-white-house-task-force/index.html>

Expanded Community Testing Program Looking for Staff to Help with 4 Pilot Programs

KDPH, in coordination with KYEM, DLS, and KHDA, is working on an Expanded Community Testing Initiative to increase community COVID-19 testing capacity as well as provide surge and outbreak response capacity at the regional level. There are four pilot health departments participating in this initiative: Purchase District, Lincoln Trail District, KY River District, and Ashland-Boyd.

The four HDs are hiring teams locally to provide testing in the community and are having difficulty finding staff, particularly nurses, for the temporary positions. KDPH is looking for energetic, outgoing RNs, LPNs, EMTs, and MAs for COVID-19 testing support at three local health departments: Lincoln Trail District, KY River District, and Ashland-Boyd.

For more information, please see the job posting or contact the LHD for more information on the position.

- <http://gohire.org/job/registration-clinical-support-emt-cma-3/>
- <http://gohire.org/job/testing-site-coordinator-3/>
- <http://gohire.org/job/safety-quality-nurse-rn-lpn-2-positions-available-3/>

Address questions to:

- Tiffany Hubbard, MSN, APRN, FNP-C
- tiffany.hubbard@ky.gov
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Clinical Consultant
- Public Health Preparedness Branch

Bus-size asteroid zoomed by Earth, ducking below satellites

(AP) — An asteroid the size of a school bus is headed our way, but NASA says the space rock will zoom safely past Earth today (Thursday).

The newly discovered asteroid will come within 13,000 miles (22,000 kilometers) of Earth, well below many of the communications satellites orbiting the planet, scientists said this week. The closest approach was Thursday morning over the southeastern Pacific Ocean.

Read more: <https://www.chron.com/news/article/Bus-size-asteroid-to-zoom-by-Earth-ducking-below-15591038.php>

<p>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.</p>
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