



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 26, 2020

## Gov. Beshear Provides KY Update on COVID-19

([Press Release](#)) – Gov. Andy Beshear on Saturday updated Kentuckians on the state's continuing efforts to fight the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).

"Folks, right now we are on pace to have the single highest week in terms of positive cases that we've ever had," said Gov. Beshear. "We simply have to do better. Please wear a mask. Sadly, sometimes I'm seeing less of these out there than more. This will save lives."

As of 3 p.m. Sept. 26, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 66,036 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 973 of which were newly reported Saturday. Of the newly reported cases, 132 were from children age 18 and younger, with 18 age 5 and younger. The youngest was just 2 months old. Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported five new deaths Saturday. The total of Kentuckians now lost to the virus is 1,154.

As of Saturday, at least 1,354,927 tests had been administered. The COVID-19 testing positive rate, based on a seven-day rolling average, taking into account total positive tests reported by laboratories divided by total tests reported by labs, stood at 4.42%. The number of Kentuckians who are known to have recovered was at least 11,750.

### ----- **Florida doctors found a coronavirus cure that's nearly 100% effective**

- Researchers from Florida think they have found a coronavirus cure, saying their treatment protocols had a success rate of nearly 100%.
- AdventHealth Ocala doctors treated their patients with a combination of four types of drugs under the acronym ICAM.
- ICAM is a COVID-19 therapy designed to boost the immune system while preventing inflammation in the lungs.
- A clinical trial is underway to prove the findings. If it's found to be safe and effective, ICAM therapy might be used on COVID-19 patients without the need to hospitalize them.

CAM isn't a new drug, it's an acronym for a combination of existing medications used simultaneously on patients. It uses Immunosupport drugs (Vitamin C and Zinc), Corticosteroids against inflammation, Anticoagulants against blood clots, and Macrolides to help fight infection.

Learn more: <https://bgr.com/2020/09/26/coronavirus-cure-icam-protocol-florida/>

### ----- **U.S. Midwest sees surge in COVID-19 cases as four states report record increases**

(Reuters) Four U.S. states in the Midwest reported record one-day increases in COVID-19 cases on Saturday as infections rise nationally for a second week in a row, according to a Reuters analysis. Minnesota reported 1,418 new cases, Montana 343 new cases, South Dakota reported 579 and Wisconsin had 2,902 new cases.

In the last week, seven mostly Midwest states have reported record one-day rises in new infections -- Minnesota, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Minnesota and Utah reported record increases two days in a row.

The United States recorded 58,461 new cases on Friday, the highest one-day increase since Aug. 7. The United States is reporting nearly 46,000 new infections on average each day, compared with 40,000 a week ago and 35,000 two weeks ago. (Graphic: [tmsnrt.rs/36aMV0o](https://tmsnrt.rs/36aMV0o))

All Midwest states except Ohio reported more cases in the past four weeks as compared with the prior four weeks, according to a Reuters analysis.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa/u-s-midwest-sees-surge-in-covid-19-cases-as-four-states-report-record-increases-idUSKBN26H0XN>

### ----- **Most N95 Masks From China Do Not Meet US Effectiveness Standards**

(Medicine Net) Up to 70% of N95 masks certified in China do not meet U.S. standards for effectiveness, the nonprofit patient safety organization ECRI warned this week.

"Because of the dire situation, U.S. hospitals bought hundreds of thousands of masks produced in China over the past 6 months, and we're finding that many aren't safe and effective against the spread of [COVID-19](#)," Marcus Schabacker, MD, ECRI president and CEO, said in a statement.

ECRI quality assurance researchers tested nearly 200 N95-style masks, reflecting 15 different manufacturer models purchased by some of the largest health systems in the United States.

They found that 60% to 70% of the imported masks – known as KN95 masks -- that had not been certified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), do not as effectively filter particles from the air. They are "significantly inferior" to NIOSH-certified N95s, the report says. These masks did not filter 95% of aerosol particulates, despite what their name suggests.

Read more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=247181>

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**20-Something Who Thought COVID Was 'Bull\*\*\*\*'  
Pleads From ICU to Wear Masks**

Read more: <https://www.newsweek.com/20-something-who-thought-covid-was-bull-pleads-icu-wear-masks-1534446>

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**'Benadryl Challenge' on TikTok Is Dangerous**

- A challenge posted on TikTok known as the "Benadryl challenge" encourages viewers to take large doses of the antihistamine to induce hallucinations.
- Experts say excessive doses of Benadryl can cause serious health issues, even causing death in some situations.
- Johnson & Johnson, the manufacturer of Benadryl, has posted a warning about the challenge, and TikTok officials said they've been removing posts that publicize the challenge.

Read more; <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/benadryl-challenge-on-tiktok-is-dangerous-experts-say>

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***Beware the Internet of Things***

**When coffee makers are demanding a ransom, you know IoT is screwed**

Learn more: <https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2020/09/how-a-hacker-turned-a-250-coffee-maker-into-ransom-machine/>

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 added or deleted, 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.