



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 28, 2020 – Update 1

KY COVID Update for Monday

([Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear on Monday updated Kentuckians on the state's continuing efforts to fight the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). As of 4 p.m. Sept. 28, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 66,939 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 456 of which were newly reported Monday. Eighty-three of the newly reported cases were from children ages 18 and younger, of which 20 were children ages 5 and under. The youngest was only 6 months old.

Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported five new deaths Monday, raising the total to 1,162 Kentuckians lost to the virus. As of Monday, there have been at least 1,373,577 coronavirus tests performed in Kentucky. The positivity rate was 4.41%, and at least 11,787 Kentuckians have recovered from the virus. To see all recent daily reports, [click here](#).

Study: [Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies in a Large Nationwide Sample of Patients on Dialysis in the USA](#)

(*Lancet*) Many patients receiving dialysis in the USA share the socioeconomic characteristics of underserved communities, and undergo routine monthly laboratory testing, facilitating a practical, unbiased, and repeatable assessment of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) seroprevalence.

Fauci warns that US 'not in a good place' with COVID-19

(CIDRAP) With cold weather looming in many parts of the country and an average of more than 40,000 new cases of COVID-19 being reported each day, the country's leading infectious disease expert said today that the United States is "not in a good place."

Those were the words of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director and White House coronavirus task force member Anthony Fauci, MD, who told ABC's [Good Morning America](#) that the country is in a bad position right now, with cases and hospitalizations rising in many states and the weather soon to push more people indoors.

"As we get into the fall and winter, you really want the level of community spread to be as low as you can possibly get it," Fauci said. "We really need to intensify the public health measures that we talk about all the time."

The area of the country seeing the biggest surge in new infections is the Midwest. According to a [Reuters analysis](#), the number of COVID-19 tests coming back positive is topping 25% in several Midwestern states, led by North Dakota (30%) and South Dakota (26%). Those two states, along with Wisconsin, set new hospitalization records last week, with Wisconsin recording new daily highs for 7 days in a row.

Also today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released [new data](#) on coronavirus infections in children, and a new poll highlights the financial toll the virus is taking on US families.

The US currently stands at 7,127,210 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 204,861 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins [online tracker](#).

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/09/fauci-warns-us-not-good-place-covid-19>

From [AHA Today](#)- **CMS releases CLIA certification guide for labs.**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Friday released a [guide](#) to help laboratories apply for Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments certification, which includes information on the expedited review process implemented for the COVID-19 public health emergency. The agency also announced an [online option](#) for paying CLIA certification fees. CMS expects the new tools to help clarify the application process and reduce delays for laboratories seeking CLIA certification to combat COVID-19.

Cyberattack hits major U.S. hospital system

Computer systems for Universal Health Services began to fail over the weekend

(NBC) A major hospital chain has been hit by what appears to be one of the largest medical cyberattacks in United States history.

Computer systems for Universal Health Services, which [has more than 400 locations](#), primarily in the U.S., began to fail over the weekend, and some hospitals have had to resort to filing patient information with pen and paper, according to multiple people familiar with the situation

Universal Health Services did not immediately respond to requests for comment, but speaking anonymously, one person familiar with the company's response efforts who is not authorized to speak to the press said that the attack "looks and smells like ransomware."

Ransomware is a type of malicious software that spreads across computer networks, encrypting files and demanding payment for a key to decrypt them.

Learn more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/security/cyberattack-hits-major-u-s-hospital-system-n1241254>

NIST updates guide to information system security and privacy controls

[\(AHA Today\)](#) The National Institute of Standards and Technology has updated its [Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organizations](#), a catalog of tools to help organizations manage and respond to security and privacy risks. "The fifth revision of this widely used framework is a beneficial resource for hospitals and health systems to either be adopted as a framework for combined security and privacy controls, or as a reference guide to inform and benchmark existing security and privacy programs," said John Riggi, AHA senior advisor for cybersecurity and risk.

NIST Rev 800-53: <https://www.aha.org/system/files/media/file/2020/09/nist-revision-800-53-security-privacy-controls-information-systems-organizations-rev5.pdf>

[QR Codes are Becoming a Threat during the Pandemic](#)

According to Threatpost, as of September 15th, a new threat has emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic, exploitation of quick response (QR) codes. QR codes have begun to be frequently used, especially in businesses utilizing menus, because of the pandemic, allowing malicious actors to exploit users with an uncommon type of abuse. These QR codes automatically open a page or execute a command when they are scanned, allowing malicious actors to program an executable which would be opened on the user's device. Hackers can disguise malicious QR codes to look legit, allowing for easier exploitation of the user.

[DDoS Attacks Increase on Education Institutions](#)

According to Security Affairs, as of September 15th, experts warn of an increase of distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks targeting education industries. With the continuation of online learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic, malicious actors seek to take down education networks, disrupting online classes and other online resources used for schooling. DDoS attacks disrupt online services, network services, or the host machines intending to disabled users from accessing the internet or other available resources. Most DDoS occurring against the education system come from hacktivists, seeking to disrupt any online classes; however, reports of students attacking their own school's networks have begun to surface.

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Update
Extracts from [September 28, 2020](#)

[Food Insecurity In The U.S. By The Numbers](#) *(NPR)* With COVID-19 continuing to spread, and millions of Americans still out of work, one of the nation's most urgent problems has only grown worse: hunger. In communities across the country, the lines at food pantries are stretching longer and longer, and there's no clear end in sight. Before the pandemic, the number of families experiencing food insecurity — defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life — had been steadily falling. But now, as economic instability and a health crisis takes over, new estimates point to some of the worst rates of food insecurity in the United States in years.

[A Layperson's Guide to How — and When — a Covid-19 Vaccine Could Be Authorized](#) *(STAT News)* In a U.S. pandemic response dominated by missteps, the effort to develop vaccines to prevent Covid-19 has so far been a triumph. Vaccines against the coronavirus that causes the disease are now racing through giant clinical trials as a result. Here, then, is a rundown of the science that goes into the decision-making process, what it tells us about when results could realistically be available, and when vaccines could start to be administered. This story is based on interviews as well as on documents the drug makers have released detailing their clinical trial plans.

[Australian Firm Says Its Nasal Spray Reduced Coronavirus Growth in Animal Study](#) *(Reuters)* Australian biotech company Ena Respiratory said on Monday that a nasal spray it is developing to improve the human immune system to fight common cold and flu significantly reduced the growth of the coronavirus in a recent study on animals. A study on ferrets showed the product dubbed INNA-051, which could be used complementary to vaccines, lowered the levels of the virus that causes COVID-19 by up to 96%, the company said. The study was led by British government agency Public Health England.

['It's Like Every Red Flag': Trump-ordered HHS Ad Blitz Raises Alarms](#) *(Politico)* The health department is moving quickly on a highly unusual advertising campaign to "defeat despair" about the coronavirus, a \$300 million-plus effort that was shaped by a political appointee close to President Donald Trump and executed in part by close allies of the official, using taxpayer funds.

[1 in 7 Americans Have Experienced Dangerous Air Quality Due to Wildfires this Year](#)

(NPR) Wildfires near cities have become commonplace in the Western United States, but this year the reach and intensity of the dangerous air pollution they produce has been the worst on record.

NETEC Webinars

[Got Masks? PPE Compliance and Fatigue in First Responder Realms.](#)

Friday, October 2, 2020 | Noon CT / 1:00 PM ET

Are personnel becoming less diligent with PPE? Is there a significant element of PPE fatigue? Do you know what the PPE requirements are when not actively providing patient care? What about PPE requirements in the office, ambulance, and firehouse? Join us for a Town Hall meeting and discuss the importance of PPE in the First Responder Environment and learn techniques to deal with PPE fatigue and improve compliance? Submit your questions for the panel during registration and they will be answered during the Town Hall session. [REGISTER HERE](#)

[Pediatric Perspectives in a Pandemic](#)

Friday, October 16, 2020 | Noon CT / 1:00 PM ET

In this webinar, we'll describe the epidemiology of acute COVID-19, including post-infectious manifestations and the unique aspects of caring for children during a pandemic. We will also discuss the features of MIS-C and how to devise a diagnostic and acute management plan and integrate potential post-recovery complications into the development of follow-up plans for a child with MIS-C. [REGISTER HERE](#)

**Center for Homeland Defense and Security
Executive Education Program Lecture and Webinar Series**

Shelter from the Storm

Examining Housing and Shelter Systems in Disasters During COVID-19

Friday, October 9, 2020

2:00 PM EDT / 11:00 AM PDT

[- REGISTER HERE -](#)

The webinar will examine current disaster housing plans and capacities, emerging practices and the application of public health and safety standards in sheltering operations during COVID-19. Participants are encouraged to submit questions for the panel in advance on the webinar registration page or by emailing them to chds-eeep@nps.edu. After registering, participants will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

This is the first installment of a three-part webinar series discussing the challenges and emerging model practices for housing, sheltering, and congregate population management during the pandemic. [More information on the other webinars in this series.](#)

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 (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.