



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for October 1, 2020

KY COVID-19 Update for September 30

New cases today: 1,004; Total: 68,840 (154 =< 18 YO)

New deaths: 4; Positivity = 4.07%

More details: <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

Press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=390>

Moderna COVID-19 vaccine appears safe, shows signs of working in older adults

(Reuters) Results from an early safety study of Moderna Inc's coronavirus vaccine candidate in older adults showed that it produced virus-neutralizing antibodies at levels similar to those seen in younger adults, with side effects roughly on par with high-dose flu shots, researchers said on Tuesday. The study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, offers a more complete picture of the vaccine's safety in older adults, a group at increased risk of severe complications from COVID-19.

Overall, the team found that in older adults who received two injections of the 100 microgram dose 28 days apart, the vaccine produced immune responses roughly in line with those seen in younger adults. Moderna is already testing the higher dose in a large Phase III trial, the final stage before seeking emergency authorization or approval. Read full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-moderna-int-idUSKBN26K3K5>

Related - U.S. FDA pauses Inovio's coronavirus vaccine trial plan

(Reuters) - The U.S. health regulator has put a hold on Inovio Pharmaceuticals Inc's [INO.O](#) plans to start final trials of its coronavirus vaccine as the agency seeks more information, including details on a delivery device used to inject genetic material into cells. The mid-to-late trials, which were awaiting approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, were scheduled to start this month after they were postponed from this summer. Inovio planned to administer the vaccine to study participants through a device called Collectra, which sends out an electrical pulse to open pores in a cell so DNA molecules can enter.

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-inovio-pharma-idUSKBN26J1P4>

Related JAMA story – [US Public Preferences for Allocation of COVID Vaccine](#)

How can I volunteer for a COVID-19 vaccine study?

Governments and companies are setting up websites where people can sign up.

Read more: <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-archive-1e47aff85bac726396672688320a397d>

3000 Nurses call for more safety measures as COVID-19 cases tied to Boston hospital cluster climb to 42

(Becker Hospital Review) Nurses at Boston-based Brigham and Women's Hospital are calling for more safety measures as a COVID-19 cluster tied to the hospital [climbs](#) from 19 to at least 42 cases, according to [NBC10 Boston](#).

More than 3,000 Brigham and Women's Hospital nurses [joined the call](#) for improved safety measures, according to the Massachusetts Nurses Association. Trish Powers, RN, chair of the Brigham MNA Bargaining Unit, said the hospital's "lax compliance with COVID-19 safety protections" is making it difficult for nurses to provide safe patient care.

"To date, 488 employees connected to the cluster have been tested with 30 testing positive," Brigham and Women's said in a statement cited by [NBC10 Boston](#). "All current inpatients are being tested for COVID-19, and this will be repeated every three days. This is in addition to the current hospital policy which requires testing for all patients upon admission and daily screening for symptoms. We have tested 581 patients across all inpatient areas, and 12 have tested positive. These 12 had been previously identified as connected to the cluster."

The hospital is still investigating how the cluster occurred. Hospital officials believe the cluster is contained to two of its medical-surgical units. The affected area was thoroughly cleaned and admissions were halted to the two units, according to the hospital website.

Full story: <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/infection-control/nurses-call-for-more-safety-measures-as-covid-19-cases-tied-to-boston-hospital-cluster-climb-to-44.html>

COVID-19 cases rising among US children as schools reopen

(AP) After preying heavily on the elderly in the spring, the coronavirus is increasingly infecting American children and teens in a trend authorities say appears fueled by school reopenings and the resumption of sports, playdates and other activities.

Children of all ages now make up 10% of all U.S cases, up from 2% in April, the American Academy of Pediatrics [reported](#) Tuesday. And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday that the incidence of COVID-19 in school-age children began rising in early September as many youngsters returned to their classrooms.

About two times more teens were infected than younger children, the CDC [report](#) said. Most infected children have mild cases; hospitalizations and death rates are much lower than in adults.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-archive-901fb467cbaf5cd519be2247f0e3983c>

Related - Even COVID-Exposed Kids Need a Time-Out on Sports

(MedPage Today) American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) interim guidance on return to sports for kids after exposure or infection with SARS-CoV-2 may be overly cautious in trying to protect their hearts, some cardiologists argued.

The [guidance](#), last updated September 19 and expected to be replaced before December, didn't advocate routine pre-participation screening for infection for asymptomatic children not known to have been exposed.

For any children who have had COVID-19 or been exposed to it, though, the AAP recommended waiting at least 14 days before returning to exercise or competition.

Read more: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/88875>

***Related story - [The Cycle Threshold \(CT\) value](#)
Could Help Reveal How Infectious a COVID-19 Patient Is***

**White House to Ignore CDC on Cruise Ships
Sources say no-sail order will be lifted Oct. 31**

Read more: <https://www.newser.com/story/296872/report-white-house-to-ignore-cdc-on-cruise-ships.html>

As suicides rise, Army brass reassessing outreach

(AP) While the driving factors of the suicides remain unknown, Maj. Gen. Christopher Donahue, who assumed command of the division in July, believes that the forced periods of isolation and other stressors the coronavirus pandemic have imposed on his troops and their families have been a major factor. The increase has pushed Donahue to make suicide prevention a priority and frequent topic of conversation within his ranks.

Learn and see more: <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-army-north-carolina-racial-injustice-suicides-80eeeecc71631c227a78338c74a90da2>

UofL Hospital 'facility dog' brings joy to patients Service dog lends helping paw to patients

(WYFF & Stitch) Travis the service dog helps patients at the University of Louisville Hospital with their physical therapy and has a wagging good time doing it! "He really gives patients confidence, he gives them comfort and he's just fun to have around," said Cathy Gerrish, a physical therapist at the hospital and Travis's handler.



Travis has been with the hospital for two years and was trained as a service dog by an inmate at the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women through the Paws for Purpose program. With his own ID badge, his official position is "facility dog."

"He is so chill. Which is actually an ideal thing for this rehab setting. He knows when he needs to tuck under a desk to get out of the way. He really is perfect for this environment," said Garrish.

Recently, [Chewy.com](https://www.chewy.com) recognized his hard work with a wagon of treats and a new bed. Garrish said, "It makes me a little teary-eyed. He's given so much to the patients here. This is huge, he's being recognized."

Watch the featured video above for more on Travis! <https://www.wyff4.com/article/stitch-louisville-facility-dog-brings-joy-to-patients/34226616>

University of Louisville reports coronavirus pandemic has spurred interest in public health career

(Kentucky Today) The University of Louisville says the coronavirus pandemic has sparked interest in public health careers at both the undergraduate and graduate levels over the last school year.

Enrollment in the discipline at UofL is up, with a 34 percent increase in students pursuing an undergraduate degree in public health, the largest percentage surge for any baccalaureate degree program, and a 19.5 percent jump in graduate education at the School of Public Health and Information Sciences.

The growth is not just happening at UofL. Data on academic public health admissions from the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health annual data, along with a public health education enrollment database known as SOPHAS, shows a 20% uptick in applications over the same time last year.

Learn more: <https://www.kyforward.com/university-of-louisville-reports-coronavirus-pandemic-has-spurred-interest-in-public-health-careers/>

Cyberattack continues to hobble major hospital chain's US facilities

([CNN Update at 11:30 PM 9/29](#)) — Universal Health Services, a large hospital system with more than 400 locations across the country, was still working Tuesday to get its network and operations back online after [a cyberattack](#) early Sunday morning.

"We are making steady progress with recovery efforts," the Pennsylvania-based company [said in a statement](#) late Tuesday. "Certain applications have already started coming online again, with others projected to be restored on a rolling basis across the U.S."

The company said it "experienced an information technology security incident in the early morning hours of September 27, 2020," and as a result it was forced to shut down its entire computer network, impacting patient data, laboratory systems and clinical information.

[UHS Statement Updated Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 5:45 pm ET](#) — The IT Network across Universal Health Services (UHS) facilities is currently offline, as the company works through a security incident caused by malware. The cyber attack occurred early Sunday morning, at which time the company shut down all networks across the U.S. enterprise. We have no indication at this time that any patient or employee data has been accessed, copied or misused. The company's UK operations have not been impacted.

UHS implements extensive IT security protocols to protect our systems and data, and we are working diligently with our IT security partners to restore IT infrastructure and business operations as quickly as possible. We are making steady progress with recovery efforts. Certain applications have already started coming online again, with others projected to be restored on a rolling basis across the U.S.

In the meantime, our facilities are using their established back-up processes including offline documentation methods. Patient care continues to be delivered safely and effectively.

Microsoft resolves major Monday outage after five hours

(AP) Microsoft took five hours to resolve a major outage of its workplace applications on Monday, but has not clarified what caused the outage.

The company said the outage, which affected users' ability to log into Office 365 applications, began early evening Monday Eastern time. Microsoft did not reply to questions Tuesday about what caused the outage, but said on its [service-status Twitter account](#) that it had identified a "recent change" that appeared to cause problems.

It then rolled back the change and applied other unspecified "mitigation efforts." The company said [five hours later](#) that the problem was resolved.

AP Story link: <https://apnews.com/article/service-outages-archive-7095816b9d0ef425ec02a7d049bea701>

Cleanup efforts for brain-eating amoeba could take months, Texas warns

Read more: <https://news360.com/article/538952206>

Download link: [Domestic Preparedness Journal for September, 2020](#)

NCTC Offers a "First Responder Toolbox"

Check out the National Counterterrorism Center's "First Responder Toolbox" contents:

<https://www.dni.gov/index.php/nctc-how-we-work/joint-ct-assessment-team/first-responder-toolbox>

NEMSIS 2020 Mid-Year Dataset Now Available

For the first time, NHTSA and its partners at the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) Technical Assistance Center are releasing a mid-year dataset, with information from nearly 20 million EMS activations in 47 states and territories. The data is being released at this new interval due to overwhelming interest from researchers reviewing the EMS response to COVID-19. Interested in obtaining a copy of the 2020 Mid-Year Public-Release Research Dataset? Find out more and complete the request form [here](#)

Earth Ex 2020 "Global Resilience Commission" series

October 14 – 11 AM to 12 Noon ET

Registration is OPEN – but seats limited

Click here to sign-up <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5191423725346950927>

Among the topics:

- ✓ Current resilience issues in the Electric and Energy Sectors
- ✓ Cross-sector interdependence issues and best practices
- ✓ Unique opportunities to meet resilience improvements in a sustainable manner
- ✓ Additional resilience efforts to protect the grid.
- ✓ Israel's approach to resilience and security in the water sector
- ✓ The impacts on these concepts on global supply chain.

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.