



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for October 9, 2020

KY COVID Update

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

"We continue to be in another escalation of COVID-19 cases here in Kentucky," said Gov. Beshear. "This is the highest Friday in the last four weeks, and this will be our highest week ever when we finish it for number of new COVID-19 cases."

As of 4 p.m. Oct. 9, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 78,456 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 1,059 of which were newly reported Friday. One hundred and fourteen of the newly reported cases were from children up to age 18, of which 23 were children 5 and under. The youngest was only 2 months old. "These are just far too many cases. We have to do better," Beshear said.

Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported eight new deaths Friday, raising the total to 1,242 Kentuckians lost to the virus. As of Friday, there have been at least 1,632,824 coronavirus tests performed in Kentucky. The positivity rate was 4.32%, and at least 13,417 Kentuckians have recovered from the virus. To see all recent daily reports, [click here](#).

----- CIDRAP Stories -----

[New COVID studies: Remdesivir yes, hydroxychloroquine no](#)

[As US COVID-19 cases climb, Trump scraps weekend travel](#)

Cases rise in 28 states

NOAA Adds New Feature to Weather Forecasting System

(Executive Gov) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has commenced an effort to update a [weather forecasting system used by the National Weather Service](#) (NWS). NOAA said its [Global Ensemble Forecast System](#) now features a Finite-Volume Cubed-Sphere or FV3 core that increases individual forecast input from 21 to 31 and boosts resolution, allowing for more accurate, detailed forecasts.

The agency also plans to boost the system's forecast length to 35 days, a difference of over twice the original number. GEFS' new update allows NWS to provide numerical weather forecasts up to four weeks earlier. The service uses GEFS to forecast on hurricanes, extreme temperature changes and other significant weather events.

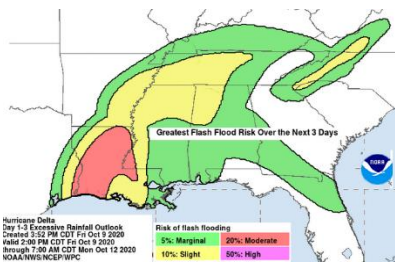
"This significant upgrade to GEFS – the first of its kind in five years – will improve probabilistic weather model guidance for public safety, quality of life and business decisions that drive U.S. economic growth," said [Neil Jacobs](#) who serves as NOAA's administrator on an acting basis.

Source: <https://www.executivegov.com/2020/09/noaa-adds-new-feature-to-weather-forecasting-system/>

Learn more: <https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-upgrades-us-global-weather-forecast-model>

Hurricane Delta Makes Landfall

(CBS) Hurricane Delta, now a Category 2 storm, made landfall near Creole, Louisiana, on Friday evening, with nearly 11 million people in the storm's path. The hurricane is bringing 100 mph winds, with a "life-threatening" surge of seawater that could hit communities miles inland, according to forecasters. As the storm moves north, some areas in Louisiana could get a foot of rain.



Learn more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/hurricane-delta-track-path-latest-news-updates-2020-10-09/>

CDC Health Alert Advisory – HAN 0437

[Hurricane Delta—Clinical Guidance for Carbon Monoxide \(CO\) Poisoning](#)

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [October 9, 2020](#)

[Remdesivir for the Treatment of Covid-19 — Final Report](#) (*NEJM*) We conducted a double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial of intravenous remdesivir in adults who were hospitalized with Covid-19 and had evidence of lower respiratory tract infection. Our data show that remdesivir was superior to placebo in shortening the time to recovery in adults who were hospitalized with Covid-19 and had evidence of lower respiratory tract infection.

[Tele-ICUs for COVID-19: A Look at National Prevalence and Characteristics of Hospitals Providing Teleintensive Care](#) (*The Journal of Rural Health*) We found wide variation in the prevalence of tele-ICUs across HRRs and states. Future work should continue the evaluation of tele-ICU effectiveness and, if favorable, explore the variation we identified for improved access to teleintensive care.

[Winter Will Make the Pandemic Worse. Here's What You Need to Know](#) (*MIT Technology Review*) As we head into the Northern Hemisphere fall with covid-19 still raging in the US and a number of other parts of the world, two data points provide cause for extra concern. One is that the seasonal flu—a respiratory viral infection like covid-19—is much more active in the winter. Last year in the US, there were 40 times as many flu cases in the fall and winter months as in the previous spring and summer. The other is that the death toll from the 1918 influenza outbreak—the only pandemic to have killed more Americans than this one so far, and one of the deadliest in global history—was five times as high in the US during the late fall and winter as during the summer.

['Rural Surge' Propels India Toward More Covid-19 Infections Than U.S.](#) (*NYT*) The defiance of the coronavirus rules is being reflected across rural India, and it is propelling this nation's virus caseload toward the No. 1 spot globally. Infections are rippling into every corner of this country of 1.3 billion people. In the Indian megacities where the pandemic first hit, vigorous public awareness campaigns have left the populace mostly on guard. But when it comes to government efforts to contain the virus, rural India is resisting.

[Thousands of Sick Federal Prisoners Sought Compassionate Release. 98 Percent Were Denied](#) (*The Marshall Project*) Data recently obtained by The Marshall Project underscores what attorneys, advocates and experts have long suspected: As the pandemic ramped up, federal prison wardens denied or ignored more than 98 percent of compassionate release requests, including many from medically vulnerable prisoners like Neba. Though the Bureau of Prisons has previously posted information about the number of people let out on compassionate release, it wasn't clear until now just how many prisoners applied for it or how frequently wardens denied these requests despite widespread calls to reduce the prison population in the face of the pandemic. Of the 10,940 federal prisoners who applied for compassionate release from March through May, wardens approved 156. Some wardens, including those at Seagoville in Texas and Oakdale in Louisiana, did not respond to any request in that time frame, according to the data, while others responded only to deny them all.

[7 Looming Questions About the Rollout of a Covid-19 Vaccine](#) (*STAT News*) The race to develop Covid-19 vaccines could well see some Americans vaccinated before the end of 2020 — less than a year after the world first learned a new virus was causing a dangerous new form of pneumonia in China. But the complexity of that work may pale in comparison to what comes next — the rollout of hundreds of millions of doses of never-before-used vaccines across the United States and, eventually, around the world.

[DHS Releases Homeland Threat Assessment Report](#) (*Homeland Preparedness News*) The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released its Homeland Threat Assessment (HTA) – a report that synthesizes threat information across DHS, including intelligence and operational components. The HTA reported that cyber threats to the Homeland from both nation-states and non-state actors will remain acute and likely grow. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic is creating new opportunities for the United States' economic competitors to exploit the American people. In addition, it found that China, Russia, and Iran may seek to use cyber capabilities to compromise or disrupt critical infrastructure used to support the 2020 elections.

The KHEREF 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 KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.