



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for October 14, 2020

**CIDRAP - [Global COVID-19 total surges past 38 million](#)**

## Kentucky COVID Update

(From [press release](#)) As of 4 p.m. Oct. 14, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 83,013 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 1,346 of which were newly reported Wednesday. One hundred and seventy-one of the newly reported cases were from children up to age 18, of which 34 were age 5 and under. This was the most coronavirus cases reported in Kentucky in a single day that didn't include a backlogged set of cases, as happened recently when some Fayette County case numbers were added.

Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported seven new deaths Wednesday, raising the total to 1,276 Kentuckians lost to the virus. As of Wednesday, there have been at least 1,718,621 coronavirus tests performed in Kentucky. The positivity rate was 4.72%, and at least 16,756 Kentuckians have recovered from the virus. To see all recent daily reports, [click here](#).

### **Related – KY will change how it calculated Positivity Rate**

(WFPL) More than 90% of all COVID-19 tests conducted in Kentucky are polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, tests, according to Stack. Starting Monday, the state will only use results from PCR tests to calculate the positivity rate, no longer pulling antibody or rapid-point-of-care test results into the mix.

“Those are the gold standard,” Dr. Steven Stack, KY Public Health Commissioner, said of the PCR tests. “Those are the most reliable for finding active disease in currently-infected people.” He said the state will also “transition to using only electronic lab reports.”

For the week of Oct. 2 – 8, more than 55% of the state's PCR test results came directly to Kentucky's disease surveillance software through an automated feed, averaging about 8,500 electronic daily lab reports, Stack said, adding that the transition to doing this all electronically will also filter out the “historical lab reports,” Stack continued, so that it captures just the seven-day picture. This will increase as the state continues to onboard more labs into this process.

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/kentucky-will-change-how-it-calculates-positivity-rate-starting-monday/>

## FDA issues enforcement guidance for molecular influenza and RSV tests administered during COVID-19 pandemic

(AHA Today) The Food and Drug Administration Oct. 13 issued and immediately implemented enforcement policy for modifications to FDA-cleared molecular influenza and RSV tests during the [COVID-19 public health emergency](#) to expand access to certain FDA-cleared molecular tests for detecting and identifying flu viruses and respiratory syncytial viruses. The agency notes that these tests often require the same critical components as many SARS-CoV-2 molecular assays.

## Some states raising doubts about federal tests sent to nursing homes

Learn more on ABC site: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/states-raising-doubts-federal-tests-nursing-homes-citing/story?id=73591354>

## New Poll highlights declining willingness in US to get Coronavirus vaccination

A [new poll by Gallup](#) is showing sharp declines in Americans' willingness to be vaccinated for the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. Just 50% of respondents expressed a willingness to get a Food and Drug Administration-approved COVID-19 vaccine; this is down 11 percentage points since August, and 16 points since July. The poll shows divergent trends on political party lines, with Republicans showing increased willingness to be vaccinated while Democrats and independents showing decreased comfort levels.

Meanwhile, a [case study](#) published in *The Lancet* is questioning the potential for the disease to confer immunity, and further highlights the need for widespread vaccination to achieve herd immunity against SARS-CoV-2.

## CDC Caution during fall Break Small household gathering are driving surge

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/14/health/us-coronavirus-wednesday/index.html>

## **Related - CDC Traces Virus Cases in 4 States to Teenager**

(Newser) By the time a three-week family vacation had ended this summer, 11 relatives in four states had contracted the coronavirus—a spread that started with one infected 13-year-old. Health officials want people to keep that in mind as families plan their upcoming holiday gatherings, the [Chicago Tribune](#) reports. The first lesson cited in the [CDC's report](#) on the outbreak is that "children and adolescents can serve as the source for COVID-19 outbreaks within families, even when their symptoms are mild." The agency said the case shows, again, the importance of social distancing. "None of the six family members who maintained outdoor physical distance without face masks during two visits to the family gathering developed symptoms," the report said. Even if they test negative, the CDC said, people should self-quarantine for 14 days if they've been exposed to the virus.

The teenager's exposure came during an outbreak in June. Four days later, before she had any symptoms, a rapid antigen test's results were negative. She developed her only symptom, nasal congestion, two days later, when she traveled with her family to the gathering. There, 14 relatives from five households shared a house without wearing masks or social distancing; the six who avoided symptoms visited but didn't stay there. Of the 11 other family members who came down with the virus, one was hospitalized and one went to the emergency room with respiratory symptoms. Both recovered, the CDC said.

The report didn't name the states where the relatives live but attributed information to health departments in Illinois, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Georgia. "The virus can spread efficiently during gatherings," the CDC said, "especially with prolonged, close contact." Source: <https://www.newser.com/story/297390/teen-gave-virus-to-11-relatives-in-4-states-on-family-vacation.html>

## **Americans Are Dying In the Pandemic at Rates Far Higher Than In Other Countries**

(NPR) Per capita deaths in the U.S. from COVID-19 and other causes are 85% higher than in countries like Germany and Israel. "The United States really has done remarkably badly," a study author says.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/10/13/923253681/americans-are-dying-in-the-pandemic-at-rates-far-higher-than-in-other-countries>

## **Coronavirus Infects Eyes as Well as Lungs - MedicineNet**

<https://news360.com/article/539909755>

## **FDA faults quality control at Lilly plant making Trump-touted COVID drug**

(Reuters) U.S. drug inspectors uncovered serious quality control problems at an Eli Lilly and Co [LLY.N](#) pharmaceutical plant that is ramping up to manufacture one of two promising COVID-19 drugs touted by President Trump as "a cure" for the disease, according to government documents and three sources familiar with the matter.

The Lilly antibody therapy, which is experimental and not yet approved by regulators as safe and effective, is similar to a drug from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals [REGN.O](#) that was given to the president during his bout with COVID-19. But the findings by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration inspectors at the Lilly manufacturing facility, which have not been disclosed previously, could complicate the drugmaker's bid for an EUA from the federal agency, two of the sources and two outside legal experts told Reuters. That's because U.S. law generally requires compliance with manufacturing standards for authorization of a drug.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-lilly-exclusive/exclusive-fda-faults-quality-control-at-lilly-plant-making-trump-touted-covid-drug-idUSKBN26Y30C>

## **Reuters: [U.S. government signs deal to make more COVID-19 vaccine components](#)**

## **Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headline Extracts for [October 14](#)**

[Combining Rapid PCR and Antibody Tests Improved COVID-19 Diagnosis](#) (JAMA) A University of Cambridge–led team analyzed previously collected data from the COVIDx Study, in which they clinically validated a simple amplification-based assay known as SAMBA II, a rapid PCR test to detect severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The SAMBA II missed about 1 in 5 positive cases based on a reference standard that combined laboratory-based PCR and neutralizing antibody testing. But when the researchers combined the SAMBA II results with those from either of 2 rapid lateral flow antibody assays, the positive predictive value increased to 100%.

[COVID-19 Contact Tracing Workforce Barely 'Inching Up' As Cases Surge](#) (NPR) The United States has more than 50,000 contact tracers for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic hit, according to a survey of states conducted by the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security in collaboration with NPR. The total number of contact tracers reported in all U.S. states and territories was 53,116. That's four times the number of contact

tracers states reported to NPR in its initial survey in late April, but it falls far short of the more than 100,000 that public health experts have been calling for since the pandemic began seven months ago.

**Will Kids Get A COVID-19 Vaccine? Pfizer To Expand Trial To Ages 12 And Up** (NPR) Pfizer announced this week that it has received FDA approval to enroll children as young as 12 years old in its COVID-19 vaccine trial. The expansion is aimed at understanding whether the vaccine would be safe and effective for adolescents. Until now, children under 16 have not been included in any of the COVID-19 vaccine trials in the U.S., and the average age of participants has skewed much older.

**HHS , DoD Expand Partnership With AstraZeneca to Develop, Manufacture COVID-19 Antibody Treatment** (Homeland Preparedness News) The United States Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Defense (DoD) announced greater collaboration with AstraZeneca last week, specifically aimed at the late-stage development and manufacturing of its COVID-19 treatment, AZD7442. A cocktail of this sort is of particular interest to the government for its potentially long-lasting and injection-based qualities, which could make it of use on those with compromised immune systems, the elderly, and those currently undergoing medical treatments that would bar the use of COVID-19 vaccines.

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**College Says Students May Have Sought COVID-19 Infection to Boost Plasma Donor Payout**

(NPR) Brigham Young University-Idaho says it is "deeply troubled" that students may have intentionally tried to contract COVID-19. A nearby plasma center offers \$100 for each donation with antibodies.

Read more; <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/10/13/923381540/college-says-students-may-have-sought-covid-19-infection-to-boost-plasma-donor-p>

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**Cottonelle wipes recalled due to possible bacteria contamination**

(CBS) A consumer product [in heavy demand](#) during the [pandemic](#) is being recalled due to the possible presence of bacteria. Kimberly-Clark is recalling specific lots of Cottonelle wet wipes sold nationwide because they could be contaminated with bacteria that can cause infections in people, according to the household goods maker.



Billed as having the "texture and the cleansing power of water to deliver long-lasting freshness," the affected products include Cottonelle Flushable Wipes and Cottonelle GentlePlus Flushable wipes manufactured between February 7, 2020, and September 14, 2020, and could contain the bacterium *Pluralibacter gergoviae*, the company

[announced](#) Friday. Story link: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cottonelle-wipes-recalled-due-to-possible-bacteria-contamination/>

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**Wisconsin Governor's Kidnapping wasn't the only one being planned...  
Alleged militia members discussed kidnapping Virginia's Governor**

(CBS) Members of anti-government paramilitary groups discussed kidnapping Virginia Governor Ralph Northam during a June meeting in Ohio, an FBI agent testified Tuesday during a court hearing for a group of men accused of plotting to kidnap Michigan's governor. Special Agent Richard Trask also revealed new details about investigators' use of confidential informants, undercover agents and encrypted communication to [arrest and charge](#) six men last week in the plot aimed at Democratic Governor [Gretchen Whitmer](#).

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fbi-says-whitmer-kidnap-plotters-ralph-northam-virginia-governor/>

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**Researchers find elevated radiation near U.S. fracking sites**

(Reuters) - Radiation levels downwind of U.S. hydraulic fracturing drilling sites tend to be significantly higher than background levels, posing a potential health risk to nearby residents, according to a study by Harvard researchers released on Tuesday. The study, published in the journal Nature, adds to controversy over the drilling method known as fracking, which has helped the United States become the world's biggest oil and gas producer over the past decade but which environmentalists say threatens water and air.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-fracking-radiation-idUSKBN26Y29U>

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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](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.