



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for October 15, 2020

Did you do your Earthquake Drill today?

2020 Great Central US Shake Out

[Why Drop, Cover, and Hold On?](#)



[Quake Scenarios for your drill](#)

[ShakeOut Spotlights](#)

(Example participant activities)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

According to the CDC, 1 in 4 women and nearly 1 in 10 men experience IPV in their lifetime. And during the COVID-19 public health emergency, increases in domestic violence have been reported across the U.S. HRSA's Office of Women's Health led the implementation of the [HRSA Strategy to Address Intimate Partner Violence](#) (PDF - 428 KB). This effort included the development of [a toolkit](#) to help health centers address intimate partner violence, which now includes a [resource page related to COVID-19](#). In addition, HRSA partnered with the Administration for Children and Families in May to host a webinar entitled *Shelter in Place, Violence and the Healthcare Response*. You can register to [watch it on demand](#). Together, HRSA's Bureaus and Offices are working to ensure that IPV is addressed in the context of COVID-19.

Related - October is National Bullying Prevention Month

Learn more about STOMP OUT Bullying:

<https://www.stompoutbullying.org/national-bullying-prevention-awareness-month>

KY Gov. Beshear Announces Another 1,260 Cases Of COVID-19

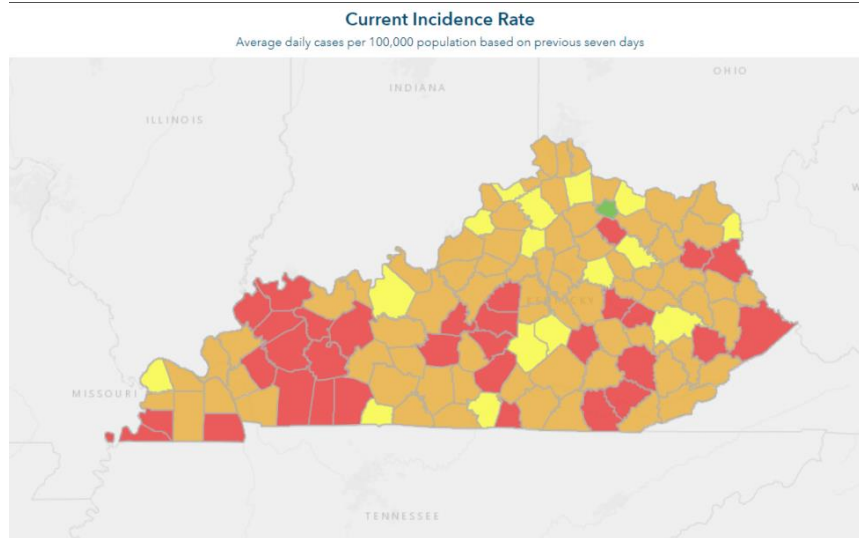
(WFPL) The state of Kentucky has seen another day with more than a thousand new coronavirus cases. [From quarantine](#), Gov. Andy Beshear announced 1,260 more cases of COVID-19 Thursday. Twenty more people have died. The positivity rate also went up to 4.94%, just under the 5% threshold at which health experts

recommend more restrictions. [As reported by the Ohio Valley Resource](#), the true positivity rate may be even higher, because of issues with the data set the state is using.

"This is not moving in the right direction. And it's up to us to stop these increases in cases," Beshear said during his briefing.

The outbreak is particularly bad in western Kentucky, where a number of counties are now listed as red on the state's coronavirus dashboard, indicating uncontrolled spread.

Meanwhile, many school districts in red counties are still holding in-person classes. Some superintendents have argued on



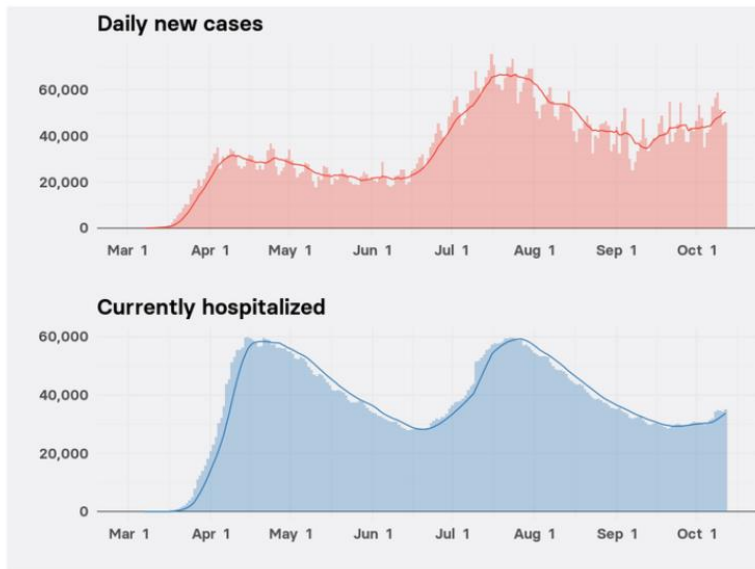
social media that while their counties are red, few cases are found to be connected to the classroom. State guidelines recommend districts move to remote learning when the county turns red.

Full report: <https://wfpl.org/gov-beshear-announces-another-1260-cases-of-covid-19/>

The US Is Heading Into A Third Wave Of COVID Hospitalizations As Election Day Nears

First, the coronavirus ravaged the northeast. Then it hit the Sun Belt. Now hospitals across the Midwest and northern plains are feeling the strain as COVID-19 continues to stalk the nation. [Coronavirus](#) cases and hospitalizations are now [rising again](#) across most of the nation, including the Northeast. But some of the biggest surges are currently happening across the Midwest and the northern plains, including Montana, Nebraska, and the Dakotas — states that escaped the worst of the previous two big surges in the spring and summer.

COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are rising across the US



Lines show seven-day rolling averages.

Peter Aldous | BuzzFeed News | Via New York Times | COVID Tracking Project

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The plot of new confirmed cases shows three surges. Strictly speaking, these aren't distinct waves of infection, like those seen in Western Europe. In those countries, cases surged in the spring before dying down and are now surging for a second time — triggering new lockdowns, including a [nighttime curfew in Paris and eight other cities](#), announced today by French President Emmanuel Macron.

Hospitalizations for COVID-19 show up in the data later than case counts, and it's unclear whether the current surge will rise as high as those in April and July. Those surges hit hardest in the Northeast and the

[Sun Belt](#), respectively, and each peaked with around 60,000 people in the hospital across the US. But clinicians on the front line are concerned that another big rise may be on the way.

See more: <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldous/third-wave-covid-hospitalization>

What's your blood type? It may affect your risk for Covid-19

(NBC) New research suggests a link between blood type and infection risk — but that won't change how doctors treat patients. Blood group O is significantly associated with reduced susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 infection," the study authors wrote, meaning that people with type O blood seemed to be less likely to become infected. SARS-CoV-2 is the virus that causes Covid-19.

Learn more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/what-s-your-blood-type-it-may-affect-your-risk-n1243322>

WHO: Remdesivir Doesn't Aid Survival

(Newser) A clinical trial by the World Health Organization has shown that the remdesivir *has little material effect on patients' chances of surviving COVID-19*. The WHO's report on its Solidarity trial, involving remdesivir and three other possible drug treatments, said none of them "substantially affected mortality" among patients or even reduce their need to be ventilated, the [Financial Times](#) reports. Gilead Sciences won emergency use authorization in the US for the antiviral after clinical trials provided evidence that it can help severely ill patients recover *faster*, per [MarketWatch](#). There's no proof yet that remdesivir cuts the mortality rates among COVID-19 patients. Full story: <http://newser.com/s297507>

Oxford scientists develop five-minute COVID-19 antigen test

(Reuters) Scientists from Britain's University of Oxford have developed a rapid COVID-19 test able to identify the coronavirus in less than five minutes, researchers said on Thursday, adding it could be used in mass testing at airports and businesses. The university said it hoped to start product development of the testing device in early 2021 and have an approved device available six months afterwards. The device is able to detect the coronavirus and distinguish it from other viruses with high accuracy, the researchers said in a pre-print study.

Although the Oxford platform will only be ready next year, the tests could help manage the pandemic in time for next winter. Health officials have warned that the world will need to live with coronavirus even if a vaccine is developed.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-britain-antigen-idUSKBN27014F>

Does the flu vaccine affect my chances of getting COVID-19?

(AP) Does the flu vaccine affect my chances of getting COVID-19?

The flu vaccine protects you from seasonal influenza, not the coronavirus — but avoiding the flu is especially important this year. Health officials and medical groups are urging people to get either the flu shot or nasal spray, so that doctors and hospitals don't face the extra strain of having to treat influenza in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Not to mention the confusion factor: The illnesses have such similar early symptoms that people who get the flu may mistakenly think they have COVID-19.

Read more: <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-us-news-pandemics-flu-infectious-diseases-7863a75a59dc725e97daee6aa0796611>

As Halloween approaches,

is it a safety hazard to visit haunted houses during a pandemic?

Read more: <https://www.kyforward.com/keven-moore-as-halloween-approaches-is-it-a-safety-hazard-to-visit-haunted-houses-during-a-pandemic/>

Related from CDC - ***Trick or Treating and Other Halloween Activities***

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/halloween.html>

Also see... CDC COVID-19 "What's New?"

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/whats-new-all.html>

Dr. Fauci Broaches the Subject on Everyone's Mind

"What about Thanksgiving?"

<http://newser.com/s297464>

FDA extends pregnancy warning for common pain relievers

(AP) Pregnant women should avoid a group of common pain relievers including Advil and Aleve for the last four months of pregnancy, federal health officials said Thursday, expanding the warning from three months.

The Food and Drug Administration said the fever-and-pain-reducing drugs can cause a rare but serious complication that can harm the fetus. They can lead to kidney problems in the fetus that can result in low levels of amniotic fluid that fills the womb.

The warning applies to a family of anti-inflammatory drugs that includes both over-the-counter ingredients like ibuprofen and prescription-strength drugs like Celebrex. The pills and tablets are among the most widely taken medications in the U.S. and include hundreds of generic cold, flu and sleep aids that often combine multiple pharmaceutical ingredients.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/medication-pain-relievers-b90ec38d5a6eea92890cd498a934c36a>

USPS Does 180 on Mail Service Changes

(Newser) The US Postal Service agreed Wednesday to reverse changes that slowed mail service nationwide, settling a lawsuit filed by Montana Gov. Steve Bullock. The lawsuit filed against Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and the USPS on Sept. 9 argued changes implemented in June harmed access to mail services in Montana, resulting in delayed delivery of medical prescriptions, payments, and job applications, and impeding the ability of Montana residents to vote by mail, per the [AP](#). The postal service agreed to reverse all changes, which included reduced retail hours, removal of collection boxes and mail sorting machines, closure or consolidation of mail processing facilities, restriction of late or extra trips for timely mail delivery, and banning or restricting overtime. The settlement agreement, which applies to all states, comes after a federal judge temporarily blocked the controversial USPS changes on Sept. 17. The agreement also requires the USPS to prioritize election mail. Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/297478/usps-does-180-on-mail-service-changes.html>

Time to Ditch Those Awful Zoom Calls

(NPR) Lately, Zoom meetings have been hitting a nerve with CEOs.

JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon says there's no vital ["creative combustion"](#) happening in virtual settings.

American Airlines CEO Doug Parker [finds](#) Zoom meetings awful.

And Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella calls them [transactional](#), where "30 minutes into your first video meeting in the morning ... you're fatigued."

Early during the pandemic lockdowns, in April, many were touting the benefits. James Gorman, CEO of Morgan Stanley, said his bank would need [much less real estate](#) in the future because even though he was a fan of having teams together, "we've proven we can operate with no footprint."

Now members of the C-suite have gone full boomerang on Zoom meetings. After finding them awesome and productive at first, they're now questioning how much they really achieve and are suggesting they lead to a sterile work culture lacking in imagination.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2020/10/14/923428794/from-the-folks-who-brought-you-boring-meetings-ceos-want-to-ditch-sterile-zoom-c>

Scientists create new super-enzyme that eats plastic bottles six times faster

(The Guardian) A super-enzyme that degrades plastic bottles six times faster than before has been created by scientists and could be used for recycling within a year or two. The super-enzyme, derived from bacteria that naturally evolved the ability to eat plastic, enables the full recycling of the bottles. Scientists believe combining it with enzymes that break down cotton could also allow mixed-fabric clothing to be recycled. Today, [millions of tonnes](#) of such clothing is either dumped in landfill or incinerated.

The super-enzyme was engineered by linking two separate enzymes, both of which were found in the plastic-eating bug discovered at a [Japanese waste site in 2016](#). The researchers revealed an engineered version of the [first enzyme in 2018](#), which started breaking down the plastic in a few days. But the super-enzyme gets to work six times faster.

Learn more: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/28/new-super-enzyme-eats-plastic-bottles-six-times-faster>

Florida Bomb Squad detonates explosive found in Pumpkin

Learn more: <https://www.firstcoastnews.com/article/news/local/pumpkin-with-explosives-found-in-starke-bomb-squad-on-scene/77-b0293ac6-9177-4cc8-8f6c-e4d5169caa7c>

HHS Awards Nearly \$500 million to Support Primary Health Care Workforce Nationwide

[Read the release](#)

Earth breaks September heat record, may reach warmest year

(AP) Earth sweltered to a record hot September last month, with U.S. climate officials saying there's nearly a two-to-one chance that 2020 will end up as the globe's hottest year on record.

Boosted by human-caused climate change, global temperatures [averaged 60.75 degrees](#) (15.97 Celsius) last month, edging out 2015 and 2016 for the hottest September in 141 years of recordkeeping, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Wednesday. That's 1.75 degrees (0.97 degrees Celsius) above the 20th century average.

Earth has had 44 straight Septembers where it has been warmer than the 20th century average and 429 straight months without a cooler than normal month, according to NOAA. The hottest seven Septembers on record have been the last seven.

Read full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/science-climate-climate-change-5282059feae2661424d7ff3fd5ad4044>

KY Public Health COVID Webinar

Tuesday, October 27; 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM ET

Register: <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/rt/905613162489223694>

Note: During the presentation, they will give a brief update on the current COVID-19 situation in Kentucky and will cover additional topics relevant to the COVID-19 response, including BinaxNOW testing, antigen test interpretation, vaccine preparation update, and any reporting and surveillance issues for COVID-19.

KY Overdose KyOD2A Happenings Newsletter

The [October issue](#) of the [KyOD2A Happenings](#) newsletter shares information about drug overdose prevention research, community initiatives, data reports, and resources that are relevant to Kentucky. In the October issue read about:

- Statewide opioid overdose trends during the pandemic;
- Accessing data to help bring community resources to combat drug overdose in Kentucky;
- Improving quality of care for babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome;
- Providing naloxone training in Northern Kentucky with the help of an OD2A mini-grant;
- A recap of the 2020 Kentucky Harm Reduction Summit;
- Upcoming events, new reports, and available positions.

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 (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.