



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for October 16, 2020

Kentucky Again Records More Than 1,000 New Daily Cases of COVID-19

(WFPL) Kentucky's escalation in COVID-19 spread continued on Friday with another daily total exceeding 1,000 cases. The state reported 1,319 cases and four new deaths. Since the beginning of the pandemic, more than 85,500 Kentuckians have been infected with the disease, and 1,300 have died.

"Our COVID report today adds to a tough week," Gov. Andy Beshear said. "We need to buckle down; we need to wear masks; we need to follow that rule of no gatherings above 10 people at our homes. We need to social distance and we shouldn't play politics with this virus. It is real. It doesn't matter if there's an election a couple of weeks away."

Beshear also reported a cluster of cases at another Kentucky prison, Little Sandy Correctional Complex.

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/kentucky-again-records-more-than-1000-new-daily-cases-of-covid-19/>

Facing Many Unknowns, States Rush To Plan Distribution Of COVID-19 Vaccines

(NPR) Even the most effective, safest coronavirus vaccine won't work to curb the spread of the virus unless a large number of people get immunized. And getting a vaccine from the manufacturers all the way into people's arms requires complex logistics — and will take many months.

Now, public health officers across the country are rushing to finish up the first draft of plans for how to distribute a coronavirus vaccine if and when it is authorized, and they're grappling with a host of unknowns as they try to design a system for getting the vaccine out to everyone who wants it.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention gave state immunization managers [only 30 days](#) to draft a comprehensive COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan. Friday is the day those plans are due.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/10/16/924247360/facing-many-unknowns-states-rush-to-plan-distribution-of-covid-19-vaccines>

US surpasses 8 million COVID-19 cases

(CIDRAP) The United States surpassed 8 million confirmed COVID-19 cases today since the beginning of the pandemic, as a new surge of infections in the Midwest and West brings daily case numbers back to levels not seen since the peak days of July and early August.

The US reported 63,610 new COVID-19 cases yesterday, with 820 new deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins COVID-19 [dashboard](#). It's the first time since Aug 1 that the nation has recorded more than 60,000 new infections in a single day. The overall number of new daily infections has been climbing since mid-September, and the national 7-day moving average of new cases is at 53,400.

The impact of the rise in new cases is reflected in the country's hospitalization numbers. Data from the [COVID Tracking Project](#) show that 37,308 people are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, up from 28,608 on Sep 28. Throughout the pandemic, COVID-19 hospitalizations have typically started rising a few weeks after increases in new infections.

Among the states where hospitals are starting to feel the strain is Wisconsin, where COVID-19 hospitalizations yesterday hit an all-time high of 1,043, with 264 people in intensive care units (ICUs), according to the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#). State health officials told the paper that ICUs across the state are more than 90% full, and hospitals in every region are reporting current or imminent staffing shortages.

Elsewhere in the country, Indiana health officials say COVID-19 hospitalizations have risen to their [highest level since May](#), and the [Kansas City Star](#) reports that some Kansas City area hospitals are turning away ambulances with COVID-19 patients because their beds are already filled. Both Missouri and Kansas are seeing surges in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/10/us-surpasses-8-million-covid-19-cases>

Pfizer's Update on Vaccine Is a 'Shift in Tone'

<http://newser.com/s297523>

Trump Announces Partnership With CVS, Walgreens For Nursing Home COVID Vaccination

The Trump administration announced a new partnership with two major national pharmacy chains to facilitate the distribution of a future coronavirus vaccine to nursing homes on Friday.

"Today, I'm thrilled to announce that we have just finalized a partnership with CVS and Walgreens," President Trump told a group in Fort Myers, Fla., at an event centered on seniors. He said the plan was for the pharmacies to "deliver the vaccine directly to nursing homes at no cost to our seniors."

The Pharmacy Partnership for Long Term Care Program is part of the Trump administration's Operation Warp Speed effort. No coronavirus vaccines have yet been authorized by the government, though several vaccine candidates are in the final stages of clinical trials.

The pharmacy program "provides end-to-end management of the COVID-19 vaccination process," Butler explained. That includes scheduling on site clinic dates with each facility, ordering supplies like syringes, and ensuring cold-chain management of the vaccine. Once the vaccine is on site, pharmacy staff will administer it to residents and staff and report it to the required public health department.

The program will be free for facilities, but optional. "This is voluntary. They have to opt-in," Paul Mango, deputy chief of staff for policy at the Department of Health and Human Services told reporters. "This will be something that will be available to every nursing home and senior living facility in the country."

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/10/16/924662542/trump-announces-partnership-with-cvs-walgreens-for-nursing-home-covid-vaccinatio>

----- **What's Coming This Winter? Here's How Many More Could Die In The Pandemic**

(NPR) Coronavirus cases are rising rapidly in many states as the U.S. heads into the winter months. And forecasters predict staggering growth in infections and deaths if current trends continue.

It's exactly the kind of scenario that public health experts have long warned could be in store for the country, if it did not aggressively tamp down on infections over the summer.

"We were really hoping to crater the cases in preparation for a bad winter," says Tara Smith, [a professor of epidemiology](#) at Kent State University. "We've done basically the opposite."

After hitting an all-time high in July, cases did drop significantly, but the U.S. never reached a level where the public health system could truly get a handle on the outbreak.

Now infections are on the rise again.

The U.S. is averaging more than 52,000 new cases a day (the highest it's been since mid-August), driven by ballooning outbreaks across the country's interior, especially in the Midwest, the Great Plains and the West

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/10/16/924240204/how-bad-will-coronavirus-be-this-winter-model-projects-170-000-more-u-s-deaths>

----- **More than 1,000 current and former CDC officers condemn U.S. COVID-19 response**

(Wall Street Journal) More than 1,000 current and former officers of an elite disease-fighting program at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have signed an open letter expressing dismay at the nation's public-health response to the Covid-19 pandemic and calling for the federal agency to play a more central role.

"The absence of national leadership on Covid-19 is unprecedented and dangerous," said the letter, signed by current and former officers of the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service of outbreak investigators. "CDC should be at the forefront of a successful response to this global public health emergency."

Signers included two former CDC directors: Jeffrey Koplan, who led the agency under Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, and Tom Frieden, who served under President Barack Obama.

All of the signatories were writing to "express our concern about the ominous politicization and silencing of the nation's health protection agency" during the current pandemic, said their letter, which was published Friday in the Epidemiology Monitor, a newsletter for epidemiologists.

Read more (may require a subscription): <https://www.wsj.com/articles/more-than-1-000-current-and-former-cdc-officers-condemn-u-s-covid-19-response-11602884265>

----- **President denies, then changes course, approves California relief for 6 fires**

(AP) President Donald Trump's administration abruptly reversed course and approved California's application for disaster relief funds to clean up damage from six recent deadly and destructive blazes that have scorched the state, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Friday.

"Just got off the phone with President Trump who has approved our Major Disaster Declaration request. Grateful for his quick response," Newsom said in a brief statement.

Neither he nor the White House gave details on why the administration shifted positions less than two days after it initially denied the state's request for a declaration that officials said could provide the state with hundreds of millions of dollars.

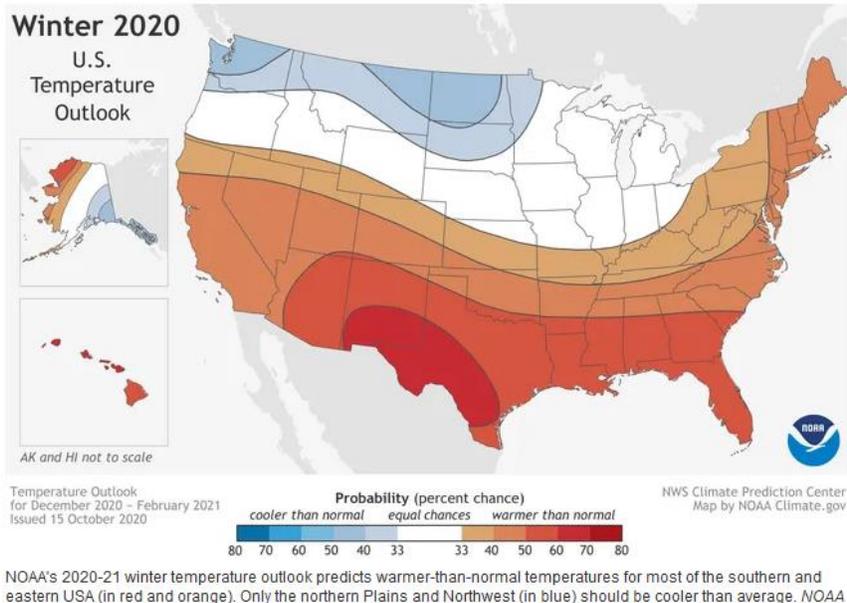
Full story: <https://apnews.com/article/wildfires-san-francisco-fires-california-heat-waves-bcf51e7cce54882a9580431ee97e36ff>

**Food prices rise as nations stock up in worsening pandemic
China among nations stockpiling**

Learn more: <https://www.marketplace.org/2020/10/16/global-food-prices-rise-countries-stockpile-amid-worsening-pandemic/>

**Winter should be mostly mild with few blizzards,
but much of USA could see drought, forecasters say**

- Much of the nation's southern tier and the East Coast should see warmer-than-average temperatures this winter.
- The drought may end up being the main story of the winter.
- The La Niña climate pattern is one of the main drivers of weather in the U.S. and around the world.



Full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/10/15/noaa-winter-weather-forecast-la-nina-drought-blizzards/3664846001/>

**ASPR TRACIE Child Emotional and Social Effects
Webinar Recording Now Available**

HHS ASPR's Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE), in collaboration with the ASPR Pediatric Centers of Excellence, hosted the first webinar in a series titled, Hidden Consequences: How the COVID Pandemic is Impacting Children. In this second webinar, presenters focused on food and financial insecurity, racial disparities, the impact of social determinants on children's health, return to school and daycare, and alternate childcare.

The presentation and link to the webinar are [now available](#). The title page of the presentation includes a [link to the recording](#). **Please note:** you will need to enter your name and email address to access the recording.

[Registration is open](#) for the other two webinars in this series discussing the impact of COVID-19 on children with special healthcare needs and how secondary/other disasters may affect children during the pandemic. The recording from the first webinar, Child Health and Wellness, is also available.

For additional information on ASPR TRACIE and our resources, please go to <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov>.

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.