



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for October 23, 2020

## As Cases Rise, Gov. Beshear Calls on Kentuckians to Plan for a Safe Halloween

*This year, families must do things differently to protect each other; online [guidance](#) can help*

(From Press Release) As we get closer to Halloween, Gov. Andy Beshear said many kids, including his own, are very excited about the holiday. He encouraged Kentucky families to make plans now for how to celebrate safely as COVID-19 cases rise across the commonwealth. The Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) has shared guidance [online](#) to help people choose fun, low-risk Halloween activities. Among the suggestions:

- ✓ At all events and activities, wear a face covering, sanitize hands often and maintain six feet of distance from others.
- ✓ Place individually wrapped candy outside on the porch, driveway or table.
- ✓ If you plan to trick-or-treat, do so in family groups in your own neighborhood and avoid congregating in large groups.
- ✓ Consider safer alternatives to trick-or-treating, including virtual Halloween costume contests, drive-by costume or car decorating contests with judges who are social distancing or a Halloween movie or game night at your home with your family.

Dr. Steven Stack, commissioner of the KDPH, also updated Kentuckians that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now [defines a "close contact"](#) as someone who was within six feet of an infected individual for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. The CDC previously defined a "close contact" as someone who spent at least 15 consecutive minutes within six feet of a confirmed coronavirus case.

Case information – as of 4 PM on Thursday, there were 1,330 new cases, with 17 new deaths. The positivity rate is 5.30%. 800 are currently hospitalized, with 214 in the 214 and 105 on ventilators.

### **Related - Hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients are at a record high, while ICU use is at a five-month high**

[https://www.wdrb.com/news/kentucky-covid-19-hospitalizations-rising-cases-and-deaths-on-pace-to-reach-record-highs-this/article\\_0ffdc6c6-14b6-11eb-a304-974d34d0470d.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/kentucky-covid-19-hospitalizations-rising-cases-and-deaths-on-pace-to-reach-record-highs-this/article_0ffdc6c6-14b6-11eb-a304-974d34d0470d.html)

### **US regulators seek advice on thorny issues as vaccines near**

(AP) Scientific advisers told U.S. regulators Thursday they're concerned that allowing emergency use of a COVID-19 vaccine could damage confidence in the shots and make it harder to ever find out how well they really work.

The Food and Drug Administration may have to decide by year's end whether to allow use of the first vaccines against the coronavirus. Facing growing public fears that politics may override science, the FDA took the unusual step of assembling more than a dozen independent scientists to review if its standards are high enough to judge the shots.

The panelists generally supported guidelines for the vaccines that the FDA recently issued, over White House objections. Those guidelines define exact safety and effectiveness criteria that will be required if companies seek special permission to use their vaccines before massive final studies are complete.

Learn more: <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-e49203f5c55ba593ca587a56d0116b97>

### **Related - [Moderna fully enrolls phase 3 trial](#) for COVID-19 vaccine candidate, with heavy emphasis on traditionally under-represented communities.**

### **Next up in hunt for COVID-19 vaccine: Testing shots in kids**

<https://news360.com/article/540637125>

### **Down syndrome tied to 10 times the risk of COVID-19 death**

(CIDRAP) In findings that could place another group onto the COVID at-risk list, researchers in the United Kingdom estimated in a [research letter](#) published yesterday that adults with Down syndrome are at almost five times the risk for COVID-19–related hospitalization and 10 times the risk for related death. The study, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* and led by researchers from the University of Oxford, involved 8.26 million adults, 4,053 of them diagnosed as having Down syndrome. Learn more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/10/down-syndrome-tied-10-times-risk-covid-19-death>

## FDA approves first COVID-19 drug: antiviral remdesivir

*U.S. regulators have approved the first drug to treat COVID-19*

(ABC) U.S. regulators on Thursday approved the first drug to treat COVID-19: remdesivir, an antiviral medicine given to hospitalized patients through an IV. The drug, which California-based Gilead Sciences Inc. is calling Veklury, cut the time to recovery by five days — from 15 days to 10 on average — in a large study led by the U.S. National Institutes of Health. It had been authorized for use on an emergency basis since spring, and now becomes the first drug to win full Food and Drug Administration approval for treating COVID-19.

Veklury is approved for people at least 12 years old and weighing at least 88 pounds (40 kilograms) who are hospitalized for a coronavirus infection. For patients younger than 12, the FDA will still allow the drug's use in certain cases under its previous emergency authorization.

Full story: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/fda-approves-covid-19-drug-antiviral-remdesivir-73770583>

## Puerto Rico 911 shutdown due to coronavirus creates confusion, anger

Read more: <https://apnews.com/article/pandemics-virus-outbreak-puerto-rico-latin-america-emergency-management-3f6a45525f720b639371e0c1445f4371>

***No, mouthwash will not save you from the coronavirus, despite that study going around.***

<https://news360.com/article/540650505>

## Wisconsin admits 1st patient to field hospital, reports record COVID-19 deaths

(ABC) [Wisconsin](#) admitted its first patient to a field hospital in the Wisconsin State Fair Park, near Milwaukee, on Wednesday, the same day that the state reported a record 48 deaths from the novel [coronavirus](#). The field hospital, a 530-bed facility which opened last week, is meant to relieve pressure on local hospitals, which have been rapidly filling with COVID-19 patients as Wisconsin's outbreak worsens. In some areas, 90% of ICU beds are full, according to the governor's office.

Learn more: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wisconsin-admits-1st-patient-field-hospital-reports-record/story?id=73759874>

[NPR Podcast & story](#)

## For-Profit Nursing Homes' Pleas for Government Money Brings Scrutiny

CDC Coronavirus [What's New extracts](#)

- [Rapid Adaptation of HIV Treatment Programs in Response to COVID-19 - Namibia, 2020](#) Thursday, October 22, 2020
- [Risk for In-Hospital Complications Associated with COVID-19 and Influenza - Veterans Health Administration, United States, October 1, 2018-May 31, 2020](#) Thursday, October 22, 2020
- [Excess Deaths Associated with COVID-19, by Age and Race and Ethnicity - United States, January 26-October 3, 2020](#) Thursday, October 22, 2020
- [Race, Ethnicity, and Age Trends in Persons Who Died from COVID-19 - United States, May-August 2020](#) Thursday, October 22, 2020
- [COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing among Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant \(RIM\) Populations: Important Considerations for Health Departments](#) Thursday, October 22, 2020
- [Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in Non-healthcare Workplaces: Information for Employers](#) Thursday, October 22, 2020
- [Data on COVID-19 during Pregnancy](#) Thursday, October 22, 2020
- [Early Release: COVID-19 in a Correctional Facility Employee Following Multiple Brief Exposures to Persons with COVID-19 - Vermont, July-August 2020](#) Wednesday, October 21, 2020
- [For COVID-19 Clues, Researchers Look to the Sewer](#) Wednesday, October 21, 2020

## 13 South Koreans Die After Getting Flu Shots

*Authorities say they haven't found a direct link between vaccination and deaths*

Learn more: <https://www.newser.com/story/297778/south-korea-investigates-13-deaths-after-flu-shots.html>

## US DOJ Effort Would Link Federal Police Grants To Use-Of-Force Standards

Learn more: [Washington Post](#) [Subscription may be required.]

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 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](mailto: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.