



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for October 25, 2020

Frightening: Kentucky reports record weekly COVID-19 cases and death, Record high hospitalizations

(WDRB) -- Kentucky's COVID-19 crisis continues to escalate, with the state on Saturday reporting a record high number of cases for a single day and a record high number of hospitalizations. The state also reported weekly record highs in cases and deaths.

Gov. Andy Beshear said Saturday's report was "frightening" and *he would issue new recommendations Monday for counties that are in zones where community spread is out of control*. According to the state's incidence rate map on Saturday, that included Jefferson, Shelby and Bullitt counties among nearly half the state. Only one of the state's 120 counties was on track, the state said.

Kentucky's case spike is coinciding with rising cases almost all across the country. The U.S. recorded a record high number of 83,757 new cases Friday, according to the Associated Press, and even adjusted for a higher number of cases, things are trending in the wrong.

Kentucky reported 1,738 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, a record high for a single day, excluding a day from this month that included hundreds of backlogged cases. Beshear also reported eight new COVID-19-related deaths Friday, bringing the weekly death toll to a record high 92, which is 20 more than the previous record.

Full story: https://www.wdrb.com/news/frightening-kentucky-reports-record-weekly-covid-19-cases-and-deaths-record-high-hospitalizations/article_27daea50-1647-11eb-a9ae-e3136ec5c5f0.html

Press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=430>

AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson resume late-stage Covid-19 vaccine trials

(NBC) AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson announced Friday that they would resume their phase 3 clinical trials on Covid-19 vaccine candidates in the United States.

[AstraZeneca's trial was put on hold](#) just days after it began in early September, following news of a British participant who developed a spinal cord injury after receiving the experimental vaccine. Johnson & Johnson's trial was [paused](#) on Oct. 12 after an unspecified injury in one of its study participants.

Full story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/astrazeneca-johnson-johnson-resume-late-stage-covid-19-vaccine-trials-n1244579>

Texas governor requests use of El Paso-area military hospital for non-COVID-19 patients as cases surge

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/texas-governor-requests-use-of-el-paso-area-military-hospital-for-non-covid-19-patients-as-cases-surge/>

Related - El Paso funeral homes prepare refrigerated units to house bodies as Covid-19 cases in the Texas city soar

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/23/us/el-paso-covid-surge-funeral-homes-trnd/index.html>

Kentucky schools to receive over 2 million masks from federal government

Learn more: <https://wtky.com/article/mcconnell-kentucky-schools-to-receive-over-2-million-masks-from-federal-government/34470480>

Related - Mask Use by Americans Now Tops 90%, Poll Finds

<https://news360.com/article/540755877>

Coronavirus pandemic is causing 'unacceptable' shortages in US drug supplies, report says

The coronavirus pandemic is causing "unacceptable" shortages of drug supplies in the United States, according to a report from the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota.

The report says shortages have limited 29 of 40 drugs critical for treating COVID-19 patients, including propofol, albuterol, midazolam, hydroxychloroquine, fentanyl, azithromycin and morphine, according to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. The FDA, which has more stringent criteria for shortages, show 18 of 40 are on the Drug Shortage list.

Another 67 out of 156 critical acute drugs — including diazepam, phenobarbital, lidocaine and acetaminophen — are in short supply, the report said.

"Drug shortages can be a matter of life and death, and some shortages mean that a life-saving drug is not available to U.S. patients at any price," the authors wrote.

"The urgency with the drug shortage supply issue is related directly to the major increase in COVID-19 cases that we will experience in the coming months," Michael Osterholm, the director of CIDRAP, said in a news release. Read full story: <https://news360.com/article/540691764>

'Toxic': CDC staffers say morale inside the public health agency has plummeted during the pandemic

Learn more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-care/toxic-cdc-staffers-say-morale-inside-public-health-agency-has-n1244661>

Tropical Storm Zeta heads for Gulf of Mexico next week



Tropical Depression Twenty-Eight was upgraded to Tropical Storm Zeta in the Caribbean Sea early Sunday, according to the National Hurricane Center. The system is expected to move slowly near western Cuba and the Yucatan on Monday and pick up speed as it moves into the Gulf of Mexico Tuesday and eventually makes a turn to the north.

The turn to the north will be dependent on an approaching cold front, so there is a lot of uncertainty regarding the timing, track and potential impacts along the Gulf Coast.

It is forecast to become a hurricane by Tuesday before weakening as it approaches the northern Gulf coast Wednesday.

Full story: <https://www.wdsu.com/article/tropical-depression-twenty-eight-forms-in-caribbean-moving-into-gulf-next-week/34470385>

**The return to Standard time is coming November 1
Most Americans Want to End Seasonal Time Changes: Survey**

(Health Day News) As most of America prepares for the Nov. 1 return of standard time, 63% want one fixed, year-round time, a new survey finds.

"Evidence of the negative impacts of seasonal time changes continue to accumulate, and there is real momentum behind the push to end seasonal time changes," said Dr. Kannan Ramar, president of the American Academy of [Sleep](#) Medicine (AASM), which favors a fixed, nationwide time.

A recent position statement from AASM said public health and safety would benefit if seasonal time changes were eliminated. It called for permanent use of standard time, which it said more closely aligns with the daily rhythms of the body's internal clock.

More than 20 organizations have endorsed the statement. They include the National Safety Council, the National Parent Teacher Association and the World [Sleep](#) Society.

AASM noted that time changes increase the risk of [stroke](#), hospital admissions and [sleep](#) loss, and also add to inflammation, one of the body's responses to [stress](#). Researchers recently reported an 18% increase in adverse medical events due to human error in the week after switching to daylight saving time in the spring.

Full story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=248134>

US suicide rate fell last year after decade of steady rise

(AP) — The U.S. suicide rate fell slightly last year, the first annual decline in more than a decade, according to new government data. It's a small decrease and the data is preliminary, but the decline is "really exciting," said Dr. Christine Moutier, chief medical officer of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

The fall may be partly due to years of suicide prevention efforts, like increasing mental health screenings, she said. Other factors, like the pre-pandemic economy, might also have played a role, she added.

Full story: <https://apnews.com/article/pandemics-virus-outbreak-mental-health-health-suicide-prevention-3d1a7e9d2f5152952e000db2cd952595>

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.