



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update

for October 26, 2020

Beshear gives new recommendations to 'red zone' counties to help combat spread of COVID-19

(WAVE)_ After Kentucky governor Andy Beshear announced Saturday he and his family were cleared from quarantine, Beshear returned to the Kentucky State Capitol for his daily COVID-19 update. Beshear started mentioning the rising number of cases within the commonwealth.

On Sunday, Beshear announced the previous week was the [highest weekly total of new COVID cases](#) since the pandemic began with 9,335 cases reported. There were 953 new cases reported on Monday (he said it was the highest on record), according to the Governor. The total number of COVID-19 cases within the commonwealth is now at 97,866. Positivity rate on a seven-day rolling average is now at 5.84 percent. Three new deaths due to COVID-19 were also confirmed in Monday's update, bringing the total number of deaths due to the virus in Kentucky to 1,410.

Beshear said there have been multiple steps put into place to protect Kentuckians and prevent the spread of the virus, and on Monday, new recommendations were provided to counties within a "red zone," a county that has 25 or more average daily cases per 100,000 people.

"We have more red counties than ever before," Beshear said, showing off an incident report map.

The new set of recommendations include:

- Employers allow employees to work from home when possible
- Non-critical government offices to operate virtually
- Reduce in-person shopping, order online or curbside pickup
- Order take-out; avoid dining in restaurants or bars
- Prioritize businesses that follow and enforce mask mandate and other guidelines
- Reschedule, postpone or cancel public and private events
- Do not host or attend gatherings of any size
- Avoid non-essential activities outside of your home
- Reduce overall activity and contacts, and follow existing guidance, including 10 steps to defeat COVID-19

Full story: <https://www.wave3.com/2020/10/26/beshear-gives-new-recommendations-red-zone-counties-help-combat-spread-covid/>

----- CDC Clinicians Update

COVID-19–Associated Hospitalizations among Health Care Personnel

Read full report: ["COVID-19–Associated Hospitalizations Among Health Care Personnel — COVID-NET, 13 States, March 1–May 31, 2020"](#)

----- For Covid-19 vaccine recipients, CDC to roll out cell phone-based monitoring system

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/22/health/covid-vaccine-cdc-v-safe-program-bn/index.html>

----- Moderna's large-scale US Covid-19 vaccine trial reaches target of 30,000 participants

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/22/health/moderna-covid-19-vaccine-trial-30000-participants/index.html>

----- Despite the Trump administration's new policy, many pharmacies still won't vaccinate children against flu

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/25/health/pharmacy-kids-flu-shot-trump-policy/index.html>

----- Johns Hopkins: Health Security Extracts from [October 26](#)

[At Capacity': Covid-19 Patients Push U.S. Hospitals to Brink](#) (*New York Times*) More than 41,000 people are currently hospitalized with the coronavirus in the United States, a 40 percent rise in the past month, and cooler weather that pushes more people indoors is threatening to expand the outbreak still more. At least 14 states saw more people hospitalized for the virus on a day in the past week than on any other day in the pandemic, according to the Covid Tracking Project. Seven more states are nearing their peaks.

[See also: Utah's Hospitals Prepare to Ration Care as a Record Number of Coronavirus Patients Flood their ICUs](#) (*The Salt Lake Tribune*)

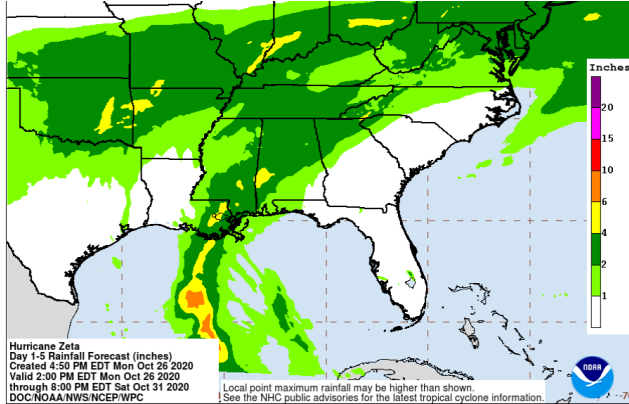
Hurricane Zeta forms in the Atlantic; moves toward the Gulf Coast

(Weather.Com) Zeta is now a Category 1 hurricane with 80 mph winds en route to Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and the northern U.S. Gulf Coast, where it's likely to bring heavy rainfall, strong winds and storm surge. Zeta is the Atlantic's 11th hurricane of the season.

Zeta is centered in the northwest Caribbean right now and is moving northwestward toward Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Warm sea-surface temperatures and favorable upper-level winds should allow Zeta to strengthen some as it heads toward the Yucatan Peninsula and the Gulf of Mexico Monday night into Tuesday.

Increasing wind shear and cooler waters should prevent additional strengthening of Zeta as it approaches the northern U.S. Gulf Coast by midweek. Zeta could be near or at hurricane strength when it makes landfall late Wednesday, somewhere from Louisiana to the western Florida Panhandle, according to the latest National Hurricane Center (NHC) forecast. It's important to note that impacts from rainfall, wind and storm surge along the northern Gulf Coast will largely be the same no matter whether Zeta is a strong tropical storm or a low-end hurricane when it nears landfall.

Heavy rainfall, storm surge and strong winds will begin to impact the northern Gulf Coast Tuesday night and



especially Wednesday. Here's a look at what we know about the potential impacts right now. There will be a broad area of soaking rainfall across the southern and eastern U.S. during the second half of the week ahead. That's because Zeta's moisture will be pulled northward by a separate weather system tracking eastward across the country. That means a broad area from the South into parts of the Ohio Valley and mid-Atlantic could see at least an inch of rainfall from this setup. Heavier totals are likely in some areas, and that might trigger flash flooding in spots.

Rainfall could be heaviest near where the center of Zeta tracks inland through the southern and eastern United

States Tuesday night through Thursday. Areas from the central U.S. Gulf Coast to eastern Mississippi, Alabama, northern Georgia, the southern Appalachians and mid-Atlantic could see rainfall totals of 2 to 4 inches (locally up to 6 inches), according to the NHC.

Read more: <https://weather.com/storms/hurricane/news/2020-10-26-hurricane-zeta-mexico-yucatan-united-states-gulf-coast>

NHTSA Launches Campaign To Reduce Pedestrian Deaths

(IACP News) The [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/24) reports the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration declared October as the first-ever National Pedestrian Safety Month as pedestrian deaths have risen more than 50% over the past 10 years. NHTSA Associate Administrator for Research and Program Development Nanda Srinivasan said, "Nobody should die whether walking to work, school, running errands or just for fun." The Star-Tribune says statistics from the Governors Highway Safety Association show that pedestrian deaths had been falling from 1989 to 2009, but there has been a sharp turn since then. The cause of the shift "is still unclear," but the GHSA suggests the turnaround could be attributed to speeding, distracted driving, alcohol, larger vehicles, or more people walking at night.

Deadline Extended: NIOSH's Elastomeric Half Mask Respirator Federal Register Notice

The deadline to respond to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) [Federal Register Notice titled "A National Elastomeric Half Mask Respirator Strategy for Use in Healthcare Settings During an Infectious Disease Outbreak/Pandemic"](#) has been extended to December 14, 2020.

Elastomeric half mask respirators are reusable respirators that may be worn in a healthcare setting and supplement the supply of disposable respirators available to healthcare workers. The NIOSH—in coordination with the Strategic National Stockpile—posted a [Federal Register Notice titled "A National Elastomeric Half Mask Respirator Strategy for Use in Healthcare Settings During an Infectious Disease Outbreak/Pandemic"](#).

Through this Federal Register Notice, NIOSH is seeking input regarding the national distribution plan of purchased elastomeric half mask respirators, as well as identifying potential organizations interested in receiving a portion of these elastomeric half mask respirators with the commitment to provide a report of user acceptability and feasibility of implementation. < Click here to [Learn more](#).>

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.