



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for October 28, 2020

### 'Rescued from this evil':

#### **179 arrested, 45 missing children recovered in Ohio's 'Operation Autumn Hope'**

(USA Today) Law enforcement agencies across Ohio cooperated in a monthlong investigation, dubbed Operation Autumn Hope, that led to 179 arrests and the recovery of 45 missing children.

In all, 109 human trafficking victims were rescued and referred to social services, the [Ohio Attorney General's Office reported](#). More than 50 agencies participated in the operation, which also included the arrest of a man and the recovery of two children in West Virginia. More than 70 missing and exploited children cases were cleared, according to the attorney general's office.

"These vulnerable members of our population usually slip through the cracks," Sgt. Dana Hess, director of the Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, said in a statement. "This operation highlighted the vast number of potential victims and allowed law enforcement the opportunity to make contact and link them to services."

The operation included four priorities, according to the attorney general's office: "Rescuing victims of human trafficking and referring them to social services, recovering missing and exploited children, apprehending those seeking to have sex with a minor" and "arresting male johns seeking to buy sex."

Full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/10/26/operation-autumn-hope-45-missing-children-ohio-179-arrests/6049990002/>

#### **Related - 'People don't want to talk about it':**

[Reports of kids being exploited online have spiked amid coronavirus pandemic](#)

#### **Almost half a million Americans contract COVID-19 in past week as infections surge**

(Reuters) - Nearly half a million people in the United States have contracted the novel coronavirus in the last seven days, according to a Reuters tally, as cases and hospitalizations set fresh records in hot spots in the Midwest. More than 5,600 people died from the virus nationwide in the last week, with hospitalizations shooting up 13%, a Reuters analysis showed.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-usa/almost-half-a-million-americans-contract-covid-19-in-past-week-as-infections-surge-idUSL1N2HI1Z9>

#### **KY COVID Update for Wednesday**

1,864 new cases today. - Positivity rate: 6.07% - 64 **RED** counties today.

See more daily data here: <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

Press releases: <https://governor.ky.gov/news>

#### **Homeless Camps Less Risky Than Shelters for COVID-19**

(MedPage Today) Homeless people who gather in outdoor encampments were less likely to test positive for SARS-CoV-2 compared to those housed in shelters, researchers reported.

The rate of SARS-CoV-2 positive tests among 650 people living in shelters in the Denver area was 9%, compared with a 3% positivity rate for 281 people living in tent encampments in the area ( $P<0.01$ ), reported Sarah Rowan, MD, of the University of Colorado and Bernard F. Gipson Sr. Eastside Family Health Center in Denver, in a presentation at the [2020 virtual meeting of IDWeek](#).

When testing for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies -- a measure of previous infection -- the researchers found that 24% of shelter users were positive compared with 8% of those in encampments ( $P<0.01$ ). Although Rowan said there was no difference in antibody positivity by race, ethnicity, or sex, the people who tested positive were about 54 years old, while the average age of those who tested negative was 43 years ( $P<0.01$ ).

Full story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/idweek/89353>

#### **Mask-Wearing Is Up In the U.S., but Young People Are Still Too Lax, CDC Survey Finds**

(NPR) More Americans may be wearing masks than early last spring, but other recommended behaviors to stop the pandemic's spread haven't kept pace, according to a new federal survey. And young people are the least likely to take needed steps to stop the virus, the data suggest.

The proportion of U.S. adults reporting wearing face masks increased from 78% in April to 89% in June, according to the [nationally representative survey](#) released by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Tuesday. But the survey found either no change or a decline in other behaviors aimed at preventing the spread of the coronavirus, such as hand-washing, social distancing and avoiding public or crowded places.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/10/27/928317805/mask-wearing-is-up-in-the-u-s-but-young-people-are-still-too-lax-cdc-survey-find>

**Reuters: Germany and France prepare for new lockdowns as COVID sweeps Europe**

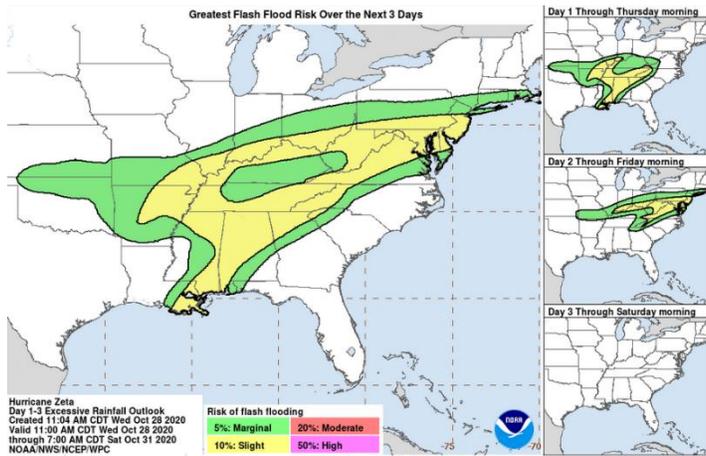
Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus/germany-and-france-prepare-new-lockdowns-as-covid-sweeps-europe-idUSKBN27D1JN>

*Zeta is Coming!*

**COMMONWEALTH SEVERE WEATHER ANALYSIS**

(KyEM) Remnants of Hurricane Zeta will enter the Commonwealth this afternoon and move across the region this evening. Widespread heavy rainfall is expected in the evening hours into midday Thursday. Flash Flood Watches have been issued for western, central, and eastern Kentucky through Thursday. Isolated thunderstorms will be possible.

[NWS Paducah, KY](#) [Western KY]: Heavy rainfall is expected tonight across western Kentucky, with totals of two and a half to around four inches possible by the time rain comes to an end. A Flash Flood Watch is in effect from 7 p.m. CST this evening to 10 a.m. CST Thursday morning, where amounts near three and a half inches or more are most likely. Isolated thunderstorms are possible, but are expected to remain below severe limits.



[NWS Louisville, KY](#) [Central KY]: Widespread rain, heavy at times, and isolated thunderstorms will be possible late this afternoon through tonight for central Kentucky. Total rainfall up to two inches will be possible by daybreak Thursday, and could result in ponding of water in poor drainage areas. Additional rainfall Thursday morning could cause ponding or minor flooding or poor drainage areas. A Flash Flood Watch is in effect from this evening through Thursday afternoon.

[NWS Jackson, KY](#) [Eastern & SE KY]: Heavy rain will be possible at time this afternoon and tonight for portions of eastern Kentucky, continuing into Thursday. There is a potential for

thunderstorms Thursday afternoon. Flash flooding will be possible from 8 p.m. tonight through 2 p.m. Thursday.

[NWS Charleston, WV](#) [NE KY]: Widespread significant rainfall is expected to be across northeastern Kentucky tonight. Isolated to scattered high water impacts may start to occur late tonight. Widespread significant rainfall will continue for much of the day Thursday, continuing the threat of isolated to scattered high water impacts as a result.

[NWS Wilmington, OH](#) [Northern KY]: Rainfall will begin to move into northern and northeastern Kentucky tonight, which is expected to be heavy at times. Rain will continue to spread across the region Thursday and Thursday night. Rain may be heavy at times, particularly from late tonight into midday Thursday. This rain event has the potential to cause flooding, with the highest accumulations expected south of I-70.

**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines  
Extracts from [October 28, 2020](#)**

[Why Covid-19 Death Rates Have Fallen, and Why they Could Rise Again](#) (Vox) By several measures, the coronavirus mortality rate has fallen over the course of the pandemic — even for those at the highest risk of death. People who are diagnosed today appear to have better odds of surviving the disease compared to the first wave of patients. “It’s a silver lining in a hard time,” said Bilal Mateen, a clinical-academic at Kings College Hospital and an author on a new study focused on mortality in UK critical care units, “but it’s by no means an excuse to take your foot off the pedal.”

[Some Covid Survivors Have Antibodies That Attack the Body, Not Virus](#) (New York Times) Some survivors of Covid-19 carry worrying signs that their immune system has turned on the body, reminiscent of potentially debilitating diseases like lupus and rheumatoid arthritis, a new study has found.

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 and the Athletic Heart: Emerging Perspectives on Pathology, Risks, and Return to Play](#) (JAMA Cardiology) This report was designed to address the most common questions regarding COVID-19 and cardiac pathology in athletes in competitive sports, including the extension of return-to-play considerations to discrete populations of athletes not addressed in prior recommendations. Multicenter registry data documenting cardiovascular outcomes among athletes in competitive sports who have recovered from COVID-19 are currently being collected to determine the prevalence, severity, and clinical relevance of COVID-

19-associated cardiac pathology and efficacy of targeted cardiovascular risk stratification. While we await these critical data, early experiences in the clinical oversight of athletes following COVID-19 infection provide an opportunity to address key areas of uncertainty relevant to cardiology and sports medicine practitioners.

**[Flu Vaccine Demand Creates Minor Regional US Shortages](#)** (CIDRAP) Each year, flu vaccines are shipped out to healthcare facilities on a rolling basis in part so that manufacturers are able to provide vaccines across the board early on. Starting in September, however, reports popped up about flu vaccines being low or out of stock in some places across the country despite the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) saying there has been no national shortage. The problem isn't the supply per se. It's the rate.

**[States Laying Deployment Plans of 100 Million Federally Distributed COVID-19 Tests](#)** (Homeland Preparedness News) A month after the federal government announced it would provide 150 million Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 tests throughout the United States, states have begun detailing how they, in turn, will utilize those tests for maximum effect. For most of the 32 states and the District of Columbia, which have responded, this means deployment to local health departments, K-12 schools and higher education institutions, nursing homes, hospitals, and correctional facilities. Assistant Secretary for Health Adm. Brett Giroir noted that this, combined with personal responsibility, will help prevent further outbreaks of the disease, as many experts fear the United States is heading for a fall surge.

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**Report warns that 5 states are at high risk for activity by armed groups around election**

(USA Today) A new report says [five states](#), including several that are presidential battlegrounds, are at a high risk for activity by armed groups of civilians around the Nov. 3 election.

The Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) and MilitiaWatch warned about such movements leading up to and following the election in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin and Oregon, especially in state capitals and surrounding towns, medium-sized cities and suburban areas.

Armed groups use "hybrid tactics" ranging from training for urban and rural combat to using public relations and propaganda to acting as "security operations" for events.

Full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/10/27/election-violence-states-are-at-high-risk-for-armed-groups-around-election/3755894001/>

Related - [Americans On Track To Stockpile Guns At Record Levels](#)

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**Got'em! Murder hornet nest destroyed**

CBS story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/murder-hornets85-killed-13-captured-alive-washington/>

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**Altered Marijuana Circulating in Northern VA  
One dead; at least three others revived with Narcan**

Learn more: <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/crime/marijuana-overdoses-northern-virginia-caused-by-laced-product/65-9059dea1-9069-4e10-a32f-e65cb9778142>

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U.S. telecoms regulator to vote to split key spectrum block between autos, Wi-Fi (Reuters) - The U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will vote on Nov. 18 to split a key spectrum block set aside for auto safety to accommodate the growing number of wireless devices, even as the Transportation Secretary warned of "thousands more deaths" in traffic accidents. The FCC will vote to finalize a plan announced last year to divide a block of the 5.9 GHz spectrum band that was reserved in 1999 for automakers to develop technology to allow vehicles to talk to each other, but has so far gone largely unused. Automakers have opposed the split on safety grounds, while many internet providers say the spectrum is essential to support growing wireless use.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-spectrum-idUSKBN27C31N>

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**[Safe States webinar](#)**  
November 12, 2-3 PM ET  
**[A Roadmap for Advancing  
Injury and Violence Prevention](#)**  
**[Register](#)**

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 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 KHREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.

## Bringing Calm to Chaos: HICS & the Coronavirus Pandemic

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to impact society, hospitals and healthcare systems are facing a myriad of challenges. Effective leadership is needed to ensure continued health care operations, access to critical medications and personal protective equipment, and overall viability of the health care system. The hospital incident command system (HICS) was designed decades ago to provide a decision-making framework to manage incidents and disasters. Now, more than ever, health care systems are relying on HICS to help meet the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic.

In this episode, Domestic Preparedness Advisor Andrew Roszak explores how Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas is using HICS to help keep their more than 16,000 employees informed, protected and safe during this public health crisis. Roszak is joined by: Dr. Brent Kaziny, who is director of all hazards preparedness and response for the Section of Emergency Medicine and serves as the medical director of emergency management and co-chair of the Emergency Management Committee; and by James Mitchell, who is the director of organizational resilience.

Video of this podcast can be found at <https://youtu.be/DmartiNQvZo>

### **Texas Children's Hospital**

Texas Children's Hospital, a not-for-profit health care organization, is committed to creating a healthier future for children and women throughout the global community by leading in patient care, education and research. Consistently ranked as the best children's hospital in Texas, and among the top in the nation, Texas Children's has garnered widespread recognition for its expertise and breakthroughs in pediatric and women's health. The hospital includes the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute; the Feigin Tower for pediatric research; Texas Children's Pavilion for Women, a comprehensive obstetrics/gynecology facility focusing on high-risk births; Texas Children's Hospital West Campus, a community hospital in suburban West Houston; and Texas Children's Hospital The Woodlands, the first hospital devoted to children's care for communities north of Houston. The organization also created Texas Children's Health Plan, the nation's first Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) for children; has the largest pediatric primary care network in the country, Texas Children's Pediatrics; Texas Children's Urgent Care clinics that specialize in after-hours care tailored specifically for children; and a global health program that is channeling care to children and women all over the world. Texas Children's Hospital is affiliated with Baylor College of Medicine.

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