



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for October 29, 2020

## KY COVID Update for Thursday

1,821 new cases today. - Positivity rate: 6.04% - 68 **RED** counties today.

New deaths: 19 - Total deaths: 1,461

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

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

## CMS coverage for potential COVID-19 vaccines & therapeutics

(CMS) the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking steps to ensure all Americans, including the nation's seniors, have access to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine at no cost when it becomes available. Today, the agency released a comprehensive plan with proactive measures to remove regulatory barriers and ensure consistent coverage and payment for the administration of an eventual vaccine for millions of Americans. CMS released a set of toolkits for providers, states and insurers to help the health care system prepare to swiftly administer the vaccine once it is available. These resources are designed to increase the number of providers that can administer the vaccine, ensure adequate reimbursement for administering the vaccine in Medicare, while making it clear to private insurers and Medicaid programs their responsibility to cover the vaccine at no charge to beneficiaries. In addition, CMS is taking action to increase reimbursement for any new COVID-19 treatments that are approved or authorized by the FDA.

Full press release: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-acts-ensure-coverage-life-saving-covid-19-vaccines-therapeutics>

## Johns Hopkins: Health security Headlines

Extracts from [October 29, 2020](#)

### [Antibody Drugs Appear Effective. Now Can We Make Enough of Them?](#)

(STAT News) The Covid-19 pandemic teaches one lesson, over and over: The virus is moving faster than we are. That difficult message was driven home Wednesday evening with news that an antibody cocktail developed by the drug maker Regeneron — the same cocktail used to treat President Trump — reduced infected patients' need to visit the doctor, virtually or in person, or go to the hospital by 57%. Those are encouraging results — and, if authorized, the cocktail could be an important tool in beating back the virus. But right now, there are only 50,000 doses available, a pittance in comparison with the number of infections across the country.

[Singapore Firm Invents Coronavirus Breathalyser with Results in Seconds](#) (Reuters) A company in Singapore has developed a breathalyser test for the new coronavirus which it says will enable people to know whether they are infected in under a minute. Breathonix, a startup firm from the National University of Singapore, says its test achieved more than 90% accuracy in a pilot clinical trial of 180 people in the city-state and hopes to get regulatory approval early next year.

[It May be Time to Reset Expectations on When We'll Get a Covid-19 Vaccine](#) (STAT News) Pauses in clinical trials to investigate potential safety issues, a slower-than-expected rate of infections among participants in at least one of the trials, and signals that an expert panel advising the Food and Drug Administration may not be comfortable recommending use of vaccines on very limited safety and efficacy data appear to be adding up to a slippage in the estimates of when vaccine will be ready to be deployed. Asked Wednesday about when he expects the FDA will greenlight use of the first vaccines, Anthony Fauci moved the administration's stated goalpost.

[New Polio Vaccine Poised to Get Emergency WHO Approval](#) (Nature) A vaccine against a type of polio that is spreading in the Southern Hemisphere is expected to receive emergency approval before the end of the year. If it does, it will be the first time the World Health Organization has steered an unlicensed vaccine or drug through its emergency listing process.

## MMWR: SARS-CoV-2 Exposure and Infection Among Health Care Personnel

(CDC) An analysis of COVID-19 exposures among healthcare workers in Minnesota from March-July 2020 found that although almost 2 out of 3 higher-risk exposures involved direct patient care, 1 out of 3 of these exposures occurred outside of patient care, such as during interactions with coworkers or other social and household contacts.

Healthcare workers should be aware of the risk of being exposed to COVID-19 outside of patient care, such as during contact with coworkers, friends, or family. Workers in long-term care settings were less likely to report

wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) during higher-risk exposures during patient care. During the 14-days after higher-risk exposure, they were more likely to work, work while experiencing symptoms, and test positive for COVID-19.

Read the full *MMWR* report: ["SARS-CoV-2 Exposure and Infection Among Health Care Personnel — Minnesota, March 6–July 11, 2020"](#)

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**NY Times: 40 Dead, Now 40 Laid Off  
Inside a Nursing Home Crisis with Burned Out Staff**

Read more: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/29/nyregion/nursing-home-workers-pandemic-jobs.html>

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**A single student cause  
extensive, rapid COVID spread at a high-school camp**

(CIDRAP) A *Morbidity and Mortality (MMWR)* [report today](#) documents extensive and rapid spread of COVID-19 among students and staff at a Jul 2 to Aug 11 overnight summer high-school retreat in Wisconsin where participants had prolonged contact and shared sleeping quarters.

*A single student* who tested negative for SARS-CoV-2 within the week before the retreat was the likely source of the outbreak that infected 76% of attendees (over a hundred) according to the report's authors.

Learn more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/10/extensive-rapid-covid-spread-summer-high-school-camp-detailed>

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<p><b>Safe States webinar</b> November 12, 2-3 PM ET <a href="#">A Roadmap for Advancing Injury and Violence Prevention</a> <a href="#">Register</a></p>
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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](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.