



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for November 4, 2020

Gov. Beshear Urges Kentuckians to Renew Fight Against COVID-19

(From [press release](#)) On Wednesday, Gov. Andy Beshear encouraged Kentuckians to renew their fight against COVID-19, while celebrating positive budget and economic development news for the commonwealth.

"Our number of hospitalized people goes up every day. These are a lot of Kentuckians who are fighting for their lives," said Gov. Beshear. "Let's keep lighting our homes up green. There's a lot of pain out there and it's hitting everybody. We're thinking of every family, whether we know you or we don't. We hurt with you and we grieve with you."

As of 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, Gov. Beshear reported the following COVID-19 numbers:

- New cases today: 1,635
- New deaths today: 11
- Positivity rate: 6.30%
- Total deaths: 1,514
- Currently hospitalized: 1,066
- Currently in ICU: 286
- Currently on ventilator: 125

Red zone counties for this week can be found [here](#).

Today, the Governor issued an [executive order](#) to renew the state's face coverings mandate for another 30 days and signed an [executive order](#) that extends previous orders allowing pharmacists to dispense 30-day refills. The current executive order is set to expire tonight at 11:59 p.m. The new order will be effective for 30 days beginning Nov. 5.

As Kentucky Continues Fight Against COVID-19, New Company to Manufacture PPE in Paris

(Governor's Office) Leaders of the newly formed U.S. Medical Glove Co. LLC expect to create 192 full-time, high-tech jobs at a Paris manufacturing facility to produce medical-grade gloves, Gov. Andy Beshear announced today.

With U.S. Medical Glove established last month, company leaders plan to purchase, retrofit and expand an existing facility in Bourbon County with a nearly \$32.5 million investment. They expect the company's automated manufacturing operation to begin in the first half of 2021, with the production of more than 1 billion Liberty Gloves. The production process will use latex-based nitrile sourced from Zeon Chemicals in Louisville. Company executives plan to employ 45 high-level computer technicians initially with additional staff to follow as the company installs new production lines.

Product packaging also will be American-made, medical-grade paper. The company plans to explore transitioning from oil-based raw materials to plant-based, which would allow U.S. Medical Glove to produce a biodegradable product to ease environmental waste concerns.

Full story: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prld=448>

HHS Taps McKesson to Distribute COVID-19 Supply Kits for Healthcare Workers Administering Vaccines

(*Homeland Preparedness News*) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) signed a contract with McKesson Corp. to produce and distribute ancillary kits to help healthcare workers administering COVID-19 vaccines once they are approved. The ancillary supply kits will be produced and distributed on behalf of the Strategic National Stockpile. Each kit will contain needles, syringes, alcohol prep pads, surgical masks and face shields for vaccinators, COVID-19 vaccination record cards for vaccine recipients, and a needle information card. The kits will contain enough supplies to administer up to 100 doses of vaccine. They will not include sharps containers, gloves, and bandages. The COVID-19 ancillary supply kits will be automatically distributed in amounts to match vaccine orders and will be provided at no cost to enrolled COVID-19 vaccination providers.

Link <https://homelandprepnews.com/stories/56958-hhs-taps-mckesson-to-distribute-covid-19-supply-kits-for-healthcare-workers-administering-vaccines/>

[NOTE: This is technically not new news. This was first shared with the states and vaccine planners about the same time as the initial CDC Playbook planning scenarios came out in September. The current release would serve as a reminder to facilities who may be planning for the eventual distribution of an initial vaccine. R Bartlett]

Potential for False Positive Results with Antigen Tests for Rapid Detection of SARS-CoV-2

(From an FDA press release) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is alerting clinical laboratory staff and health care providers that false positive results can occur with antigen tests, including when users do not follow the instructions for use of antigen tests for the rapid detection of SARS-CoV-2. Generally, antigen tests are indicated for the qualitative detection of SARS-CoV-2 antigens in authorized specimen types collected from individuals who are suspected of COVID-19 by their healthcare provider within a certain number of days of symptom onset. The FDA is aware of reports of false positive results associated with antigen tests used in nursing homes and other settings and continues to monitor and evaluate these reports and other available information about device safety and performance.

The FDA reminds clinical laboratory staff and health care providers about the risk of false positive results with all laboratory tests.

Full press release with recommendations: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/letters-health-care-providers/potential-false-positive-results-antigen-tests-rapid-detection-sars-cov-2-letter-clinical-laboratory>

Postmortem lungs of COVID-19 patients show massive damage

(CIDRAP) A [study](#) of the lungs of 41 people who died from COVID-19 in Italy has revealed extensive damage, persistent distortion of the normal organ structure, scarring of respiratory tissue, and massive blood clotting of the arteries and veins, which may help explain why it takes some people—so-called "long haulers"—months to recover from fatigue and shortness of breath.

The results were published yesterday in *The Lancet's EBioMedicine* journal. While the researchers also examined brain, heart, and kidney tissues, those organs showed no signs of damage or viral replication.

Led by researchers at the University of Trieste and King's College London, the study involved analysis of the lungs from February to April, finding that all 41 patients had extensive lung damage, while 36 of 41 (88%) had massive abnormal blood clotting in the lung arteries and veins.

Nearly 90% of the lungs showed the fusion of smaller cells into giant single cells with many nuclei. The fused cells, or syncytia, are caused by COVID-19's characteristic spike protein, which the virus uses to enter cells; the protein stimulates the fusion of infected cells with normal lung cells, which can lead to structural changes, inflammation, and abnormal blood clotting. These pathologic changes have not been seen in patients with pneumonia caused by pathogens other than the coronavirus, the authors said.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/11/postmortem-lungs-covid-19-patients-show-massive-damage>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [November 4, 2020](#)

[Persistence of Viral RNA, Pneumocyte Syncytia and Thrombosis Are Hallmarks of Advanced COVID-19 Pathology](#) (*Lancet EBioMedicine*) Here we report the systematic analysis of 41 consecutive post-mortem samples from individuals who died of COVID-19. Histological analysis is complemented by immunohistochemistry for cellular and viral antigens and the detection of viral genomes by in situ RNA hybridization. COVID-19 is characterized by extensive alveolar damage (41/41 of patients) and thrombosis of the lung micro- and macro-vasculature (29/41, 71%). Thrombi were in different stages of organization, consistent with their local origin. Pneumocytes and endothelial cells contained viral RNA even at the later stages of the disease. An additional feature was the common presence of a large number of dysmorphic pneumocytes, often forming syncytial elements (36/41, 87%)

[Are Infections Seeding Some Cases of Alzheimer's Disease?](#) (*Nature*) Two years ago, immunologist and medical-publishing entrepreneur Leslie Norins offered to award US\$1 million of his own money to any scientist who could prove that Alzheimer's disease was caused by a germ. The theory that an infection might cause this form of dementia has been rumbling for decades on the fringes of neuroscience research. The majority of Alzheimer's researchers, backed by a huge volume of evidence, think instead that the key culprits are sticky molecules in the brain called amyloids, which clump into plaques and cause inflammation, killing neurons.

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 (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.