



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for November 9, 2020

## *Announcement this morning*

### **Pfizer, BioNTech COVID drug is more than 90% effective in preventing infection**

(CNBC) [Pfizer](#) and [BioNTech](#) announced Monday their coronavirus vaccine was more than 90% effective in preventing Covid-19 among those without evidence of prior infection, hailing the development as “a great day for science and humanity.”

“I think we can see light at the end of the tunnel,” Pfizer Chairman and CEO Dr. Albert Bourla told CNBC’s Meg Tirell on “[Squawk Box](#).”

The announcement comes as drugmakers and research centers scramble to deliver a safe and effective vaccine to help bring an end to the coronavirus pandemic that has claimed over 1.25 million lives worldwide.

Scientists are hoping for a coronavirus vaccine that is at least 75% effective, while White House coronavirus advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci has [said](#) one that is 50% or 60% effective would be acceptable.

The companies said they planned to submit for emergency use authorization to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration soon after they have two months of data, which is currently on track for the third week of November.

Based on current projections, Pfizer and BioNTech expect to produce up to 50 million vaccine doses in 2020, and up to 1.3 billion doses in 2021.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/09/covid-vaccine-pfizer-drug-is-more-than-90percent-effective-in-preventing-infection.html>

## ----- **Gov. Beshear Announces Highest Weekly COVID-19 Case Total** ***Urges Kentuckians to Act***

(From [Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear on Sunday implored Kentuckians, especially those in red zone counties, to follow the recommendations to reduce the spread of COVID-19, with a continued escalation in cases that includes Kentucky’s highest test positivity rate in more than half a year and the highest number of cases in a week by almost 500 cases.

Gov. Beshear reminded community leaders, schools, businesses and residents in the state’s hardest hit areas to follow the [Red Zone Reduction Recommendations](#). Thursday’s 80 [red zone counties](#) should follow the recommendations Monday, Nov. 9, through Sunday, Nov. 15.

As of 4 p.m. Nov. 8, Gov. Beshear reported the following COVID-19 numbers:

- New cases today: 1,177
- New deaths today: 4
- Positivity rate: 7.24%
- Total deaths: 1,565
- Currently hospitalized: 1,102
- Currently in ICU: 279
- Currently on ventilator: 148

## ----- **More than 50 million cases of Covid-19 have been recorded worldwide** **Countries hit [frightening new records](#) globally.**

CNN: [https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-11-08-20-intl/h\\_73a471729062b7ded01763bc98a789d3](https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-11-08-20-intl/h_73a471729062b7ded01763bc98a789d3)

## ----- ***Related* - Biden to Name Coronavirus Task Force Today Headed by Former Surgeon General**

(HuffPost/NBC) President-elect [Joe Biden](#) plans on Monday to name a 12-member coronavirus task force to be co-chaired by former Surgeon General [Vivek Murthy](#), according to [several media reports](#) citing anonymous [sources](#). Other chairs will include [David Kessler](#), the [former commissioner](#) of the [Food and Drug Administration](#), and Dr. [Marcella Nunez-Smith](#) of Yale University, an unnamed Biden campaign official told [NBC](#). Task force members have already begun advising Biden on public policy concerning the pandemic and on safety protocols for his campaign.

Story: [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/joe-biden-coronavirus-task-force-vivek-murthy\\_n\\_5fa7250cc5b66009569b1004](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/joe-biden-coronavirus-task-force-vivek-murthy_n_5fa7250cc5b66009569b1004)

>> **Collection of stories on KY hospitals handling COVID-19** <<

**ARH sees increase in COVID cases**

Story: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2020/11/07/arh-hospitals-see-tremendous-increase-in-covid-19-hospitalizations/>

**Louisville hospitals see more COVID-19 patients but cases less severe**

Story: <https://wky.com/article/louisville-hospitals-see-more-covid-19-patients-but-cases-less-severe/34603556>

**Norton Hospital says COVID-19 surge not yet a concern for capacity**

Learn more: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/norton-hospital-says-covid-19-surge-not-yet-a-concern-for-capacity/article\\_bfe3609a-207c-11eb-b74c-9f09c78eee80.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/norton-hospital-says-covid-19-surge-not-yet-a-concern-for-capacity/article_bfe3609a-207c-11eb-b74c-9f09c78eee80.html)

**Baptist Lexington doctor discusses COVID**

Read more: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2020/11/08/lexington-doctor-discusses-new-covid-19-information-as-the-pandemic-continues/>

**UK and Baptist Health Lexington, Norton Healthcare begin recruiting participants for Phase 3 COVID-19 investigational vaccine clinical trial**

Learn more: <https://nortonhealthcare.com/news/uk-and-baptist-health-lexington-norton-healthcare-begin-recruiting-participants-for-phase-3-covid-19-investigational-vaccine-clinical-trial/>

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**Doctors May Have Discovered Why Coronavirus Patients Have Dangerous Blood Clots**

(KDKA Pittsburgh) With coronavirus, people can have blood clots throughout the body. This clotting, called thrombosis, can happen in big and small blood vessels, as well as in veins and arteries.

“Thrombotic complications are commonly associated with this disease. Moreso in severe disease but also mild disease. It suggests that there’s clearly a relationship there,” says Dr. Ashis Tayal, a stroke neurologist at the Allegheny Health Network.

Researchers have been trying to figure out what’s going on. They checked the blood of 172 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, looking for these immune system proteins that attack a person’s own body. More than half of the patients had them and a high level was associated with more clotting, more inflammatory cells, more severe lung disease and poorer kidney function.

Listen to the report & read more: <https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2020/11/06/coronavirus-blood-clots-discover-cause/>

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**Nursing home COVID-19 cases rise four-fold in surge states**

(AP) Despite administration efforts to erect a protective shield around nursing homes, coronavirus cases are surging within facilities in states hard hit by the latest onslaught of COVID-19.

An analysis of federal data from 20 states for The Associated Press finds that new weekly cases among residents rose nearly four-fold from the end of May to late October, from 1,083 to 4,274. Resident deaths more than doubled, from 318 a week to 699, according to the study by University of Chicago health researchers Rebecca Gorges and Tamara Konetzka.

Equally concerning, weekly cases among nursing home staff in surge states more than quadrupled, from 855 the week ending May 31, to 4,050 the week ending Oct. 25. That rings alarms because infected staffers not yet showing symptoms are seen as the most likely way the virus gets into facilities. When those unwitting staffers test positive, they are sidelined from caring for residents, raising pressures on remaining staff.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/596ef4bfe18313ae72368e2c86e85f27>

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**Supplies of N95 masks running low as COVID-19 surges**

(CBS) Some health care facilities in the U.S. lack sufficient supplies of face masks as COVID-19 cases surge across the country and manufacturers work overtime to ramp up production of personal protective equipment.

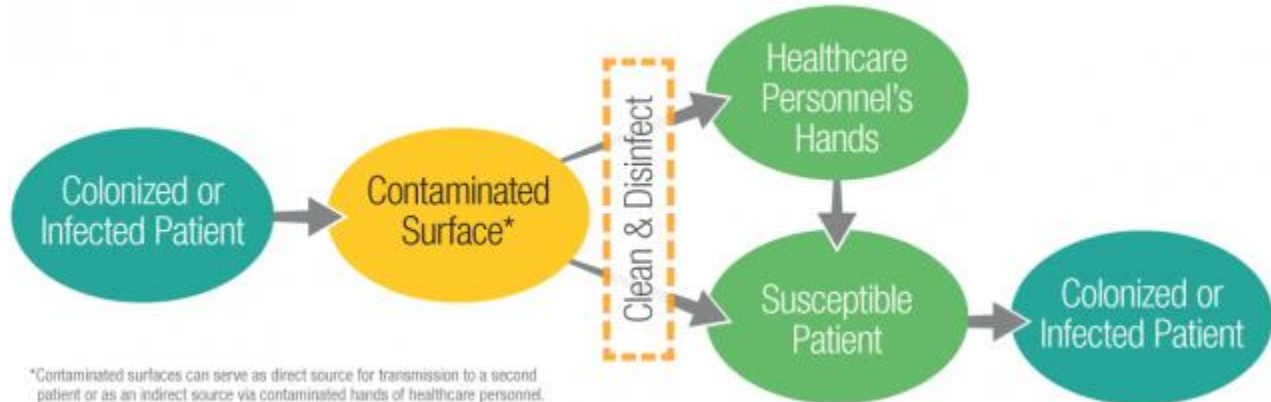
The U.S. on Wednesday set a new high for daily [coronavirus](#) cases, with [more than 100,000 new infections](#) and at least 16 states also breaking records for the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19. [Thursday saw more than 120,000 cases](#), a 20% spike in just one day.

Makers of so-called N95 masks — regarded as the most effective tool for protection against airborne droplets — are struggling to keep up with demand from hospitals, [nursing homes](#) and other health care facilities, as well as businesses in other sectors that now require them to protect workers and the public.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ppe-n95-mask-shortage-covid-19/>  
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## CDC Update: Reduce Risk from Surfaces

The healthcare environment contains a diverse population of microorganisms. Surfaces contaminated with microorganisms can serve as reservoirs of potential pathogens. Many of these microorganisms are continuously shed or spread by direct skin contact onto surrounding environment surfaces. Contamination of surfaces, including high-touch surfaces in the room (e.g., bedrails, over-bed tables, and call-buttons) and reusable patient care equipment that is moved between rooms, can lead to: (1) transmission to the next patient who occupies the room or uses the same equipment, or (2) contamination of the hands or clothing of healthcare personnel with transmission to other patients (See figure).



Therefore, cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces is fundamental to reduce potential contribution to healthcare-associated infections. Inadvertent exposures to environmental opportunistic pathogens may result in infections with significant morbidity and/or mortality. The following are core components every healthcare facility should consider to ensure appropriate environmental cleaning and disinfection.

Link to full CDC Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/environment/surfaces.html>

### Working in an Office Instead of Remote Doubles COVID Risk

(HealthDay) Working from home during the pandemic significantly reduces your risk of catching [COVID-19](#), U.S. health officials say.

The option to work remotely, however, appears to be available mostly to college-educated white employees with health insurance who make \$75,000 a year or more, according to a new U.S. Centers for Disease Control and [Prevention](#) report.

"We have two different kinds of classes of Americans. One is the essential services class, and then we've got the white-collar class able to work from home," said Dr. Eric Cioe-Pena, director of global health at Northwell Health in New Hyde Park, N.Y. He reviewed the report and was not part of the research.

Of nearly 250 workers who reported on their status during the two weeks before getting [COVID-19](#), those who worked outside their homes were significantly more likely to fall ill than those who worked remotely at least part of the time, CDC researchers found. The percentage who had been able to telework either full- or part-time was lower among patients who tested positive for [COVID-19](#) (35%) than among patients who tested negative (53%), they noted.

CDC - MedicineNet Health News: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=248636>

### New Alzheimer's drug rejected by FDA panel

(NBC/AP) Government health advisers sharply criticized a closely watched [Alzheimer's drug](#) on Friday, concluding there wasn't enough evidence that the experimental drug slowed the [brain-destroying disease](#).

The panel of outside experts for the Food and Drug Administration agreed that a pivotal study in patients failed to show "strong evidence" that the drug worked. The experts warned of multiple "red flags" with the data, which did not initially show any benefit until another analysis with later results.

The FDA is not required to follow the group's guidance but their negative opinion could weigh heavily on the agency's decision on whether to greenlight the drug. The FDA is expected to make a decision by March.

The Biogen drug, known as aducanumab, does not cure or reverse Alzheimer's; the claim is that it modestly slows the rate of decline. Current drugs only temporarily ease symptoms and no new options have emerged since 2003. Full story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/aging/fda-panel-rejects-biogen-s-new-alzheimer-s-drug-n1246818>

**Voters rejecting the war on drugs is a win for public health**  
***Last Tuesday, several states passed ballot measures to relax drug laws***

As election night ended in the United States, people went to bed still wondering who had won the presidential race, which party would control Congress, and what the future held. But one subject unified the electorate with unexpectedly decisive consistency: drugs.

When asked to relax laws around the use of psychoactive substances, voters said yes, whether they were in the reddest red states or the bluest blue. New Jersey, Arizona, and Montana all voted to legalize recreational cannabis. Mississippi voted to legalize medical marijuana, and South Dakota legalized both recreational and medicinal uses of weed. "Whenever drug reforms were on the ballot, they won quite handily," says Leo Beletsky, an epidemiologist and the faculty director of Northeastern University's Health in Justice Lab. "That shows a hunger for major shifts and reforms across party lines."

People want a truce in the War on Drugs. Cannabis has been rebranded as a wellness panacea. Mushrooms and MDMA are making headlines as therapy tools, not party fuel. And as the overdose crisis continues, it is ever more apparent to a growing swath of the country that threatening to jail drug users doesn't reduce drug-related death rates or help families struggling to save their loved ones. Instead, it disproportionately [hurts](#) Black communities.

Learn more: <https://arstechnica.com/science/2020/11/voters-rejecting-the-war-on-drugs-is-a-win-for-public-health/>

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**3.6 Earthquake Hits Sunday Off Massachusetts Coast, Felt Widely Throughout New England**

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2020/11/08/932784808/earthquake-hits-off-massachusetts-coast-felt-widely-throughout-new-england>

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**NASA Asteroid Warning!**  
**Space Rock Coming Towards Earth's Orbit At High Speed**

Expected to go past the Earth at a speed of 25,050 miles per hour and is not expected to cause any damage.

Read more: <https://www.ibtimes.sg/nasa-asteroid-warning-space-rock-almost-tall-blackpool-tower-coming-towards-earths-orbit-high-53178>

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.