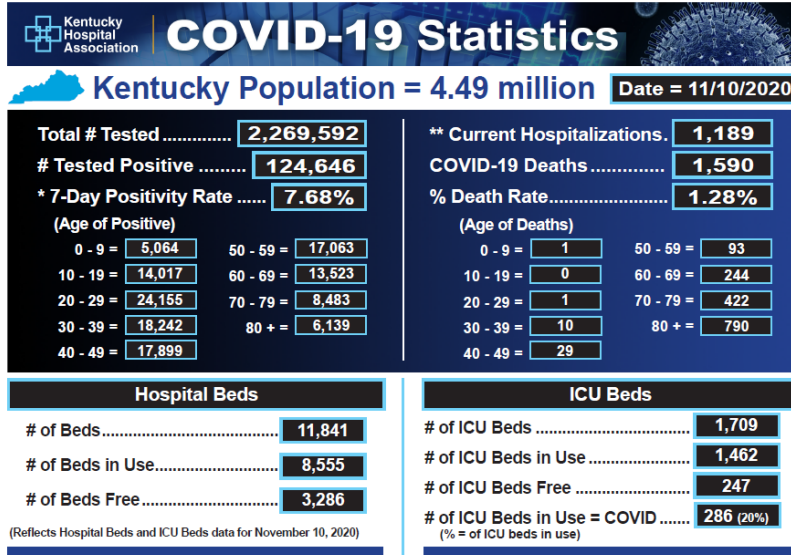




# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for November 11, 2020



## How Kentucky compares to neighboring states in COVID-19 cases



(WKYT) We wanted to take a look at how Kentucky's COVID-19 case count compared to neighboring states. So, we went back to October 1 and took those numbers and compared them to the latest statistics.

### [Interactive | Breakdown of Kentucky's COVID-19 cases](#)

When we look at the number of cases, Kentucky saw a 43 percent increase. But West Virginia and Indiana actually had a slightly higher increase, while Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Tennessee had lower percentages.

When we look at the number of deaths, Kentucky is now up to more than 1,500. That's a 32 percent increase since October 1. When we look at our neighbors, Missouri, Tennessee, and West Virginia. all had higher increases in

the number of deaths. Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and Virginia had smaller percentage increases.

And when it comes to testing, we hear often from Dr. Steven Stack and Governor Andy Beshear about the importance of testing. Looking at our numbers, we have an increase there, up almost 38 percent. That falls well short in the increase in testing going on in Indiana and Missouri. They've increased testing by more than 50 percent. Our other neighbors all had smaller percentage increases in the number of new tests

Story link with video report and more graphics: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2020/11/10/wkyt-fact-check-how-kentucky-compares-to-neighboring-states-in-covid-19-cases/>

**Related - The U.S. set a grim new record on Tuesday, More than 60,000 Americans hospitalized with the coronavirus**  
From CBS: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coronavirus-hospitalizations-surge-us-today/>

**Due to Staffing Shortages  
ND Decides Asymptomatic COVID-19 Nurses Can Stay On the Job**

Read more: <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/525289-asymptomatic-covid-19-infected-nurses-allowed-to-stay-on-job-in-north>

### **Pfizer gearing up to distribute COVID-19 vaccine in hopes of FDA approval**

(CBS – Nov 11) [Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine](#) is on track to be approved for use as early as next month. On Tuesday, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said shots will likely be available for most Americans who want it by April.

The Pfizer plant in Michigan is now the leading edge of the crash program to inoculate America. It's vaccine stored in 350 ultra-cold freezers waiting for FDA approval. Army General Gus Perna, in charge of delivering the vaccine, has been counting on Pfizer to be the first and the most difficult to distribute because it requires two shots.

The Pfizer vaccine has to be stored at 94 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. To New Jersey Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli, that means the shots will have to be given in hospitals already swamped by COVID. "My biggest fear is that we're dealing with a surge at the same time that we're trying to vaccinate," she said.

Story link: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/covid-vaccine-pfizer-distribution-fda-approval/>

### **18% of COVID Survivors Diagnosed With Mental Illness**

(Newser) New research suggests the coronavirus takes a toll on a person's mental health as well as their physical health, with 18% of people diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder within 90 days of testing positive for

COVID-19. That compares to about 13% of those who suffered from the flu or a bone fracture, per the [BBC](#). Nearly 6% of COVID-19 survivors were diagnosed with an illness such as anxiety, depression, and insomnia for the first time within 90 days, meaning they had about twice the risk of mental illness compared with patients with the flu or a fracture.

Read more: <https://www.newser.com/story/298571/covid-survivors-at-higher-risk-of-mental-illness.html>

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**Crowded nursing homes may fuel larger, deadlier COVID outbreaks**

(CIDRAP) The COVID-19 death rate in less-crowded nursing homes in Ontario, Canada, was less than half that of homes with shared bedrooms and bathrooms during the first months of the pandemic, according to a [study](#) published yesterday in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

The findings come as US nursing homes are seeing a spike in new COVID-19 cases amid increasing community spread, including a 120% rise in Midwestern states since mid-September, according to an updated [report](#) today from the American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL).

New weekly nursing home cases grew 43% from mid-September to the week of Oct 18, with 1,192 nursing home deaths reported that week, according to AHCA/NCAL.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/11/crowded-nursing-homes-may-fuel-larger-deadlier-covid-outbreaks>

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**Report: Some disposable PPE gowns don't meet U.S. standard**

(From [AHA Today](#)) ECRI tested 34 disposable isolation gown models made by foreign or non-traditional suppliers and found that about half did not meet the minimum U.S. standard for liquid barrier protection, the organization said in a [report](#) released today. The report recommends having samples tested by an independent lab before purchasing isolation gowns from outside the U.S. or non-traditional manufacturers.

ECRI Report link: <https://www.ecri.org/press/more-than-half-of-disposable-gowns-ecri-tested-fail-to-meet-necessary>

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**NASEM releases report on COVID-19 diagnostic tests**

(From [AHA Today](#)) A [new report](#) from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine examines the advantages, limitations and status of certain COVID-19 diagnostic tests, including reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction tests, point-of-care tests, and next generation sequencing tests. The report also identifies situations in which split-pool testing (testing pools of samples, then splitting the pool and testing again) and wastewater surveillance (a method for testing water containing human waste to detect symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals) can provide advantages beyond individual diagnostic testing methods.

NASEM Report: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2020/11/advantages-and-trade-offs-of-covid-19-diagnostic-tests-national-testing-strategies-examined-in-new-rapid-response-to-government>

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**CDC offers new mask guidance**

(From USA Today COVID Update) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued new guidance on the use of face masks: They not only protect others, but they protected the wearer, too.

"Experimental and epidemiological data support community masking to reduce the spread" of the virus, [the CDC says](#). "Individual benefit increases with increasing community mask use."

The CDC had previously encouraged mask use as a way to help prevent infected people from spreading the coronavirus to others.

CDC Mask Update: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>

See more in USA Today: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/11/11/covid-news-cdc-mask-guidance-maryland-texas-disney/6242757002/>

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**[Aspirin to be Investigated as a Possible Treatment for COVID-19 in the RECOVERY Trial](#)**

(*RECOVERY Trial*) Aspirin will be investigated in the world's largest clinical trial of treatments for patients hospitalised with COVID-19. Patients with COVID-19 are at higher risk of blood clots forming in their blood vessels. Platelets, small cell fragments in the blood that stop bleeding, seem to be hyperreactive in COVID-19 and may be involved in the clotting complications. Since aspirin is an antiplatelet agent, it may reduce the risk of blood clots in patients with COVID-19. It is anticipated that at least 2,000 patients will be randomly allocated to receive aspirin 150 mg daily plus usual standard-of-care, and results will be compared with at least 2,000 patients who receive standard-of-care on its own.

## NYC To Deploy Mental Health Workers on Emergency Calls Beginning February

[Reuters](#) (11/10, Layne) reports that beginning in February, New York City will utilize mental health and crisis workers to respond to emergency calls. According to Reuters, "Currently, New York police officers and emergency medical technicians respond to nearly all 911 calls involving a mental health issue, regardless of whether there is a risk of violence." If a weapon is involved, or if there is "imminent risk of harm," Reuters reports that the mental health responders "will be accompanied by a police officer." ([From IACP News](#))

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**KSPAN/Safe Kentucky Webinars**  
**Sexual Violence Prevention in Kentucky**

Nov 18, 2020 10:00 AM ET

Please RSVP in advance for this webinar:

[https://uky.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_9FD2gzL7TICKY0fEuRBCcg](https://uky.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9FD2gzL7TICKY0fEuRBCcg)

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**Kentucky Office of Highway Safety Updates**

Nov 18, 2020 11:00 AM ET

Please RSVP in advance for this webinar:

[https://uky.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_bPQKn8pmQpmjUHxh5hS1Tg](https://uky.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bPQKn8pmQpmjUHxh5hS1Tg)

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**The Power Resilience Blueprint**

(EIS & GRCom) The Global Resilience Commission awareness goal, the link below will take you to a copy of the current Power Resilience Blueprint. Emergency power is critical for the health and medical community. The Blueprint fully addresses how to maintain and sustain emergency power. Take a look and see if your organization has this need. GRCom will include the Blueprint in it's 2021 webinar series in the first quarter offering - **Emergency Power: Tools and Techniques – Addressing the Energy Assurance Mission Now!** Stay tuned!

[Download the Power Resilience Blueprint](#)

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**"Murder hornet" nest with nearly 200 queens destroyed "in the nick of time"**

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/murder-hornet-nest-nearly-200-queens-destroyed-nick-of-time/>

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**FEMA NIMS Alert 34-20: "Building Private-Public Partnerships Guide"**

FEMA is seeking content input from whole community partners on the "[Building Private-Public Partnerships Guide](#)" draft document. Feedback must be submitted by Dec. 10.

To facilitate engagement process, FEMA will host a series of 60-minute engagement webinars to discuss the Guide and answer stakeholders' questions. The webinars will be open to the whole community and advance registration is required.

To register, click on the preferred webinar session below.

- Webinar 1: Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. EST Register at: [https://fema.connectsolutions.com/p3\\_webinar1/event/registration.html](https://fema.connectsolutions.com/p3_webinar1/event/registration.html)
- Webinar 2: Dec. 3 at 3 p.m. EST Register at: [https://fema.connectsolutions.com/p3\\_webinar2/event/registration.html](https://fema.connectsolutions.com/p3_webinar2/event/registration.html)

The purpose of the review is to provide an opportunity for the public provide substantive content recommendations and refinement of the draft. The results of this review will inform the development of the published version of the guide for whole community use.

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.