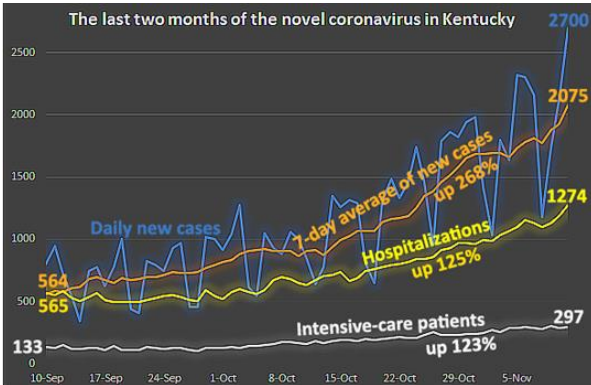




Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for November 12, 2020

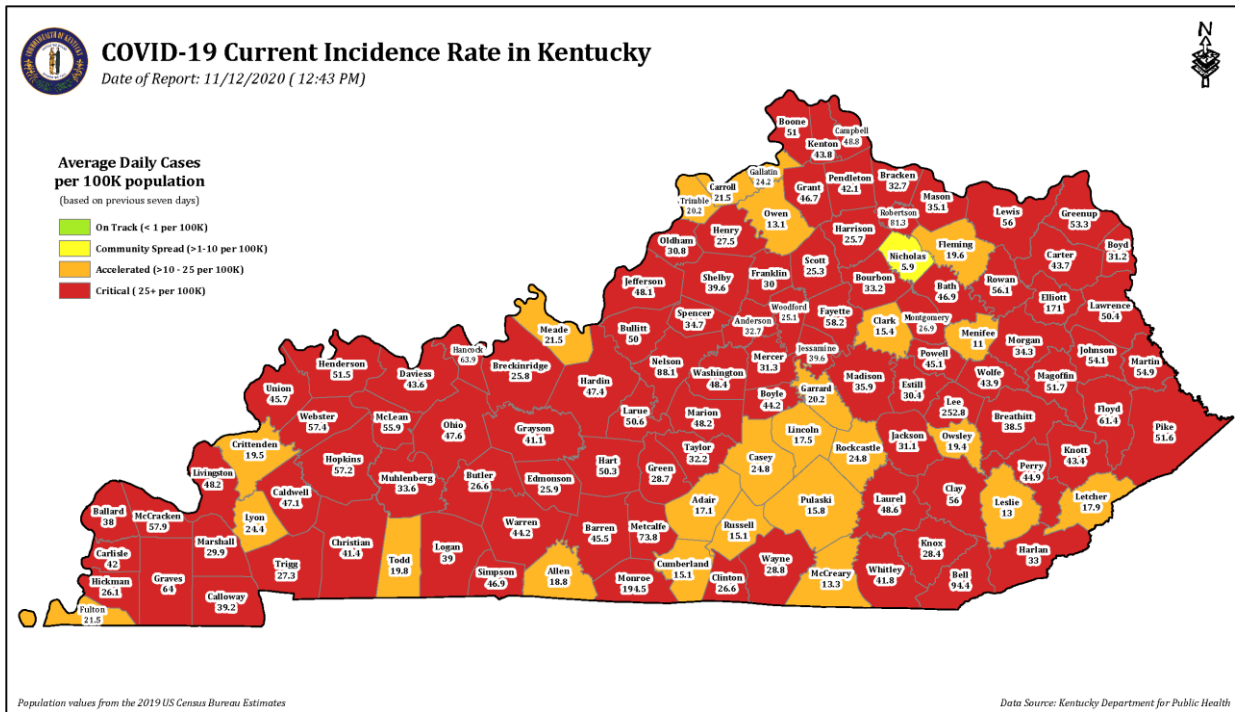
Kentucky COVID Update



- New cases today: 2,342
- Total cases: 129,680
- Positivity: 8.29%
- New deaths: 18
- Total deaths to date: 1,622
- Hospitalized w/COVID: 1,311
- COVID patients in ICU: 299
- COVID patients on vents: 163

< See daily report >

<< [KY COVID-19 Website](#) >>



Kentucky Red Zone Reduction Recommendations

- ✓ Employers allow employees to work from home when possible
- ✓ Non-critical Government offices to operate virtually
- ✓ Reduce in-person shopping; order online or curbside pickup
- ✓ Order take-out; avoid dining in restaurants or bars
- ✓ Prioritize businesses that follow and enforce mask mandate and other guidelines
- ✓ Reschedule, postpone or cancel public and private events
- ✓ Do not host or attend gatherings of any size Avoid non-essential activities outside of your home
- ✓ Reduce overall activity and contacts, and follow existing guidance, including 10steps to defeat COVID-19

Link: <https://governor.ky.gov/attachments/Red-Zone-Reduction-Recommendations.pdf>

KY School recommendations: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/cv19ModeofInstructionMetricsforK-12Education.pdf>

New Airflow Videos Show Why Masks With Exhalation Valves Do Not Slow the Spread of COVID-19

(NIST) Masks with exhalation valves do not slow the spread of the disease, and now, new videos from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) show why. The videos, which show airflow patterns through masks with and without exhalation valves, were created by NIST research engineer Matthew Staymates. The videos were published, along with an accompanying research article, in the journal Physics of Fluids. Watch the video and learn more: <https://www.nist.gov/news-events/news/2020/11/new-airflow-videos-show-why-masks-exhalation-valves-do-not-slow-spread>

Report: Half of Gowns Fail to Meet Safety Standards ECRI names brands that fell short in testing

(MedPage Today) With shortages of PPE still ongoing, a [disturbing report](#) from the healthcare safety group ECRI released Tuesday reveals that more than half of the gowns submitted by hospitals for testing failed safety standards.

ECRI tested more than 170 samples of 34 models of isolation gowns that hospitals had purchased from manufacturers who were not their traditional suppliers and/or were located outside the U.S.

The gowns, tested over the last several weeks, fell into one of two categories. In the first, the gowns came with no specified level of protection, and 52% of those failed to meet even the lowest standards set by the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI), the ECRI report said.

The second category of gowns were those that came labeled as having some stated level of AAMI protection. But in that group, ECRI discovered, half did not meet that standard.

With its "high priority hazard alert" regarding gown safety, ECRI has posted a ["Gown Testing Summary" spreadsheet](#) with a partial list of the models it tested (25 of 34).

Read and see more: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/89610>

German firm says its coronavirus vaccine can be stored in standard fridge CureVac's CVnCoV vaccine is nearing phase 3 clinical trials

Read more: <https://www.foxnews.com/health/german-firm-coronavirus-vaccine-stored-standard-fridge>

***Related* - Moderna on track to report COVID-19 vaccine data later this month**

(Reuters) Moderna said on Wednesday it has enough data for a first interim analysis of the late-stage trial of its experimental COVID-19 vaccine, which should help determine the vaccine's efficacy. Moderna said the information is being prepared for submission to the trial's independent data safety monitoring board, which will look at the results and make a recommendation. It did not say when it plans to release the efficacy data.

The company said the trial remains blinded, so neither it nor study investigators know which participants received the vaccine or a placebo. The vaccine will be deemed a success if the overwhelming majority of those infected had received a placebo, once the monitoring board looks at the early results.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-moderna-idUSKBN27R1SO>

CPT Codes Announced for Two COVID-19 Vaccine Candidates

(From KHA) On Tuesday, the American Medical Association [announced](#) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes for reporting on medical claims for two COVID-19 vaccines and their administration to patients by dose.

[The codes](#) are for a Pfizer vaccine candidate and a Moderna vaccine candidate, and are effective for use once the respective vaccines receive emergency use authorization or approval from the Food and Drug Administration. They were announced in advance to facilitate updating of U.S. health care electronic systems.

Related – Study Finds Almost 1 in 5 Parents Are 'Vaccine Hesitant'

(MedicineNet) Nearly one in five American parents described themselves as "hesitant about childhood shots" in 2019, a new U.S. government study finds. That was fewer than the one in four who expressed hesitancy about [vaccines](#) in 2018.

The new research found real consequences from [vaccine](#) hesitancy. Rates of [flu](#) vaccination were 26 percentage points lower in children of "[vaccine](#)-hesitant" parents in both years studied. Findings from the study were published online Nov. 9 in the journal [Pediatrics](#).

Read more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=248692>

HHS Allocates Eli Lilly Therapeutic to Treat Patients with Mild to Moderate COVID-19

([HHS News Roundup](#)) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced plans to allocate initial doses of Eli Lilly and Company's investigational monoclonal antibody therapeutic, bamlanivimab, which received [emergency use authorization](#) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration November 9 for the treatment of non-hospitalized patients with mild or moderate confirmed cases of COVID-19.

On October 28, the federal government [announced](#) a purchase of 300,000 doses of bamlanivimab. HHS will allocate these doses to state and territorial health departments which, in turn, will determine which healthcare facilities receive the infusion drug. <[News release](#)>

Related - SNS Partners with McKesson to Ensure Healthcare Workers Have the Supplies Needed to Administer Potential COVID-19 Vaccines < [Learn more](#) >

College students could bring Covid-19 home for Thanksgiving

(CNN) Welcome to the 2020 holiday season, which is more than a little bit fraught. Take the State University of New York system, which just announced that its 140,000 students must test negative if they want to leave any of the 64 schools in the state's system for Thanksgiving to avoid community spread.

During this ongoing public health emergency, schools such as the [University of South Carolina](#), [Syracuse University](#) and [Emory University](#) has already rewritten their academic calendar to end the in-person semester at Thanksgiving.

That means students won't return to campus until January 2021, while others, such as [The George Washington University](#) and the [California State University](#) system have recently announced plans to continue holding classes virtually in the spring.

With students testing positive at many campuses nationwide, the goal is to mitigate risk. This has left many parents facing the tough decision of having to tell their son or daughter to stay far from home for Thanksgiving

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/11/health/college-students-covid-19-thanksgiving-wellness/index.html>

Trust for America's Health (webinar)

Learn more: [Ensuring COVID-19 Vaccine Access, Safety, and Utilization: Building Vaccination Confidence in Communities of Color](#)

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines

Extracts from [November 11](#) and [November 12, 2020](#)

[Texas Becomes 1st State to Surpass 1 Million COVID-19 Cases](#) (ABC News) Texas became America's first state Wednesday with more than 1 million confirmed COVID-19 cases, as sporting events were canceled and the border city of El Paso added mobile morgues in anticipation of virus deaths overwhelming hospitals for weeks. Texas leaders gave no indication of forthcoming restrictions as the state passed the grim milestone and recorded more than 10,800 new cases on Tuesday, which set a new daily record and is the highest since July.

Related - [California approaching 1 million COVID-19 cases](#)

[COVID-19 Hospitalizations Are Surging. Where Are Hospitals Reaching Capacity?](#) (NPR) Throughout the U.S., hospitals and health care workers are tracking the skyrocketing number of new coronavirus cases in their communities and bracing for a flood of patients to come in the wake of those infections. Already, seriously ill COVID-19 patients are starting to fill up hospital beds at unsustainable rates.

[Why Do COVID Death Rates Seem to Be Falling?](#) (Nature) Around the world, similar stories are emerging. Charlotte Summers, an intensive-care physician at the University of Cambridge, UK, says that data collected by the country's National Health Service (NHS) show a decline in death rates¹ (see 'Mortality falls'). Critical-care physician Derek Angus at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania says that his hospital's statistics team also saw reductions over time. "Without question, we've noticed a drop in mortality," says Angus. "All things being equal, patients have a better chance of getting out alive."

[Russia's Claim of a Successful COVID-19 Vaccine Doesn't Pass the 'Smell Test,' critics say](#) (Science) A Russian institute announced today its vaccine candidate has had remarkable success in an efficacy trial, just 2 days after the widely celebrated news from Pfizer and BioNTech that their vaccine had greater than 90% efficacy. The Russian report, however, is being met with raised eyebrows—and some outright guffaws.

See also: [The First Interim Data Analysis of the Sputnik V Vaccine Against COVID-19 Phase III Clinical Trial in the Russian Federation Demonstrated 92% Efficacy](#)

[The Polio Eradication Campaign is Faltering. Can a New Vaccine Help It Get Back on Track?](#) (Science) The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) is about to roll out a brand-new vaccine—one that its leaders

desperately hope will turn the flagging effort around. If it works as expected, the vaccine just might overcome one of the biggest obstacles to polio eradication: out-of-control outbreaks caused by the polio vaccine itself. If not, GPEI will be back to dousing each outbreak with a vaccine that risks starting another, as eradication slips further from sight.

COVID-related shortages of malarial, other drugs spotlighted

(CIDRAP) Recent publications from the COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance and from France's consumer interest association UFC-Que Choisir hinted at global drug supply shortages through different scopes and methods.

The first, [results from the alliance's 9,000-person survey](#), was presented at the annual ACR Convergence 2020 late last week and reported that 6.2% of global respondents were unable to receive their antimalarial, rheumatic disease treatments (eg, hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine) because of pharmaceutical shortages.

Hydroxychloroquine has been prescribed to treat COVID-19, with little proven success, but its use has led to shortages for the diseases for which it has been approved.

The second is an [analysis](#) of 140 drugs of major therapeutic interest that were on the French National Agency for Medicines and Health Products Safety (ANSM) shortage list in July. Among calls for a better approach to drug shortages, the writers added that, while there were 1,200 supply chain disruptions in 2019—already a 38.2% increase from 2018—in 2020, there have been 2,400.

Learn more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/11/covid-related-shortages-malarial-other-drugs-spotlighted>

[NIOSH's Second Elastomeric Half-Mask Respirator \(EHMR\) Federal Register Notice Webinar](#)
Wednesday, November 18, 2020 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EDT

Elastomeric half mask respirators (EHMRs) are reusable respirators that may be worn in a healthcare setting and supplement the supply of disposable respirators available to healthcare workers. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)—in coordination with the Strategic National Stockpile—posted a [Federal Register Notice \(FRN\) titled "A National Elastomeric Half Mask Respirator \(EHMR\) Strategy for Use in Healthcare Settings During an Infectious Disease Outbreak/Pandemic"](#).

Through this FRN, NIOSH is seeking input regarding the national distribution plan of purchased EHMRs, as well as identifying potential organizations interested in receiving a portion of these EHMRs with the commitment to provide a report of user acceptability and feasibility of implementation.

NIOSH is seeking organizations including, but not limited to:

- Hospital systems, individual hospitals, and/or specific hospital units (i.e., emergency department, intensive care units)
- Outpatient care settings (i.e., offices, clinics, home care, urgent care, rehab centers)
- Long term care facilities
- Dental practices
- First responder organizations (i.e., police, fire, EMS)

To learn more about how your organization can participate in this effort, please join us for a webinar on November 18th from 1:00-2:00pm (ET). NIOSH will provide an overview of EHMRs, a summary of the FRN, expectations of potential participants, next steps, and answer any questions you may have. Registration for the webinar is [here](#).

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.