



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for November 13, 2020

US States Ramp Up Seat Belt Enforcement

(From [IACP's The Lead](#)) The [AP](#) (11/12) reports, "West Virginia highway enforcers are taking part in this year's Click It or Ticket effort that begins Monday. Anyone caught traveling without a buckled seat belt or traveling with unrestrained children will be ticketed, transportation officials said in a news release." The AP adds, "The two-week mobilization coincides with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's campaign during the busy holiday travel season. 'If you knew you would be involved in a crash, wouldn't you want to be buckled? It's your best defense against injury or death,' said Bob Tipton, director of the West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program. West Virginia law enforcement agencies will work with colleagues in Maryland and Virginia on Monday and in Kentucky and Ohio on Nov. 20 in a coordinated effort involving border counties."

The disturbing surge in Covid-19 hospitalizations

(Vox) More Americans are currently hospitalized with [Covid-19](#) than at any other point in the pandemic, a grim indicator that the [third big wave](#) of cases in the US may be the worst wave to date.

US Covid-19 hospitalizations have reached a new record high



On November 11, 65,368 people across the United States were in the hospital after testing positive for the novel coronavirus, according to data reported by the [Covid Tracking Project](#). That's significantly higher than the last peak of 59,940 recorded on April 15, when the New York City area was the [epicenter](#) of the US outbreak. (As the Covid Tracking Project [notes](#), the national and state hospital data have been erratic and incomplete, and reported totals may continue to shift.)

The good news is that infectious disease experts think many hospitals are better prepared to handle surges in Covid-19 patients than they were in the spring. For the most part, they have

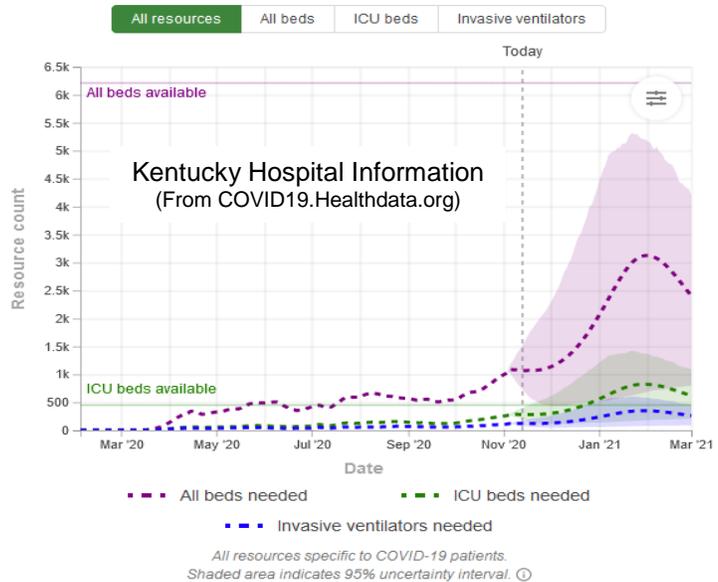
the equipment they need and they know how to deploy it. They also have more standardized protocol for treating the sickest patients.

Yet hospitals in hot spots across the country are maxing out their staff, equipment, and beds, with doctors and nurses warning that the [worst-case scenario](#) of hospital resources being overwhelmed is on the horizon if their states don't get better control of the coronavirus.

Hospitals in several states are also straining to find enough specialists to treat the very sick Covid-19 patients. "ICU beds don't take care of people — you need staff," said Andrew Pavia, the chief of pediatric infectious diseases at the University of Utah School of Medicine. "And one of the things that many of the Western states have in common is a relative shortage of the people we need to take care of very sick people during a pandemic like this: ICU doctors, probably most importantly ICU nurses, and infectious disease physicians, respiratory therapists. These folks have been working flat out for eight or nine months, and three months into the surge, they're exhausted, they're stressed." Read more: <https://www.vox.com/2020/11/12/21560902/covid-19-risk-hospitalizations-chart-texas-illinois>

>>> [Related – KY Governor: 94 Red Zone Counties Need to Act Now!](#) <<<

Hospital resource use indicates how equipped a location...



Unwelcome milestone: California hits million COVID-19 cases

(AP) California on Thursday became the second state — behind Texas — to eclipse a million known cases, while the U.S. has surpassed 10 million infections, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. The nation's most populous state — with 40 million residents — ranks 39th nationwide in the number of cases per 100,000 residents.

Read more: <https://apnews.com/article/us-news-pandemics-california-coronavirus-pandemic-22b6df0f2e58a346c270daf734ae74de>

Kentucky Supreme Court Upholds Beshear Coronavirus Orders

(WFPL) The Kentucky Supreme Court has unanimously ruled in favor of Gov. Andy Beshear's power to issue emergency orders during the coronavirus pandemic. The ruling comes after [several Northern Kentucky business owners](#) sued Beshear in late June over his orders, which affected their reopening during the pandemic.

Justice Lisabeth Hughes wrote on behalf of the court, saying that the governor did have the power to issue emergency executive orders.

"The Governor's orders were, and continue to be, necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of all Kentucky citizens," Hughes wrote. "This type of highly contagious etiological hazard is precisely the type of emergency that requires a statewide response and properly serves as a basis for the Governor's actions under KRS Chapter 39A."

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/kentucky-supreme-court-upholds-beshear-coronavirus-orders/>

States ramp up for biggest vaccination effort in US history

(AP) With a COVID-19 vaccine drawing closer, public health officials across the country are gearing up for the biggest vaccination effort in U.S. history — a monumental undertaking that must distribute hundreds of millions of doses, prioritize who's first in line and ensure that people who get the initial shot return for the necessary second one.

The push could begin as early as next month, when federal officials say the first vaccine may be authorized for emergency use and immediately deployed to high-risk groups, such as health care workers.

For the vaccination effort to get off the ground, state officials have been readying systems to track supplies and who has been vaccinated. That information will be fed into a national network and will be critical in giving federal health officials an up-to-date picture of vaccinations around the country.

Providers such as pharmacies and doctors' offices will also need to be able to look up records, so people do not have to return to the same place for their second shot. More than one vaccine could also become available, and doses cannot be mixed and matched.

Full story: <https://apnews.com/article/biggest-vaccination-effort-us-history-2d46fd529b2ff5313201e8065b81c0d7>

Federal government strikes deal to make a Covid-19 vaccine widely available at U.S. pharmacies

(STAT News) Federal health officials have [reached an agreement](#) with pharmacy retailers across the U.S. to offer a Covid-19 vaccine for free once one is approved and available. The agreement covers 3 out of 5 pharmacies — including chain drugstores like Rite Aid and pharmacies in stores like Walmart and Costco — in all 50 states and territories such as Puerto Rico, with the goal that a Covid-19 vaccine would be available in the same way that the flu shot currently is. This latest agreement follows similar deals with chains CVS and Walgreens to make a Covid-19 vaccine available to nursing home residents and staff. Because initial supplies will be limited, states will likely have to allocate them to high-priority groups such as health workers and other first responders. (Source: <https://us11.campaign-archive.com/?u=f8609630ae206654824f897b6&id=0f6743c131>)

AP Story: <https://apnews.com/article/politics-alex-azar-coronavirus-pandemic-bfe002c987d7ed15e61a5b4d433704bb>

'Breakthrough finding' reveals why certain Covid-19 patients die

Research shows Covid-19 patients with life-threatening illness have antibodies that disable key immune system proteins called interferons.

Read more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/breakthrough-finding-reveals-why-certain-covid-19-patients-die-n1247576>

'You Can See The Regret':

ICU Nurse On Patients Who Failed To Take COVID Precautions

(NPR) Across the U.S., coronavirus cases are surging and [pushing the health care system to its limits](#). Every day since Election Day, more than 100,000 people in the country have tested positive for the virus. In many places, there aren't enough nurses and doctors to handle the rising caseloads, and staffing agencies are slammed with requests for more.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2020/11/12/934266487/icu-nurse-on-dealing-with-latest-coronavirus-outbreak-in-michigan>

From CIDRAP Daily News
[Study: Only 1 of 32 COVID survivors testing positive had live virus](#)
[COVID spread among Marine recruits despite quarantine](#)

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COVID-19 Resources – [November Update](#)

Measles cases in 2019 reach a 23-year high

The number of measles cases in 2019 were the highest in 23 years, according to new estimates [from the WHO and CDC](#). There were nearly 870,000 cases worldwide last year, and deaths from the disease — roughly 207,500 — were up nearly 50% since 2016. The report's authors attribute these startling totals to children not being vaccinated with both the recommended doses of the measles vaccine. Coverage rates have to be at 95% for both doses in order to prevent outbreaks, but the rate for the first dose has been stagnant at around 85% for the past decade, and despite gains for the second dose, the rate is still only at around 71%. “These data send a clear message that we are failing to protect children from measles in every region of the world,” WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in [a statement](#).

(Source: <https://us11.campaign-archive.com/?u=f8609630ae206654824f897b6&id=0f6743c131>)

Cincinnati Bridge

Gov. Beshear, Secretary Gray Provide Update on Work to Repair, Reopen Brent Spence Bridge

(From [Press Release](#)) Yesterday, Gov. Andy Beshear and Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) Secretary Jim Gray provided a public update on the progress of an emergency project to repair and reopen the fire-damaged Brent Spence Bridge between Covington and Cincinnati, Ohio.

Gov. Beshear and Secretary Gray gave the following updates, as of 2:30 p.m. EST:

- The recovery project is moving on multiple tracks at once: While inspectors examine the damage and collect samples for materials testing, engineers are designing specific repairs in real time.
- While inspections are underway, KYTC is securing the vendors, supplies and contractors that will be needed regardless of the design specifics of the repair project.
- The Ohio River, which the U.S. Coast Guard closed to commercial and recreational boat traffic for safety reasons, has been reopened.
- KYTC is working with officials on both the Ohio and Kentucky sides of the river to reopen the historic Roebling Bridge, upriver from the Brent Spence, to passenger traffic. Covington police closed the bridge to motor vehicles Wednesday night after large commercial trucks were seen going onto the bridge in defiance of its 11-ton weight limit and posted warning signs. The pedestrian walkway is open to foot traffic.

Photos of work being performed today on the bridge can be found [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Further updates can be found at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's webpage, [here](#).

This May Be a Surprisingly Easy Way to Rid Body of Alcohol

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s298681>

FBI Analyst: Pittsburgh Is A “Hub” For White Supremacy

(From [IACP's The Lead](#)) The [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (11/12, Ove) reports, “Pittsburgh is a focal point for white supremacy and extremists, an FBI analyst said Thursday at a symposium on domestic terrorism. ‘Our area has become a hub. It’s important to understand that it is here,’ said John Pulcastro, a supervisory analyst at the Pittsburgh FBI. In fact, he said the movement is as strong here as any other place in the country he has studied in 20 years, including the Pacific Northwest, a hotbed for supremacists.” The Post-Gazette adds, “Extremist groups are active here in holding events and recruiting. As an example, he said 100 members of a neo-Nazi group called the Patriot Front marched down the Boulevard of the Allies on the weekend. Their motto, ‘Conquer or Die,’ makes their ideology clear, he said. Another catch-phrase, ‘Blood and Soil,’ is aimed at making America a white country only, with refugees seen as invaders, Mr. Pulcastro said.”

FEMA EMI News Update - Training Opportunities

- [1614 - Training Opportunity - K0051 Exercise Program Management](#)
- [1616 - Training Opportunity - K0103 Planning Emergency Operations](#)
- [1617 - Training Opportunity - K0146 HSEEP Baisc Course](#)

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.