



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for November 13, 2020 – UPDATE #1

## Kentucky has HIGHEST EVER COVID-19 Case Count

(WKYT) - Governor Andy Beshear has provided an update on COVID-19 cases in Kentucky. He reported 3,173 new COVID-19 cases on Friday, bringing the state total to 132,844 cases. The governor says the state is seeing a 8.68 percent positivity rate. Friday marks the state's highest-ever number of daily cases.

As of Friday, 1,358 people are hospitalized for COVID-19 related reasons, 307 are in the ICU, and 147 are on ventilators. There were 25 reported COVID-19 related deaths on Friday. The state death total is now 1,647.

Read more: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2020/11/13/gov-beshear-reports-highest-ever-daily-case-total-868-positivity-rate/>

## Feds update vaccine arrival amid record US COVID-19 rise

(CIDRAP) As record COVID-19 cases continue to bear down on the United States ahead of Thanksgiving and already overwhelming some hospitals, federal officials today said the first 20 million doses of vaccine may be available in December.

At the global level, cases topped 53 million today as Europe's second surge continued at very high levels, with more single day case-highs reported in several countries.

**Operation Warp Speed update** - In a Rose Garden briefing, President Donald Trump and other federal officials gave an update on the arrival of vaccines and treatments. Trump, in his first briefing since the election results, said COVID-19 vaccines backed by Operation Warp Speed (OWS) have been developed five times faster than earlier vaccines.

Learn more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/11/feds-update-vaccine-arrival-amid-record-us-covid-19-rise>

## ----- Stories from our hospitals -----

### Despite 'tight' staffing, U of L Health says it's not overwhelmed by COVID-19 hospitalizations

Learn more: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/despite-tight-staffing-u-of-l-health-says-its-not-overwhelmed-by-covid-19-hospitalizations/article\\_ae297a8c-25f5-11eb-aa38-3ff2e52b4e99.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/despite-tight-staffing-u-of-l-health-says-its-not-overwhelmed-by-covid-19-hospitalizations/article_ae297a8c-25f5-11eb-aa38-3ff2e52b4e99.html)

### Lexington Hospitals Update Visitor Restrictions

Read more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/lexington-hospitals-updating-visitor-restrictions-starting-tuesday>

### Trends In Coronavirus Cases, Deaths And Hospitalizations This Week

NPR Story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/11/13/934566781/the-pandemic-this-week-8-things-to-know-about-the-surge>

### Mayo, Intermountain navigate 'wild west' of starting **Hospital at Home** during COVID-19 pandemic

Mayo Clinic and Intermountain Healthcare detail their implementation of Hospital at Home programs and what new regulations and changes they need to ensure success of the home-based initiatives.

CIDRAP: [Study suggests mass azithromycin may promote resistance to other antibiotics](#)

## Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines

### Extracts from [November 13, 2020](#)

### [Assessment of SARS-CoV-2 RNA Test Results Among Patients Who Recovered From COVID-19 With Prior Negative Results](#) (JAMA)

We investigated RT-PCR retested positive nasal/oropharyngeal swab (NOS) samples from recovered patients with COVID-19 with prior negative results for the presence of replicative SARS-CoV-2 RNA. 18% of patients with COVID-19 in our institution became RT-PCR positive for SARS-CoV-2 RNA after clinical recovery and previous negative results. Only 1 of 32 patients retesting positive had replicating virus in the NOS sample, suggesting either recurrent infection or reinfection, which is impossible to separate because no whole-genome sequencing and phylogenetic analyses were performed.

### [Medicago and GSK Announce Start of Phase 2/3 Clinical Trials of Adjuvanted COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate](#) (Medicago)

Medicago, a biopharmaceutical company headquartered in Quebec City, and GSK are pleased to announce the start of Phase 2/3 clinical trials of its plant-derived vaccine candidate for COVID-19 to evaluate its efficacy, safety, and immunogenicity. Based on the positive Phase 1 results and the approval of Canadian regulatory authorities, Medicago has decided to launch the Phase 2/3 clinical trial with GSK's pandemic adjuvant. The study is a multi-portion design to confirm that the chosen formulation and dosing regimen of CoVLP (two doses of 3.75 µg CoVLP combined with GSK's pandemic adjuvant given 21 days apart)

has an acceptable immunogenicity and safety profile in healthy adults 18-64 years of age and in elderly subjects aged 65 and over.

**[Gates Foundation Adds \\$70 Million More Funding for COVID Vaccines for Poor](#)** (*Reuters*) The Gates Foundation added another \$70 million of funding on Thursday to global efforts to develop and distribute vaccines and treatments against the COVID-19 pandemic, saying it hoped other international donors would now also pledge more. An extra \$50 million will go to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) led by the GAVI vaccine alliance, the foundation said, and another \$20 million to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) which is co-funding development of several COVID-19 vaccine candidates.

**[Rapid Risk Assessment: Detection of New SARS-CoV-2 Variants Related to Mink](#)** (*ECDC*) This assessment considers the risk to human health posed by SARS-CoV-2 mink related variants. Since the S protein contains the receptor-binding domain, and is a major target for immune response, such mutations could, in theory, have implications for viral fitness (ability to infect humans and animals), transmissibility, and antigenicity. As a consequence, the evolution of viruses with increasing changes in functional domains of the S protein could affect treatment, certain diagnostic tests and virus antigenicity. It could also have an impact on the effectiveness of developed vaccine candidates, and possibly require them to be updated. Investigations and studies are ongoing to clarify the extent of these possible implications.

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**After WHO trial failure, influential medical group advises against  
Gilead's remdesivir in COVID critical care: Reuters**

Full story: <https://www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/following-who-trial-influential-medical-group-advises-against-gilead-s-remdesivir-covid>

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**Elizabethtown mom charged after 3 kids test positive for meth**

Read more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/crime/kentucky-mom-charged-after-3-kids-test-positive-for-meth>

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**HHS ASPR/Cyber Notification  
Ransomware Activity Targeting the Healthcare and Public Health Sector (Update 2)**

(HHS ASPR) This joint message was coauthored by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**CISA, FBI, and HHS continue to assess the threat of ransomware cybercriminal activity targeting the HPH sector. At this time, we consider the threat to be credible, ongoing, and persistent.** Of note, some recent healthcare sector victims have experienced very short periods of time between initial compromise and activation – even under a few hours. CISA, FBI, and HHS urge health delivery organizations and other HPH sector entities to work towards enduring and operationally sustainable protections against ransomware threats both now and in the future.

Potential risk mitigation measures for consideration are included in the [28 Oct joint alert, “Ransomware Activity Targeting the Healthcare and Public Health Sector,”](#) describing the use of Trickbot, BazarLoader, and other techniques to eventually deploy ransomware (like Ryuk) for extortion and financial gain. In general, maintaining anti-ransomware best practices like the 3-2-1 backup system or conducting regular vulnerability scanning to identify and address vulnerabilities will help protect your organization against future threats from other ransomware operators. Organizations should balance their operational needs with the current threat level and develop processes and postures for normal operating status and higher threat periods. The threat from ransomware is ongoing and entities should develop effective deterrent procedures while maintaining effective care delivery.

HHS, CISA, and FBI are closely monitoring both the threat and activity. We will provide further guidance as more information becomes available.

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.