



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for November 18, 2020

### **Pfizer Preparing to File for Emergency Use Authorization for its COVID Vaccine CEO Says it Reached Its Safety Milestone**

(CNN) Pfizer has accumulated enough safety data on its Covid-19 vaccine and is preparing to file for emergency use authorization from the US Food and Drug Administration, company CEO Albert Bourla said Tuesday.

The FDA has scheduled a meeting of its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, a group of outside experts, for December 8, 9 and 10, a source familiar with the process told CNN Tuesday. The agency could make a decision at the end of the meeting on December 10 about whether to issue emergency use authorizations for the vaccines, the source said.

If the FDA authorizes the vaccines, they can then be immediately distributed to states, according to a presentation made last month at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, no one can be vaccinated until a CDC advisory committee reviews the data, recommends the vaccine, and says which groups will receive it first. If the FDA authorizes the vaccines, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, an independent panel of experts, will meet within 24 to 48 hours, according to a CDC spokesperson.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/17/health/pfizer-vaccine-fda-eua-submission-process/index.html>

### **Kentucky Governor Announces COVID Updates & New Steps**

Today Governor Andy Beshear said that we have seen the 4th highest number of new cases at 2,753. There were 292 cases involving kids 18 or younger. That brings the total to 144,753 since March 6th when Kentucky had its first case. The top-5 highest totals have come in the last week. The current positivity rate is 9.13%. More daily stats can be found here: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/COVID19DailyReport.pdf>

Recommendations going forward from Friday, November 20, at 5 PM, to Sunday, December 13, at 11:59 PM:

1. Further limit gatherings to no more than 8 people. Essentially one family unit, and one other, but no more than eight.
2. Indoor venues will be limited to no more than 25 people per room. That includes funerals and weddings. This does NOT include places of worship, which he will address on Thursday.
3. Bars and restaurants are to be closed to indoor dining. Encourage them to focus on:
  - a. Delivery
  - b. To Go orders
  - c. Outdoor service
  - d. There is a special fund being set-up to help these businesses get through this.
4. Gyms, fitness centers, pools and bowling alleys should limit themselves to no more than 33% occupancy, with masks required. No group classes allowed.
5. KHSAA has agreed to cancel all fall sports and practices
  - a. This does not apply to college athletics at this time since many have already taken steps.
6. Professional services and business are encouraged to have employees work from home where possible. Again, where they can, close to public access.
7. Schools are being asked to do the following:
  - a. All public and private schools (K-12) should cease in-person instruction beginning Nov 23rd.
    - i. Middle & high schools should do remote learning until January 4th
    - ii. Elementary schools may reopen December 7th IF
      1. Their county is NOT in the RED ZONE, and
      2. Schools follow the Health at School guidance
  - b. Public universities should convert to all virtual by Monday, November 23rd.
    - i. Private colleges and universities have been asked to follow these guidelines.
8. Hospitals have NOT been asked to curtail services. A number have already taken steps on their own.
9. No changes to retail outlets, though they are encouraged to continue their mask mandates.

**The Governor's press release will be posted here later this evening:** <https://governor.ky.gov/news>

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**Ohio to Enter 3-Week Statewide Curfew to Stem Coronavirus**

(NPR) Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine on Tuesday ordered a statewide curfew, mandating that residents be in their homes by 10 p.m., beginning Thursday. The curfew will be in place every day for at least three weeks, lasting overnight until 5 a.m. But there are exceptions, [including](#) for those who need to be at work or see to medical needs. The order will also not stop grocery shopping or drive-through and pickup food services.

DeWine asked Ohio residents to make additional efforts to cut down trips outside the home, even within the curfew's parameters. He suggested consolidating grocery trips and saying no to social activities, instead opting for calling friends and family.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/11/17/935910809/ohio-governor-orders-3-week-statewide-curfew-as-coronavirus-cases-rise>

**Related - US COVID-19 surge triggers flurry of new response steps across US**

CIDRAP: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/11/us-covid-19-surge-triggers-flurry-new-response-steps>

*The Hill:* [Biden on Thanksgiving: 'There should be no group more than 10 people'](#)

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**Oldham Co. requests help from state for nursing home with 83 COVID-19 cases**

(WDRB) -- A nursing home in Oldham County is dealing with an outbreak of COVID-19 and now needs help from the state. Friendship Health and Rehab in Pewee Valley has seen a recent spike in COVID cases both among residents and staff. So far, 63 residents have the virus -- that's up from 40 cases from Nov. 6. Twenty staff members also have the virus.

The Oldham County Health Department says it has made a formal request for a nurse strike team from the state to offset losses to staffing and help manage the situation. Six residents of the 142-bed facility have died from the virus since the pandemic began in March.

Source: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/oldham-co-requests-help-from-state-for-nursing-home-with-83-covid-19-cases/article\\_b53f783c-28f0-11eb-a8aa-7fb5c767ba2f.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/oldham-co-requests-help-from-state-for-nursing-home-with-83-covid-19-cases/article_b53f783c-28f0-11eb-a8aa-7fb5c767ba2f.html)

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**National Guard activated to help medical facilities across the state**

*[Follow-up to Nov 16 story.]*

(WTVQ) Fifty members of the Kentucky National Guard have been mobilized to help long-term care facilities across the state in response to the influx of COVID-19 cases.

These service members will be a part of 10 different non-clinical support teams spread throughout the Commonwealth. Requests for help will come from the public health districts to Kentucky's emergency management office.

"The Kentucky National Guard is poised to help Long Term Healthcare Facilities across the state who are operating in counties in the red due to COVID-19 saturation," said Lt. Col. Travis Carpenter, Kentucky National Guard Director of Military Support. "Our professional team of service members will operate within agreed upon constraints to help facility leadership free their current employees up to focus on the residents who call the facilities home."

The activation of the 50 members comes as healthcare facilities across the Bluegrass encroach on operational capacity levels the state has not witnessed since the beginning of the pandemic.

Full story: <https://www.wtvq.com/2020/11/17/national-guard-activated-to-help-medical-facilities-across-the-state/>

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**Number of patients in Flaget Memorial Hospital more than doubles since beginning of pandemic**

***The spike in patients came after Halloween. Now, health care leaders advise against large holiday gatherings.***

(WHAS-11) One month ago, Nelson County had a COVID incidence rate of 21.9. The incidence rate is the average number of daily cases per 100,000 people. Nelson County has fewer than 50,000 people in it. Monday – that number stood at 89.6, which is far into the state's red zone.

Flaget Memorial has 52 beds. At the beginning of the pandemic, the hospital has about five to seven COVID patients in beds. Now – that number is between 15 and 18. That spike came after Halloween trick or treating.

Learn more: <https://www.whas11.com/mobile/article/news/health/coronavirus/coronavirus-patients-nelson-co-hospital-doubled-since-beginning-of-pandemic/417-f9c7febf-513d-46d4-aeec-bcb31f42eb45>

## Pikeville Medical Center CEO: "COVID is here!"

(WYMT) Pike County has been in the red zone for weeks as the number of COVID-19 cases in the county continues to increase. And according to PMC CEO Donovan Blackburn, the hospital is seeing an increase of ICU patients in its COVID-19 unit.

"This really isn't about politics. It's about the data. It's about what we're being faced with now every single day," said Blackburn. "We have to make sure that not only are we doing everything we can to ensure that we're providing the best product during these unprecedented times, but also that we're staying engaged with the community."

{Side note: (WKMS) As part of Governor Beshear's Tuesday Press Conference, the CEO of Pikeville Medical Center, Donovan Blackburn, reported nearly every county they serve is in the red zone. As of Oct. 1, they were treating 10 COVID-19 patients and as of yesterday, they are treating 83, 27 of whom are in the ICU. Blackburn noted the death rate is also rising; there were five deaths at the beginning of November, and now, just 17 days later, they have faced 22 deaths. He said the rapid increase puts hospitals at risk of shutting down other vital services, and urged Kentuckians to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for protecting against the virus.}

## Update on Eli Lilly Therapeutics Distribution

Last week KHA held a Town Hall Meeting regarding the allocation and distribution of the first monoclonal antibody therapeutic modality for COVID-19, Lilly's Bamlanivimab. The participants heard about this treatment for COVID-19 positive outpatients with mild to moderate symptoms who are at risk for severe disease. The infusion takes an hour, which is to be followed by an hour of observation. For more details on patient indications and infusion recommendations, see the [FDA EUA document](#).

The initial allocation to the commonwealth was based on burden of disease as reflected in data provided to HHS. KDPH then created a starting point for distribution based on each facility's number of beds. Amerisource Bergen (ASB) will ship supply directly to the hospitals/systems and will reach out for agreement to accept this **free** supply. If a hospital does not have an account with ASB, they should reach out to them to open one ASAP. Kentucky will be allocated doses for the state's 96 hospitals, and this will be adjusted weekly if needed.

States received another allocation of Bamlanivimab today, with Kentucky receiving 920 doses. The Kentucky Department of Public Health has made the decision to auto confirm this week's and all future allocations to hospitals to ensure they are receiving this therapeutic without delay.

Next week will begin the second phase of this operation which will include allocations to additional outpatient facilities. Due to the holiday, next week's allocations will be made on Tuesday.

## ASPR TRACIE Releases PPE Preservation Planning Toolkit

This toolkit is designed to aid any PPE-using organization to plan and implement preservation strategies. It provides estimates of the value of implementing preservation actions to reduce (use of), to reuse, or to repurpose PPE, as described in the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Personal Protective Equipment Preservation Best Practices<sup>1</sup> fact sheet, in conventional, contingency, or crisis capacity conditions (as defined in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Optimizing Supply of PPE and Other Equipment during Shortages<sup>2</sup>). Users enter data on their current or prospective PPE use practices. The toolkit assists users to understand types of preservation strategies their organizations may implement and provides estimates of positive impacts of using those strategies in increasing the duration of a specified PPE supply.

### What is included?

1. [The Guide \(PDF\)](#): step-by-step instructions
2. [The Tool \(spreadsheet\)](#): dynamic tool to enter and analyze data and interpret output

Learn more: <https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/ppepp-toolkit-fact-sheet-hrwg.pdf>

## Gallup: More Americans Now Willing to Get COVID-19 Vaccine

- ✓ 58% of Americans say they would get a COVID-19 vaccine
- ✓ Democrats, older Americans among the most willing to get vaccine
- ✓ Speed of development most commonly cited reason to not vaccinate

Read about Gallup survey: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/325208/americans-willing-covid-vaccine.aspx>

**Related** - [Moderna's coronavirus vaccine requires 2 shots given a month apart, which makes it tougher to get everyone fully inoculated](#)

## FDA authorizes first at-home coronavirus test

(Politico) The Food and Drug Administration has [authorized](#) the first prescription at-home coronavirus test, in a long-awaited milestone.

The test, developed by Lucira Health, can be used by people who are at least 14 years old when their health provider suspects they have Covid-19, the FDA said late Tuesday. The test can be used on younger people, but in that case a health care provider must collect the sample.

The test involves swabbing the inside of the nose, placing the swab in a vial and swirling it before putting the vial in a "test unit." The process gives results in 30 minutes or less.

Learn more: <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/11/17/fda-authorizes-first-at-home-coronavirus-test-437295>

## FDA issues guidance on using investigational convalescent plasma

(From [AHA Today](#)) The Food and Drug Administration yesterday [issued final guidance](#) for health care providers and researchers using investigational COVID-19 convalescent plasma, defined as convalescent plasma that does not meet all conditions of the agency's emergency use authorization or which is used under an investigational new drug application during the public health emergency. The updated guidance extends enforcement discretion through February 2021 to allow continued access to convalescent plasma for hospitalized COVID-19 patients while blood establishments develop operating procedures to manufacture the plasma consistent with the EUA. The guidance also advises against collecting convalescent plasma from individuals who have received an investigational COVID-19 vaccine because the quality of the immune response from such vaccines is uncertain.

(The Hill) The CDC has [quietly removed guidance from its website](#) encouraging school reopenings and downplaying the risk of COVID-19 transmission to children. The documents, one of which was reportedly written by political appointees outside of the CDC, stated that children appear to be at lower risk for contracting COVID-19 compared to adults and that children are unlikely to be major spreaders of the virus. The CDC removed two guidance documents [from its website](#) in late October with no public announcement.

## Major measles outbreaks forecast for 2021 due to COVID

Researchers have stressed that major measles outbreaks will likely occur in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic as early as 2021 due to many missed vaccinations.

Measles is a highly contagious illness caused by a virus that replicates in the nose and throat of an infected child or adult.

The study, published in the journal *The Lancet*, has called for urgent international action to prevent potentially devastating measles epidemics in the coming years.

"Many children have missed out on measles vaccination this year, making future measles outbreaks inevitable," said study lead author Kim Mulholland from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Australia and Chair of the World Health Organization's SAGE Working Group on measles and rubella vaccines.

Full story: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/health/major-measles-outbreaks-forecast-for-2021-due-to-covid-study-171613>

## Why antibiotics should not be given to kids below 2

Antibiotics administered to children younger than two are associated with several ongoing illnesses or conditions, ranging from allergies to obesity, warn researchers.

For the study, published in the journal *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, the research team from Mayo Clinic in the US analysed data from over 14,500 children. About 70 percent of the children had received at least one treatment with antibiotics for illness before age 2.

The findings showed that children receiving multiple antibiotic treatments were more likely to have multiple illnesses or conditions later in childhood.

Learn more: <https://menafn.com/1101135369/Why-antibiotics-should-not-be-given-to-kids-below-2>

## Amazon Launching Pharmacy

(NPR) Amazon has launched a pharmacy business, offering to fill prescriptions for delivery by mail.

The retail giant barging in — its biggest foray into health care yet — reverberated through the industry on Tuesday. Shares of CVS were down about 8% at midday, while Walgreens tumbled 9% and Rite Aid 15%.

Prescription drugs are an industry worth hundreds of billions of dollars — and more people have turned to ordering medications by mail during the coronavirus pandemic. Analysts say Amazon's move could particularly affect smaller drugstores. Amazon has eyed this market for a while, also pushing to compete with big-box stores such as Walmart and major pharmacy chains that have long offered home delivery, in some cases same-

day. In 2018, [Amazon acquired](#) online pharmacy PillPack, which mainly focuses on people who take multiple medications a day.

Now [the retailer says](#) its shoppers can order generic and name-brand drugs for delivery within days. That includes common prescriptions such as insulin, inhalers and blood pressure medications. The company says it will not deliver most opioids, which are controlled substances.

Amazon has launched the service for now in 45 states, excluding Hawaii, Illinois, **Kentucky**, Louisiana and Minnesota. Amazon Pharmacy promises free two-day delivery for members of the company's Prime subscription, which costs \$119 a year in the United States.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2020/11/17/935727688/amazon-wants-to-sell-you-prescription-medications>

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**Inside China's Online Fentanyl Chemical Networks Helping Fuel The Opioid Crisis**

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2020/11/17/916890880/we-are-shipping-to-the-u-s-china-s-fentanyl-sellers-find-new-routes-to-drug-user>

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**Could Night Shifts Raise Asthma Risk?**

(Drugs.com) Night-shift workers are about one-third more likely to develop moderate to severe [asthma](#) compared to folks working daylight hours, a new study finds.

Researchers in Britain explained that working a night shift can play havoc with the body's internal clock, and has been tied to an increased risk for various metabolic disorders, cardiovascular disease and cancer. So, in the new study, they collected data on nearly 287,000 people listed in the U.K. Biobank between 2007 and 2010.

Compared with people who worked regular office hours, shift workers were more likely to be men, smokers, and live in urban areas and poorer neighborhoods. They also drank less alcohol, slept fewer hours and worked longer hours. Full story: <https://www.drugs.com/news/could-night-shifts-raise-asthma-risk-94069.html>

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***Pre-holiday feel good story....***

**Police Officer Rushes Into Burning House for His Sons**

<http://newser.com/s298882>

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](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.