



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for November 19, 2020

Kentucky Breaks COVID-19 Record

Today, Governor Andy Beshear reported during his daily briefing that Kentucky had 3,649 new COVID cases, which is the highest the state has ever had. The number included 437 children 18 and under, and brings the total case count to 148,390. He noted that the top-5 highest daily case counts have occurred in the last week. Positivity is now 9.18%. 112 counties are now in the RED ZONE. For more information click here:

<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/ThursdayRedCounties.pdf>

He also reported that there have been another 30 deaths, which is the 2nd highest, bringing the total to 1,742. Kentucky has lost 78 people to COVID in the last three days.

There are 1,550 COVID-19 patients hospitalized, with 358 in the ICU, and 199 on vents.

With regards to houses of worship, the Governor said that he has been talking with faith-based leadership groups and is encouraging virtual-only services starting Friday, and following the same time frame as the guidance for schools – which would be through services on December 13th.

Check here this evening for the full Press Release: <https://governor.ky.gov/news>

CDC recommends against travel for Thanksgiving

(CNN) The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that Americans should not travel for Thanksgiving, and has [posted updated guidelines](#) for safely celebrating the holiday.

"CDC is recommending against travel during the Thanksgiving Day period," Dr. Henry Walke, Covid-19 incident manager for the CDC, told reporters in a conference call.

"Right now, especially as we are seeing exponential growth in cases and the opportunity to translocate disease or infection from one part of the country to another leads, to our recommendation to avoid travel at this time."

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/19/health/cdc-thanksgiving-travel-wellness-bn/index.html>

Kentucky guidance: https://cdn.govstatus.site/381d0fbb43b611527a8f1c329301ef51fd555fcf/Thanksgiving_11_10_2020%20DPH.pdf

KY single slide summary:

<https://cdn.govstatus.site/381d0fbb43b611527a8f1c329301ef51fd555fcf/011.10%20Thanksgiving%20Guidance.png>

St. Elizabeth Ft. Thomas at Capacity; Hospital System Starts COVID Surge Plan

(RCN) St. Elizabeth Healthcare's Ft. Thomas location is at capacity and the system is starting to implement its surge plan, "which will involve (intensive care units) at other hospitals in our system," said Guy Karrick, spokesperson for St. E. The surge plan begins in Florence, he said. St. Elizabeth also has locations in Covington, Edgewood, Williamstown, and Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

Northern Kentucky, like the rest of the state, has seen a rapid increase in COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations. "We are almost double the volume of patients with covid from our peak in the spring," Karrick told RCN. "At the current rate, we will double before Thanksgiving."

Full story: <https://www.rcnky.com/articles/2020/11/18/st-elizabeth-ft-thomas-capacity-hospital-system-starts-covid-surge-plan>

Oxford scientists say they will not rush to get Covid vaccine results by Christmas

(The Guardian) Oxford University's scientists have said they will not rush to publish efficacy results from their Covid vaccine trial, playing down expectations that some of the 100m doses the UK has ordered may be available by Christmas.

Prof Andrew Pollard, chair of the Oxford vaccine group, said they were not in competition with Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna, which [have both published results](#) showing their innovative vaccines successfully protected more than 90% of people from falling ill with Covid-19.

"We're still waiting to get to the point where we can do the analysis to see whether we can protect people," said Pollard. "We're optimistic we will be able to do that before Christmas."

Pollard and colleagues were speaking at a briefing on the formal publication of early results from their trials in the Lancet medical journal. The results – which first emerged last month – show the vaccine stimulates an immune response in older adults as good as that in younger people.

That finding is very positive for a vaccine against a disease that takes its biggest toll on the elderly. Many vaccines are less effective in older people, whose immune systems weaken with age. The scientists are also pleased that there were fewer side-effects reported in older people than in younger age groups.

"We were really delighted with these results," said Pollard. "These first data are really encouraging by showing we are getting very good immune responses even in the over-70s, which look very similar to younger adults."

Story link: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/19/oxford-covid-scientists-no-rush-to-get-vaccine-results-by-christmas>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from **November 19, 2020**

'People Are Going to Die': Hospitals in Half the States are Facing a Massive Staffing Shortage as Covid-19 Surges (STAT News) Hospitals in at least 25 states are critically short of nurses, doctors, and other staff as coronavirus cases surge across the United States, according to the industry's trade association and a tally conducted by STAT. The situation has gotten so bad that in some places, severely ill patients have been transferred hundreds of miles for an available bed — from Texas to Arizona, and from central Missouri to Iowa. Many of these hospitals spent months building up stockpiles of medical equipment and protective gear in response to Covid-19, but the supplies are of little use without adequate staffing.

As U.S. Reaches 250,000 Deaths From COVID-19, A Long Winter Is Coming (NPR) The United States has surpassed yet another devastating milestone in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic: 250,000 Americans have now died from the disease. That's more than twice the number of U.S. service members killed in World War I. Coronavirus case numbers are exploding across the country at the beginning of what is shaping up to be a difficult winter of illness in America. In the past week, 36 states and one territory set records for daily new confirmed cases, and 12 states saw a day with the highest number of new deaths.

Vaccine Innovation Spurred by the Long Wait for an Ebola Virus Vaccine (The Lancet) The 2013–16 Ebola virus outbreak—the largest ever recorded—substantially hastened the development of an Ebola virus vaccine. Before this outbreak, the safety and immunogenicity of only two Ebola virus vaccine candidates had been evaluated in phase 1 clinical trials. Since then, clinical trials, including phase 2 and 3 trials, have been done to evaluate the safety, immunogenicity, and, when possible, the efficacy of several additional Ebola virus vaccine regimens.

Feel good story for the week...
**An intubated Covid-19 patient played the violin in the ICU
to thank health care workers**



(CNN) A retired orchestra teacher battling Covid-19 in a Utah hospital turned to his true passion -- music -- to help spread some joy in the ICU. Even while being intubated and unable to speak, Grover Wilhelmsen, 70, wanted to show his gratitude to the health care workers at McKay-Dee Hospital in Ogden.

"It brought tears to my eyes. For all the staff to see a patient doing this while intubated was unbelievable," Ciara Sase, a RN at McKay-Dee Hospital, [said in a news release](#). "Even though he was so sick, he was still able to push through. You could see how much it meant to him. Playing kind of helped to soothe his nerves and brought him back to the moment."

Staff in the ICU gathered around the closed glass doors of Wilhelmsen's room to listen and watched as the retired teacher played.

Read more and listen: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/18/us/intubated-covid-19-patient-plays-violin-trnd/index.html>

Click the picture, or use this YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/nYNclJpt-Mw>

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.