



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for November 21, 2020

Friday was Another Frightening Record Day for COVID-19 in KY

Positivity rate remains above 9.1%; nearly 4,000 new cases reported

(From [Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear once again reported the state's highest ever number of new daily cases on Friday. "This is exponential growth. It is shattering records over and over until we stop it. That's why we are taking action – we have to," said Gov. Beshear. "We've got more than 10,000 students quarantined right now just based on the last two weeks alone. We've got to do so much better.

As of 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, Gov. Beshear reported the following COVID-19 numbers:

- New cases Friday: 3,825
- New deaths Friday: 20
- Positivity rate: 9.15%
- Total deaths: 1,762
- Currently hospitalized: 1,544
- Currently in ICU: 366
- Currently on ventilator: 188

US recorded 195,000 new Covid-19 cases in a day. An expert says spread is now 'faster' and 'broader' than ever

(CNN) November has been a month full of [devastating Covid-19 records](#) in the US. Almost [every single state](#) has sounded the alarm on a rapid surge in cases and nationwide numbers have been climbing much faster than ever before -- with the country reporting a staggering 2.7 million infections since the beginning of the month.

On Friday, more than 195,500 new infections were reported -- a number many considered unheard of just weeks ago. The highest number of single-day cases during the country's summer surge was a little more than 77,100 in July.

And while infections continue to soar, hospitalizations are also hitting grim records, with now more than 82,100 Covid-19 patients across the US, according to the [COVID Tracking Project](#).

A [rising death toll follows](#). In just the past week, more than 10,000 American deaths have been reported -- nearly double the weekly death toll of just a month ago.

At least 24 hospital leaders warned the American Hospital Association they are experiencing staffing shortages, Nancy Foster, the association's vice president for quality and patient safety policy, said. Those concerns have been raised in states including Texas, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota and North and South Dakota, all of which have recently seen infections climbing, she added.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/21/health/us-coronavirus-saturday/index.html>

[Pfizer submits EUA request for COVID-19 vaccine: 'We will be ready to distribute within hours of authorization'](#)

Natural disasters are increasing. The world's poorest are left to fend for themselves *Help is available, but it's not getting to those who need it most.*

(Vox) More than 100 disasters — many of which were climate- and weather-related — have affected more than 50 million people around the world since March, when the World Health Organization [declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic](#). And though the money needed to protect against these disasters in the countries at risk exists, it's not getting to those who need it most.

Those are the key findings of a new [report](#) from the Geneva-based International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) released Tuesday. In it, the authors make clear that while global attention has been focused on the coronavirus pandemic — for good reason — the climate crisis and the resulting disasters facing communities around the world are just as catastrophic.

Full story: <https://www.vox.com/21571842/coronavirus-pandemic-climate-change-covid-19-natural-disaster-vaccine>

Johns Hopkins: Health security Headlines Extracts from [November 20, 2020](#)

[Health Experts Clash Over Use of Certain Drugs for COVID-19](#) (*Associated Press*) Health officials around the world are clashing over the use of certain drugs for COVID-19, leading to different treatment options for patients depending on where they live. On Friday, a World Health Organization guidelines panel advised against

using the antiviral remdesivir for hospitalized patients, saying there's no evidence it improves survival or avoids the need for breathing machines.

[Initial Data Shows Arthritis Drug is Effective in Treating Sickest Covid-19 Patients](#) (*Imperial College*)

Critically ill patients with Covid-19 who have been treated with an arthritis drug that reduces inflammation are significantly more likely to have improved outcomes, according to early data from the REMAP-CAP trial. Led by Professor Anthony Gordon, Consultant in Intensive Care Medicine at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, the research evaluated the effect of the treatment on survival rates and the length of time patients need support in an intensive care unit (ICU).

[Effect of Hydroxychloroquine in Hospitalized Patients with Covid-19](#) (*NEJM*) The results suggest that patients in the hydroxychloroquine group were less likely to be discharged from the hospital alive within 28 days than those in the usual-care group (59.6% vs. 62.9%; rate ratio, 0.90; 95% CI, 0.83 to 0.98). Among the patients who were not undergoing mechanical ventilation at baseline, those in the hydroxychloroquine group had a higher frequency of invasive mechanical ventilation or death (30.7% vs. 26.9%; risk ratio, 1.14; 95% CI, 1.03 to 1.27).

[Older Adults and the Mental Health Effects of COVID-19](#) (*JAMA*) As the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) began to spread in the US in early 2020, older adults experienced disproportionately greater adverse effects from the pandemic including more severe complications, higher mortality, concerns about disruptions to their daily routines and access to care, difficulty in adapting to technologies like telemedicine, and concerns that isolation would exacerbate existing mental health conditions. Older adults tend to have lower stress reactivity, and in general, better emotional regulation and well-being than younger adults,¹ but given the scale and magnitude of the pandemic, there was concern about a mental health crisis among older adults.

[COVID-19 Denial Still Rampant In Some Coronavirus Hot Spots](#) (*NPR*) Signs posted at the entrance to the grocery store in northwest Montana told customers to wear a mask. Public health officials in Flathead County urged the same. Coronavirus infection rates here are among the highest in the state. Infection rates in the state are among the highest in the United States.

[CDC Warns Against Thanksgiving Travel Amid COVID Surge](#) (*CIDRAP*) In updated guidance today, the CDC also offered several suggestions for making Thanksgiving gatherings safer. The strong warning today comes just days after doctors on the White House coronavirus task force warned top Trump administration officials of a deepening crisis in the lead-up to the holidays.

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.