



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for November 22, 2020

Governor Beshear announces highest number of cases for a Sunday

(WKYT) Governor Andy Beshear announced 2,194 new COVID-19 cases in Kentucky on Sunday. This report is the highest ever for a Sunday. The second highest was on October 25. The state total now stands at 158,100 cases. The state's positivity rate is now 9.19%.

This week was Kentucky's highest ever week for COVID-19 cases, surpassing the previous record week by 3,766 cases. The Governor also reported 4 new deaths Sunday. That brings the total COVID-19 related deaths in Kentucky to 1,787.

Full story: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2020/11/22/governor-beshear-announces-highest-number-of-cases-for-a-sunday/>

Press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=479>

Related - Coronavirus Update: Maps And Charts For U.S. Cases And Deaths

See more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/09/01/816707182/map-tracking-the-spread-of-the-coronavirus-in-the-u-s>

Indiana hospitals treat over 3K virus patients for 4th day

(AP) The number of COVID-19 patients being treated at Indiana's hospitals remained above 3,000 people for the fourth straight day on Friday, state health officials reported Saturday.

Indiana hospitals were treating 3,168 COVID-19 patients as of Friday, the Indiana State Department of Health said in its [daily statistics update](#). That's the largest number of COVID-19 patients since the state began releasing public reports on coronavirus hospitalizations last spring.

The state agency also added 40 more coronavirus-related deaths to Indiana's pandemic toll, raising those deaths to 5,246, including confirmed and presumed coronavirus infections. Another 6,983 Hoosiers have been diagnosed with COVID-19, the department also reported, boosting the number of Hoosiers with known coronavirus infections to 289,183.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/pandemics-health-coronavirus-pandemic-indiana-2dd78bbf2f450acbb64eaf2b6b6f4aee>

Fauci: 'Terribly Painful Months' Are Coming

(Newser) If you're looking for reassuring words regarding the pandemic, Dr. Anthony Fauci isn't offering many of them. In comments to the [New York Times](#) on Friday, he expressed his opinion that "December, January and early February are going to be terribly painful months." He attributed that prediction to the steepness of the case-count curve. "It's almost an exponential curve," he explained. "When you have an exponential curve up like that, by the time it peaks and then comes ultimately down, the duration of the surge is much longer." The *Times* provides context: "Epidemiologists dread exponential growth because cases can quickly double, then double again." But Fauci wasn't all doom and gloom, saying the "spectacular results of the vaccines" are sources of real hope. Elsewhere on the coronavirus front:

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/299051/faucis-view-on-the-next-few-months-terribly-painful.html>

FDA Grants Emergency Authorization For COVID-19 Treatment From Regeneron

(NPR) One of the experimental drugs that President Trump received while he was battling the coronavirus has been approved for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration. The drug, made by the biotech company Regeneron, is the second antibody treatment to win emergency use approval from the FDA.

The treatment combines two antibodies — casirivimab and imdevimab — and administers them together by IV. In a clinical trial of about 800 people, the combination was shown to significantly reduce virus levels within days of treatment.

In its [authorization](#) on Saturday, the FDA made clear that the drug is only for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in people 12 years and older who are at high risk of developing more severe symptoms. It's not for patients who are hospitalized because of COVID-19 or who require oxygen therapy because of the virus.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2020/11/22/937746317/fda-grants-emergency-authorization-for-a-second-covid-19-antibody-treatment>

MMR vaccine could protect against COVID-19

(Sciencemag) The measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine has been theorized to provide protection against COVID-19. In a new study published in *mBio*, an open-access journal of the American Society for Microbiology, researchers provide further proof of this by showing that mumps IgG titers, or levels of IgG antibody, are

inversely correlated with severity in recovered COVID-19 patients previously vaccinated with the MMR II vaccine produced by Merck. MMR II contains the Edmonston strain of measles, the Jeryl Lynn (B-level) strain of mumps, and the Wistar RA 27/3 strain of rubella.

“We found a statistically significant inverse correlation between mumps titer levels and COVID-19 severity in people under age 42 who have had MMR II vaccinations,” said lead study author Jeffrey E. Gold, president of World Organization, in Watkinsville, Georgia. “This adds to other associations demonstrating that the MMR vaccine may be protective against COVID-19. It also may explain why children have a much lower COVID-19 case rate than adults, as well as a much lower death rate. The majority of children get their first MMR vaccination around 12 to 15 months of age and a second one from 4 to 6 years of age.”

Read more: <https://scienmag.com/mmr-vaccine-could-protect-against-covid-19/>

Health experts clash over use of certain drugs for COVID-19

(AP) 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.

But in the U.S. and many other countries, the drug has been the standard of care since a major, government-led study found other benefits — it shortened recovery time for hospitalized patients by five days on average, from 15 days to 10.

Read more: <https://apnews.com/article/health-experts-clash-drugs-for-covid-19-eda78c1994d6812cc72c13a1bd42828d>

A shortage of physicians with experience treating hospitalized patients could threaten the next surge response

(Stat News) As Covid-19 cases reach a [record high](#) in the U.S., [models project](#) that this third wave of the pandemic may be the worst yet. The confluence of weather patterns, pandemic fatigue, loose social distancing guidelines, and the upcoming flu season have led to a surge of hospitalizations that will continue to rise over the next few months.

Concerns are once again growing about hospital capacity in terms of available beds and equipment, as well as the availability of frontline health care providers and how to keep them from getting Covid-19. One looming shortage that has been overlooked is the shortage of [providers with experience in treating hospitalized patients](#).

Most physicians in the U.S. stop treating patients in the hospital when they complete their residencies or fellowships. This lack of experience could have a significant impact on patient outcomes and should be considered in pandemic planning.

Read more: <https://www.statnews.com/2020/11/20/a-shortage-of-physicians-with-experience-treating-hospitalized-patients-could-threaten-the-next-surge-response/>

Related - Over 900 Mayo Clinic staff in Midwest have contracted COVID-19 in past 2 weeks

Read more: <https://abcn.ws/3pBjBrr>

Two national grants worth more than \$107K provide telehealth for special needs children in Kentucky

(KyForward News) Kentucky’s Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs (OCSHCN) has received two national grants to bolster telehealth services. One grant for \$100,000 comes from the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP), while the other is a minigrant for \$7,500 from Family Voices.

“The delivery of health care has evolved throughout the course of this pandemic – it has expanded beyond the walls of a medical facility,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “Telehealth is an example of the expanded delivery of care which allows Kentuckians to access health care services from the comfort of their home, limiting the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Learn more: <https://www.kyforward.com/two-national-grants-worth-more-than-107k-provide-telehealth-for-special-needs-children-in-kentucky/>

How Hospitals Can Cut Patients' Falls

(Medicine Net) A new toolkit to help reduce falls and fall-related injuries among hospital patients is highly effective, a new study shows.

Falls are the leading cause of preventable injury, so researchers set out to create a fall [prevention](#) toolkit for patients and their families.

It includes measures such as a laminated poster to display by patients' beds, and personalized [prevention](#) plans that can be included in patients' electronic health records and printed out or displayed on a computer screensaver.

Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=249168>

Microplastics from paper cups for hot drinks may raise cancer risk

- Researchers poured hot water into paper cups and left them left for 15 minutes
- This is the time that most people prefer to take to finish their drink
- Scientists found an average of 25,000 microplastics per cup

Learn more: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8968597/Drinking-brew-paper-cup-puts-risk-swallowing-25-000-particles-plastic.html>

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 (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.