



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for November 25, 2020

## Governor Updates on COVID

### *Thanksgiving week could cause dangerous COVID-19 surge, but Kentuckians can prevent that*

(From Press Release) Gov. Andy Beshear reminded Kentuckians that COVID-19 cases are already surging across the commonwealth and the entire nation. The virus' exponential growth could accelerate further after the Thanksgiving holiday if our families don't celebrate differently this year.

As of 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24, Gov. Beshear reported the following COVID-19 numbers:

- New cases today: 2,690
- New deaths today: 17
- Positivity rate: 8.82%
- Total deaths: 1,809
- Currently hospitalized: 1,658
- Currently in ICU: 390
- Currently on ventilator: 207

The red zone counties for this week can be found [here](#). Community leaders, businesses, schools and families in these counties should all follow [red zone reduction recommendations](#).

Yesterday, Ohio announced 98 COVID-19 deaths; Indiana announced 103; and Wisconsin announced 104.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [recommends](#) Americans avoid Thanksgiving travel. In addition, the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) recommends the following for celebrating Thanksgiving safely:

- English: [Full Guidance](#); [One-Pager](#); [Single Slide](#)
- Spanish: [Full Guidance](#); [One-Pager](#); [Single Slide](#)

KDPH especially [advises against travel](#) to any state with a positivity rate of 15% or higher. Currently, those states are: Wyoming (58.89%), South Dakota (44.14%), Iowa (43.14%), Idaho (40.12%), Kansas (38.23%), Pennsylvania (25.40%), New Mexico (23.87%), Missouri (22.59%), Alabama (22.15%), Utah (19.62%), Montana (18.71%), Arizona (18.54%), Mississippi (18.23%), Oregon (16.30%) and Ohio (15.87%).

Link to press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=481>

## **CDC considering shortening coronavirus quarantine period**

### *Agency reportedly hopes the change will inspire more people to comply with quarantine guidelines*

(Fox) [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) is considering shortening the current [coronavirus](#) quarantine timeline from 14 days to between just seven and 10, according to an [exclusive Wall Street Journal report](#). The agency reportedly hopes the change will inspire more people to comply with the guidelines. In a statement provided to Fox News, an agency spokesperson said no such changes had been finalized.

**FOX story and Redfield interview:** <https://www.foxnews.com/health/cdc-considers-shortening-coronavirus-quarantine-period>

## Reminder on Reporting Requirements for COVID-19 Vaccine Data

The Immunization Branch of the Kentucky Department for Public Health KDPH wants to make sure the reporting requirements for COVID-19 vaccine data are clear. Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all COVID-19 vaccine providers (including hospitals) will be required to submit vaccination data to the Kentucky Immunization Registry (KYIR) in a 24-hour period. There are currently two ways for data to be reported to KYIR: manually entered directly in KYIR, or electronically through your hospital's EMR to KHIE.

Please be advised, your Employee Health System is likely not connected to KHIE and, therefore, KYIR will not be able to receive data electronically through it. Data is likely only captured electronically in KYIR through your hospital's existing EMR system. Please consider this when considering how you will report to KYIR for the COVID-19 vaccine. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out directly to the KYIR Helpdesk at [KYIRHelpdesk@ky.gov](mailto:KYIRHelpdesk@ky.gov).

## **Which Kids With COVID Will Get Very Sick?**

Medicine Net story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=249201>

## **UK Hospital closing 5 operating rooms to free up resources for COVID-19 patients**

(Herald-Leader) University of Kentucky administrators told staff late Monday night that Albert B. Chandler Hospital would be closing five of its 32 operating rooms to free up more resources for an influx of coronavirus patients and to decrease overall hospital admissions.

“The time is upon us to make a difficult decision,” interim Associate Chief Medical Officer Dr. Christopher DeSimone told staff in an internal email Monday night. “My biggest concern is limited access to care. Having said that, this is the right decision for the uncertainty that lies ahead.”

Read more here: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/coronavirus/article247391505.html#storylink=cpy>

### **Related - Southern Kentucky hospitals deal with rising COVID-19 cases**

Read full story: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2020/11/24/southern-kentucky-hospitals-deal-with-rising-covid-19-cases/>

### **Related #2 - Impact of hospitalization surge goes beyond medical center walls [COVID's impact on Rural EMS featured]**

Read full story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/impact-of-hospitalization-surge-goes-beyond-medical-center-walls>

## **Thanksgiving could be make-or-break in US virus response**

<https://news360.com/article/543175397>

## **A new model projects Covid-19 cases in the US will nearly double over the next two months**

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/24/health/us-coronavirus-tuesday/index.html>

## **US reported more than 2,100 deaths in a single day. Things are projected to get worse**

(CNN) More than 2,100 [Covid-19 deaths](#) were reported in the US on Tuesday -- making it the highest one-day coronavirus death toll the country has reported since early May. The highest Covid-19 death tally reported in a single day in the US was 2,603, on April 15. The coming weeks are likely to get worse, before a possible vaccine can begin to offer some relief. But just how much worse things will get depends on the mitigation steps taken across the country -- as well as the kinds of celebrations Americans will opt to host over the coming days, experts say. Many seemed to heed the warnings: New poll results released Tuesday by Axios-Ipsos shows about 61% of Americans have changed their Thanksgiving plans.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/25/health/us-coronavirus-wednesday/index.html>

## **Colorado governor allows at-capacity hospitals to stop admitting, transfer patients**

(The Hill) Colorado Gov. Jared Polis signed an executive order on Monday that allows hospitals to stop admitting new patients when they reach capacity, and transfer patients to other hospitals. The [executive order](#) allows the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to direct at-capacity hospitals to transfer patients to other facilities, without first getting written permission from the patient.

The order, which will be in effect for the next 30 days, permits hospitals that are at “capacity to examine and treat patients” to send them to other health care facilities in an effort to prevent the hospitals from becoming overwhelmed.

Federal law still requires that emergency rooms screen unstable patients before transferring them to another hospital, Denver NBC affiliate [9 News reported](#).

Full story: <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/527295-colorado-order-allows-hospitals-to-stop-admitting-transfer-patients-when>

### **Related NBC story - [Need a Covid nurse? That'll be \\$8,000 a week](#)**

## **[Now the U.S. Has Lots of Ventilators, but Too Few Specialists to Operate Them](#)**

(New York Times) Since the spring, American medical device makers have radically ramped up the country's ventilator capacity by producing more than 200,000 critical care ventilators, with 155,000 of them going to the Strategic National Stockpile. But with new cases approaching 200,000 per day and a flood of patients straining hospitals across the country, public health experts warn that the ample supply of available ventilators may not be enough to save many critically ill patients.

## **Curfew coming for El Pasoans as 14 mobile morgues and refrigerated warehouse now needed for wave of deaths**

Read more: <https://cbs4local.com/news/coronavirus/curfew-coming-for-el-pasoans-as-14-mobile-morgues-now-needed-for-wave-of-deaths>

## **'Alarmingly low': US facing another blood shortage**

***Some blood centers are reporting a shortage in convalescent plasma as well.***

ABC story: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/alarmingly-low-us-facing-blood-shortage-amid-ongoing/story?id=74367511>

**Related story: Plasma from recovered patients shows little benefit in those hospitalized with COVID-19**

Study: <https://news360.com/article/543231239>

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**UPS air hub in Louisville to play key role in vaccine delivery**

(WDRB) Millions of doses of one or more forthcoming coronavirus vaccines are likely to be stored in Louisville, the home of UPS' global air hub, before being shipped all over the world. But it's still too soon to say whether Louisville-area healthcare providers will have a logistical leg up in obtaining the vaccine because of proximity to the shipping giant's hub.

Atlanta-based UPS is being extremely tight-lipped about its efforts to store and ship COVID-19 vaccines.



A rendering of UPS' freezer storage facility for vaccine distribution in Louisville (Courtesy UPS)

“(W)e have visibility into the needs and demands regarding vaccines and testing and are preparing our network to help deliver in support of urgent, lifesaving operations,” UPS Airlines spokesman Jim Mayer said in an email. “We are not engaging in media interviews or providing imagery regarding vaccine distribution at this time in order to focus on the critical tasks at hand, especially as we head into our peak holiday season.”

But the company confirmed Tuesday that it's building freezer farms in Louisville as well as in the Netherlands to store vaccine doses. The freezer farm is near UPS' Worldport global air hub at Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport, but the company won't say exactly where. UPS has a Supply Chain Solutions warehouse campus south of the airport, off Outer Loop and New Cut Road, where healthcare goods are handled.

Full story: [https://www.wdrb.com/in-depth/ups-air-hub-in-louisville-to-play-key-role-in-vaccine-delivery/article\\_377972c8-2e94-11eb-8a4f-53c2930889db.html](https://www.wdrb.com/in-depth/ups-air-hub-in-louisville-to-play-key-role-in-vaccine-delivery/article_377972c8-2e94-11eb-8a4f-53c2930889db.html)

**Related story: Ford buys freezers to store COVID-19 vaccine when available**

AP: <https://apnews.com/article/health-coronavirus-pandemic-7ffb12983f20f925d885fbb36390e15>

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**U.S. to begin distributing Regeneron's COVID-19 antibody therapy Tuesday**

<https://news360.com/article/543128574>

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**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines**

Extracts from [November 23](#) and [November 24, 2020](#)

**[Why Oxford's Positive COVID Vaccine Results are Puzzling Scientists](#)** (*Nature News and Comment*) A highly anticipated COVID-19 vaccine has delivered some encouraging — but head-scratching — results. The vaccine developed by the University of Oxford, UK, and pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca was found to be, on average, 70% effective in a preliminary analysis of phase III trial data, the developers announced in a press release on 23 November.

**[Data Show Hospitalized Covid-19 Patients are Surviving at Higher Rates, but Surge in Cases Could Roll Back Gains](#)** (*STAT News*) Patients hospitalized with Covid-19 are surviving at higher rates than in the early days of the pandemic, gains that data and interviews with experts suggest are driven by a more refined understanding of the disease and how to treat it — and, crucially, less strain on hospitals that had been inundated at times. But clinicians warn that this progress won't withstand what happens when crushes of patients again overwhelm hospitals, as is now occurring in dozens of U.S. states. With the country setting new records of hospitalizations daily, care is getting threatened, and death rates — not just deaths — could increase.

**[Covid-19 Data Is a Mess. We Need a Way to Make Sense of It](#)** (*New York Times*) The United States is more than eight months into the pandemic and people are back waiting in long lines to be tested as coronavirus infections surge again. And yet there is still no federal standard to ensure testing results are being uniformly reported. Without uniform results, it is impossible to track cases accurately or respond effectively.

**[CDC Urges Overwhelmed Contact Tracers to Prioritize Efforts as Cases Soar](#)** (*Politico*) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is advising overwhelmed local health officials to triage their coronavirus contact tracing efforts, writing that the latest infection surge is making it difficult to reach every close contact of Covid-positive patients in time to help contain the disease's spread.

**[A Revamped Strategic National Stockpile Still Can't Match The Pandemic's Latest Surge](#)** (*NPR*) The Strategic National Stockpile, which the U.S. has traditionally depended on for emergencies, still lacks critical

supplies nine months into one of the worst public health care crises this country has ever seen, an NPR investigation has learned. A combination of long-standing budget shortfalls, lack of domestic manufacturing, snags in the global supply chain and overwhelming demand has meant that the stockpile is short of the gloves, masks and other supplies needed to weather this winter's surge in COVID-19 cases.

**[Coronaviruses Closely Related to the Pandemic Virus Discovered in Japan and Cambodia](#)** (*Nature News and Comment*) Two lab freezers in Asia have yielded surprising discoveries. Researchers have told Nature they have found a coronavirus that is closely related to SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for the pandemic, in horseshoe bats stored in a freezer in Cambodia. Meanwhile, a team in Japan has reported the discovery of another closely related coronavirus — also found in frozen bat droppings.

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**From American Heart Association News**  
**Why People Fear Performing CPR on Women - and What to Do About It**  
<https://news360.com/article/543156906>

**Another reason to get a flu shot!**  
**Flu Shot Reduces Risk of Death for People With Heart Disease**  
Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/542883047>

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**Kentucky COVID-19 Healthcare and Public Health Webinar**

**December 1st @ 11:30 AM EST**

Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/905613162489223694>

**Poll Shows Americans' Perception Of Rising Crime At Highest Level Since 1993**  
([IACP News](#)) [Fox News](#) (11/19, Betz) reports, "A recent Gallup poll showed that Americans' perception of crime as having increased from the previous year is at its highest level since 1993, while actual crime statistics for the first half of 2020 offer a mixed message." The poll, "released Nov. 13, showed that about 78% of Americans believe crime has increased from last year. However, fewer than 40% perceived crime in their own area as having increased. This discrepancy – regarding perceptions of national versus local crime levels – has been consistent with Gallup poll findings over the years." Fox News adds, "The poll found that these perceptions were intertwined with the events of a tumultuous year, namely the coronavirus pandemic and the nationwide social unrest. Crime statistics from the FBI, however, offer a mixed message on the actual trajectory of crime in the United States."

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***What should the protocol be for testing Santa Claus,  
a high-risk individual with the potential for mass transmission, come Christmas?***

Link to the article: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00508-020-01765-z>

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**[CDC Clinician Webinar](#)**

**The Impact of Telehealth on Health Equity  
from the Perspective of Large Healthcare Systems  
during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**December 8 @ 2 PM ET**

**Zoom link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600369650>**

Telephone link: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 Webinar ID: 160 036 9650

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**KSHE Certified Healthcare Facility Contractor Program**

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020 | 8:00 am - 1:00 pm EST | Virtual Course - \$150*

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020 | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. EST | Virtual Exam*

**[Register Today - Click here](#)**

KSHE Note: Our certification program has been modified. The CHC is now a one-day course with the Safe Day One (formerly known as the Certified Healthcare Technician) course or 6 contact hours in healthcare engineering now serving as a pre-requisite. If you are re-certifying as a CHC, you still need to take the Safe Day One (formerly the CHT) and attend the CHC, but you will not be required to re-take the CHC exam. You may also submit 12 contact hours in healthcare engineering to re-cert as a CHC. Learn more about our [certification programs](#) or email [info@kshe.org](mailto:info@kshe.org) for questions about the certification program or your certification status.

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.