



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for November 27, 2020

Thursday Was Highest Day Ever for New COVID-19 Cases *Second highest number of deaths also confirmed Thursday*

(From [Press Release](#)) Today, Gov. Andy Beshear announced case information for Thursday and Friday, including the highest number of new daily cases ever reported in the state and the second highest number of newly confirmed deaths.

The Governor asked families to avoid busy shopping areas to prevent a further escalation of COVID-19 cases. He reminded Kentuckians that many retailers are extending Black Friday deals to limit crowds.

"These new case reports are truly alarming. Please be careful when you're shopping and consider safer options, like purchasing gifts online for delivery or curbside pick-up," said Gov. Beshear. "Wash your hands, stay six feet apart from other shoppers and wear a mask at all times. Now is the time we need everyone to buckle down, stay strong and stop this surge in cases."

As of 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 26, there were:

- New cases: 3,870
- New deaths: 32
- Positivity rate: 8.94%
- Total deaths: 1,867
- Currently hospitalized: 1,747
- Currently in ICU: 388
- Currently on ventilator: 206

As of 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27, Gov. Beshear reported the following COVID-19 numbers:

- New cases today: 1,747
- New deaths today: 4
- Positivity rate: 8.85%
- Total deaths: 1,871
- Currently hospitalized: 1,714
- Currently in ICU: 390
- Currently on ventilator: 216

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](#).

Government Model Suggests U.S. COVID-19 Cases Could Be Approaching 100 Million

(NPR) The actual number of coronavirus infections in the U.S. reached nearly 53 million at the end of September and could be approaching 100 million now, according to a model developed by government researchers.

The model, created by scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, calculated that the true number of infections is about eight times the reported number, which includes only the cases confirmed by a laboratory test.

Preliminary estimates using the model found that by the end of September, 52.9 million people had been infected, while the number of laboratory-confirmed infections was just 6.9 million, the team [reported](#) in the Nov. 25 issue of the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

"This indicates that approximately 84% of the U.S. population has not yet been infected and thus most of the country remains at risk," the authors wrote.

Learn more: <https://wfpl.org/government-model-suggests-u-s-covid-19-cases-could-be-approaching-100-million/>

Related: UofL study indicates COVID-19 cases in Jefferson County are higher than reported

<https://www.kyforward.com/university-of-louisville-study-indicates-covid-19-cases-in-jefferson-county-are-higher-than-reported/>

Sicker Staff, Fewer Beds For Rural Hospitals As COVID-19 Spreads Through Ohio Valley Rural hospitals already faced capacity and staffing issues before the pandemic.

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/sicker-staff-fewer-beds-for-rural-hospitals-as-covid-19-spreads-through-ohio-valley/>

Kentucky Health Providers Receiving Free PPE Through Warehouse Initiative

(WFPL) The Kentucky Primary Care Association (KPCA) is providing free access to a PPE warehouse stocked with highly-sought after equipment like gowns, masks and gloves. About 100 KPCA member providers are currently receiving equipment as part of the program, though other clinics are also participating on an "as-needed" basis, chief operating officer Molly Lewis said.

All the equipment is paid for upfront by KPCA. Other organizations, like Humana, have donated funds to the program. The warehouse's stock is managed by Handle Global, an international supply chain company. Lewis said many providers in Kentucky ran into problems obtaining equipment when the pandemic hit.

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/kentucky-health-providers-receiving-free-ppe-through-warehouse-initiative/>

More Kids Injured by Tiny Magnets After Sales Ban Was Lifted

(MedicineNet) Small, powerful magnets in toys like Buckyballs building sets and jewelry kits are causing an alarming number of serious pediatric injuries in the United States, new research warns. Analyzing national data, researchers found an 80% rise in these injuries to children from 2016 to 2019, following the repeal of a sales ban on the magnets by a federal court.

When these small rare earth magnets are swallowed, the potential for serious gastrointestinal injury is high, noted study lead author Dr. Michael Flaherty. Cases are popping up all over the United States.

The magnets are made of neodymium, said Flaherty, a pediatric critical care physician at MassGeneral Hospital for Children in Boston. The magnets come in circular, rectangular, cylindrical or cubed form, and range from BB-pellet size to roughly 0.10 to 0.25 inches (3 to 6 mm).

They're also "five to 10 times more powerful than traditional ferrite magnets," said Flaherty, "and were initially intended for commercial applications."

The harm can be considerable when a child ingests two of these magnets, or a magnet with another metal object, Flaherty explained. "This can lead to bowel walls becoming attached and kinked, leading to catastrophic bowel injury and/or death," he said.

In 2012, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) took steps to limit their sale with voluntary recalls and safety standards. That effort culminated with a prohibition in 2014. But in 2016 a federal court determined that the commission had overstepped its bounds, and the ban was overturned.

Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=249308>

NPR: Embattled Public Health Workers Leaving At 'Steady And Alarming' Rate

More than 70 local public health officials have resigned or been fired since the start of the pandemic. They're over-worked and the subject of harassment from community leaders and residents. Lori Freeman calls the loss of top public health officers across the country "steady and alarming." Freeman heads the [National Association of County and City Health Officials](#). More than 70 have been fired, resigned or plan to leave their posts since the pandemic began in the U.S. In fact, so many are leaving, Freeman is keeping a spreadsheet.

"Some of our public health officials have been physically threatened, politically scapegoated," Freeman says. "Their roles have been diminished, their authorities have been in some cases taken away."

This is happening while Freeman was already anticipating an exodus due to Baby Boomer retirements in the next few years. That was before the pandemic. Freeman says that since February, the outsized workload has made things worse. And Freeman says fresh energy is needed on the public health front.

"We have to get through the vaccination stage where we are actively deploying and vaccinating the country," Freeman says.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2020/11/25/938873547/embattled-public-health-workers-leaving-at-steady-and-alarming-rate>

Surge Of Retirements Leaves US Police Departments Scrambling To Find Recruits

(IACP News) The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (11/25) reports that Minnesota's police departments are facing severe shortages of officers, with Duluth Police Chief Mike Tusken expecting to have to replace "more than one-fifth of his 158 officers in the next three years due to retirements alone." According to the Star Tribune, this trend is not limited to Minnesota, as departments across the United States are "bracing for a wave of retirements as officers hired during a billion-dollar federal push to bolster agencies in the 1990s reach their 50s and are able to access pensions."

New Prototype N95 Mask Designed by Harvard And MIT Is Reusable And Hygienic

Read more: <https://www.sciencealert.com/new-prototype-n95-mask-designed-by-harvard-and-mit-is-reusable-scientists-say>

**Home Nurse Saves Her Patient, Dies in the Attempt
64-year-old was overcome by smoke in home fire**

Story: <https://www.newser.com/story/299256/home-nurse-gives-her-life-to-save-patient-from-fire.html>

[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

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.