



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for November 29, 2020

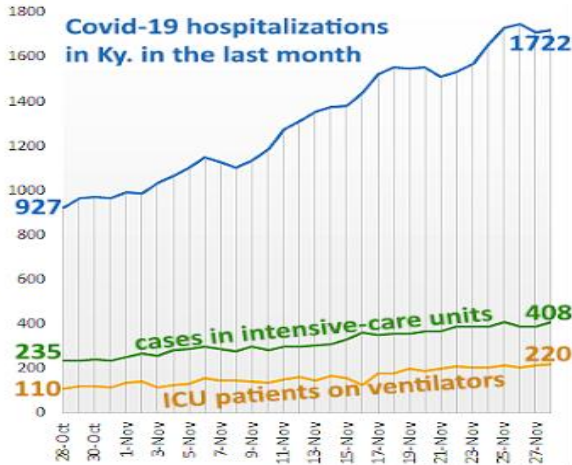
## Vaccines on the Way, Kentuckians Must Stay Strong

(From Saturday's [press release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear urged Kentuckians to strengthen their resolve in the fight against COVID-19, with the knowledge that help is on the way. "I know we're tired. I know many of us are

disappointed we couldn't celebrate Thanksgiving or enjoy Black Friday shopping the way we usually do. But I promise you: we have come so far and we are almost there. Hang on, Team Kentucky," the Governor said.

As of 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, Gov. Beshear reported the following COVID-19 numbers:

- ✓ New cases today: 2,437
- ✓ New deaths today: 14
- ✓ Positivity rate: 8.95%
- ✓ Total deaths: 1,885
- ✓ Currently hospitalized: 1,722
- ✓ Currently in ICU: 408
- ✓ Currently on ventilator: 220



Graph by Kentucky Health News

To view the [full daily report](#), [incidence rate map](#), [new statewide requirements](#), testing locations, long term-care

and other congregate facilities update, school reports and [guidance](#), [red zone counties](#), [red zone recommendations](#), the White House Coronavirus Task Force reports for Kentucky and other key guidance visit, [kycovid19.ky.gov](http://kycovid19.ky.gov).

Related KY Health News story: <http://kyhealthnews.blogspot.com/2020/11/kentucky-doubled-its-number-of-covid-19.html>

## Three central KY health system plead with community to wear masks

(WKYT) Three hospital systems in central Kentucky are joining together by signing an open letter that urges everyone to be safe in how they gather in the next month.

The letter, signed by leaders from Baptist Health Lexington, CHI Saint Joseph Health and UK HealthCare, comes amid a surge in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Kentucky.

In the open letter on Sunday, the leaders say their hospital beds are filling with patients, and it's important that the community takes action now.

The letter goes on to say the hospitals are prepared to handle a surge in patients, but "there will be a point when our hospitals will be too full to treat all of you with the virus and those with other medical needs. We are not there yet, but we don't want to come to that crossroads."

The hospital leaders continued by pleading that people wear a mask and avoid gatherings, "not just with strangers, but with extended family members."

**The full open letter to the community is at this link:** <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2020/11/29/hospital-leaders-plead-with-community-to-wear-masks-avoid-large-groups/>

## The U.S. recorded more than 4 million COVID-19 cases in the month of November

(BuzzFeed News) The US recorded 4 million [coronavirus](#) cases in the month of November as the country enters a [terrifying new phase of the pandemic](#), with public health experts warning of another big surge in cases and hospitalizations following [Thanksgiving weekend travel](#).

Data from Johns Hopkins University show that [4.02 million cases](#) were recorded from Nov. 1-28, bringing the country's total COVID-19 cases to more than 13 million, [the highest of any nation](#). Case counts in November are more than double the 1.87 million cases recorded in October.

The severity of the pandemic has reached new heights as the country heads into a bleak winter season, after states struggled to contain the huge surge in cases through the fall. In California, a [stay-at-home order](#) was issued for Los Angeles County on Friday evening, the day after Thanksgiving, beginning Nov. 30. On Saturday, San Francisco was placed on a curfew and lockdown, also beginning Monday. South Dakota also recently joined the ranks of states that has at least one COVID-related death for every 1,000 residents.

Full story: <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/clarissajanlim/us-october-4-million-covid-cases>

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## Mass vaccinations against covid-19 will be ‘mind-blowing’ challenge for poor, rural states

(From the Washington Post) Under its Operation Warp Speed initiative, the administration has promised [simultaneous distribution](#) of vaccines to “all of America.” The soaring ambition, however, is set to run headlong into the barriers to health care and mistrust of speedily developed vaccines that mark rural, impoverished parts of America. Residents of these places are especially vulnerable to the virus because of their poor health status and [often precarious employment in low-wage service industries](#). Responsibility for their inoculation, meanwhile, will fall to a public health system maimed by budget cuts and riven by racial and other inequities. The day-to-day delivery of shots, without reinforcements, will play out at understaffed clinics, overwhelmed pharmacies and beleaguered long-term care facilities

“Administering a vaccine in rural Alabama is not about pulling up to a Walmart parking lot,” said John McGuinness, a member of the committee advising the state on vaccine distribution and a former state surgeon for the Alabama National Guard. “This amounts to a military campaign, moving from town to town and gathering demographics, relying on local leaders and being comprehensive in that way.”

Some of the steepest obstacles involve doubt about scientific advances championed in Washington.

Read full story: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/mass-vaccinations-against-covid-19-will-be-mind-blowing-challenge-for-alabama-other-poor-rural-states/ar-BB1bsQ8a>

### **Related story - United Airlines flies FIRST batches of Pfizer COVID vaccine into US**

Learn more: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8995425/United-Airlines-flies-batches-Pfizer-COVID-vaccine-refrigerated-cases.html>

### **Related story - A COVID-19 Vaccine for Children May Still Be Many Months Away**

(NPR) It may only be weeks until a COVID-19 vaccine is approved for use in the U.S. Pfizer and its partner BioNTech asked the Food and Drug Administration to grant an [emergency use authorization](#) for their vaccine a week ago, and Moderna is expected to follow suit in coming days.

But even when those vaccines hit the market, they will not be available to children. That's because very few children have been part of the clinical trials to date. Pfizer only recently began [enrolling children](#) as young as 12.

Earlier this month, the American Academy of Pediatrics [called on researchers](#) to broaden their trials to include more children, warning of a significant delay in access to a vaccine should they not act quickly.

"Children are not just small adults," said Dr. Sallie Permar, a professor of pediatrics, microbiology and immunology at the Duke University School of Medicine, in an interview with NPR's *All Things Considered*.

A child's immune system is different from an adult's, Permar said. "There are certain vaccines that work better in children than adults. And there are certain vaccines that work less well in children compared to adults," she said. "So they do have to be specifically studied in the pediatric population."

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/11/27/939341531/a-covid-19-vaccine-for-children-may-still-be-many-months-away>

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## Canada blocks bulk exports of some prescription drugs in response to US drug import plan

(Reuters) Canada on Saturday blocked bulk exports of prescription drugs if they would create a shortage at home, in response to the President's efforts to allow imports from Canada to lower some drug prices for Americans.

"Certain drugs intended for the Canadian market are prohibited from being distributed for consumption outside of Canada if that sale would cause or worsen a drug shortage," Health Minister Patty Hajdu said in a statement. "Companies will now also be required to provide information to assess existing or potential shortages, when requested, and within 24 hours if there is a serious or imminent health risk," the statement said.

The Canadian measure went into effect on Friday, just days before a U.S. "Importation Prescription Drugs" rule that would eventually allow licensed U.S. pharmacists or wholesalers to import in bulk certain prescription drugs intended for the Canadian market.

Neither the White House nor the Department of Health and Human Services had an immediate response to a request for comment.

Read full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/usa-healthcare-canada-idUSKBN2880RJ>

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## Experts: Virus numbers could be erratic after Thanksgiving

(AP) The coronavirus testing numbers that have guided much of the nation's response to the pandemic are likely to be erratic over the next week or so, experts said Friday, as fewer people get tested during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend and testing sites observe shorter hours.

The result could be potential dips in reported infections that offer the illusion that the spread of the virus is easing when, in fact, the numbers say little about where the nation stands in fighting COVID-19. The number of Americans who have tested positive passed 13 million Friday, according to Johns Hopkins University.

"I just hope that people don't misinterpret the numbers and think that there wasn't a major surge as a result of Thanksgiving, and then end up making Christmas and Hanukkah and other travel plans," said Dr. Leana Wen, a professor at George Washington University and an emergency physician.

A similar pattern unfolds on many weekends. Because some testing centers, labs and state offices are closed on Saturdays and Sundays, COVID case numbers often drop each Sunday and Monday, only to peak on Tuesday.

Full story: <https://apnews.com/article/travel-pandemics-thanksgiving-holidays-coronavirus-pandemic-e200cfa82b0cd6e446a3b329c2c4271f>

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**So far, coronavirus mutations don't mean much, big study finds**

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/25/health/coronavirus-mutations-no-big-deal-scn/index.html>  
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**Frontline health care workers committed to holding the line despite COVID-19 concerns**

(WDRB) Many health care workers have seen the worst of the coronavirus pandemic. If the battle lines have been drawn, they stand on the frontlines in the fight against the virus.

"It can certainly be tough at times," said Brandon Freiberger, RN and assistant nurse manager at Norton Audubon Hospital. "COVID can certainly feel like the enemy." She went on to say, "I give myself a pep talk every day, before I walk in the door."

"The semitrucks of morgues, that was a real thing," said Erica Haywood, RN.

Closer to home, there have been more than 5,400 deaths in Indiana and nearly 2,000 in Kentucky.

"Any death is sad and unfortunate, no matter the percentage," said Freiberger. "I've been on the frontline since day one."

After spending several months on the frontlines in New York City, Haywood explained what she saw that continues to motivate her to finish the job. "A lot of critical patients, not enough critical care nurses," she said.

Across the country, frontline workers are putting in 12-hour days.

Read more & see video report: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/frontline-health-care-workers-committed-to-holding-the-line-despite-covid-19-concerns/article\\_e67bece2-2f75-11eb-bb3f-af16d6be2671.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/frontline-health-care-workers-committed-to-holding-the-line-despite-covid-19-concerns/article_e67bece2-2f75-11eb-bb3f-af16d6be2671.html)

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**Seasonal affective disorder could be worse than ever this year**  
*Here's how to cope...*

(CBS) Over half of American adults say their [mental health has suffered](#) due to the [coronavirus](#) pandemic, and as the weather gets colder and the days get shorter, many may be feeling especially down. But in some instances, a mood change with the seasons could be a sign of something more serious — a type of depression known as seasonal affective disorder, or SAD.

SAD is also sometimes called seasonal or winter depression, according to the [American Psychiatric Association \(APA\)](#). It is recognized in the Diagnostic Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) as "Major Depressive Disorder with Seasonal Pattern."

Symptoms typically begin in the fall and winter months and usually get better as the season changes to spring. Some people suffer from SAD in the summer, though it is far less typical.

Learn more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/seasonal-affective-disorder-pandemic-mental-health-seasonal-depression/>  
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**UK health service to pilot blood test that may detect 50 types of cancer**

(CNN) The UK's National Health Service (NHS) is to pilot a simple blood test that may detect more than 50 types of cancer and, it is hoped, could help thousands of people by allowing the disease to be treated more successfully at an earlier stage.

The Galleri blood test, developed by Californian healthcare company Grail, will be piloted with 165,000 patients in what the NHS described as a "world-first deal" in a news release Friday.

Grail, whose work is focused on detecting cancer early, is backed by investors including tech billionaire Bill Gates and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.

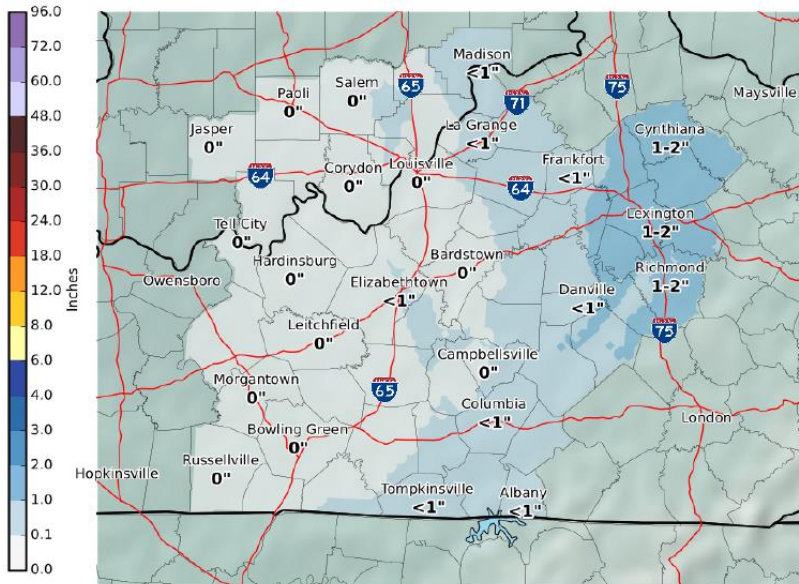
NHS England hopes the blood test will be particularly useful in identifying types of cancer that are currently difficult to diagnose and treat early.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/27/health/cancer-blood-test-pilot-gbr-intl/index.html>  
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## NWS Updates Snow Accumulation Forecasts for Monday

(NWS Louisville) The first accumulating snowfall of the season is expected to develop across the region on Monday and minor snowfall accumulations are expected. The highest snowfall amounts (1-2" locally 3") are expected in the Bluegrass region of central Kentucky.

**Expected Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast**  
Valid: 11/29/2020 07:00 PM - 12/02/2020 07:00 PM EST



**National Weather Service**  
Louisville Kentucky  
11/29/2020 03:35 PM EST

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Widespread rain showers are expected to move northward across the region this evening and into the overnight period. Colder air is expected to drop into the region overnight and this may result in the rain mix with or changing over to snow towards dawn on Monday. However, even with the changeover, surface temperatures are expected to remain above freezing, so snowfall accumulations will be very limited.

Additional snow showers are expected throughout the day on Monday, but again with surface temperatures expected to remain above freezing, little if any accumulation is expected during the daytime hours.

However, temperatures are expected to drop below freezing late Monday afternoon and Monday evening. Snow showers are expected to continue across portions of SE Indiana and across much of the Bluegrass region of

central Kentucky. These snow showers will be able to put down some light accumulations, mainly east of a line from Madison, IN south to Albany, KY.

In general, 1 to 2 inches of accumulation is expected, though some isolated higher amounts will be possible, especially across the northeastern portions of the Bluegrass region. Given that this is the first snow of the season and that we're expecting some travel issues Monday night and Tuesday morning, a Winter Weather ADVISORY has been posted from 4 PM Monday through 7 AM Tuesday.

**(NWS Jackson) Winter Weather Advisory** - First Accumulating Snow of the Season. Colder air will move into the region behind a departing low pressure system on Monday as an upper level disturbance tracks into the region. This will lead to precipitation changing to snow with some accumulating snow anticipated. Snow showers are expected Monday evening and Monday night as the upper level disturbance moves across the region. This should affect travel during the last Monday afternoon and Monday night timeframe.

- **WHAT...** Snow expected. Total snow accumulations of up to two inches. Some valley locations may receive less than 1 inch.
- **WHERE...** Portions of east central, northeast and southeast Kentucky.
- **WHEN...** From 7 PM Monday to 7 AM EST Tuesday.
- **IMPACTS...** Plan on slippery road conditions. The hazardous conditions could impact travel on Monday night and during the Tuesday morning commute.

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.