



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for December 1, 2020

CDC advisory group holding emergency meeting today on Covid-19 vaccine allocation

(StatNews) The big thing [we're watching today](#) is this afternoon's emergency meeting of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the group that recommends how and to whom vaccines in the U.S. are deployed. In recent days, both Pfizer and Moderna have requested emergency use authorization from the FDA for their Covid-19 vaccines, increasing the likelihood of a vaccine before the end of the year. With these developments also come questions on who will be first in line to get a vaccine, and the ACIP [will consider](#) a proposal on prioritizing health care providers and residents of long-term care facilities for a vaccine. The group of experts will also discuss how an available vaccine ought to be monitored for safety once it is distributed. CDC Director Robert Redfield will have to sign off on any ACIP recommendations before they can be enacted.

Source: <https://us11.campaign-archive.com/?u=f8609630ae206654824f897b6&id=5c765994f2>

Related story - [Divisions emerge among U.S. officials over when first Covid-19 vaccine doses will be available — and for whom](#)

Related story - [Dr. Scott Atlas resigns as special adviser to Trump on coronavirus](#)
Atlas was considered a Special Government Employee (SGE) serving a 130-day detail, which expires this week

NPR: As Hospitals Fill With COVID-19 Patients, Medical Reinforcements Are Hard To Find

Hospitals in much of the country are trying to cope with unprecedented numbers of COVID-19 patients. As of Sunday, [93,238](#) were hospitalized, an alarming record that far exceeds the two previous peaks in April and July, of just under 60,000 inpatients.

But beds and space aren't the main concern. It's the work force. Hospitals are worried that staffing levels won't be able to keep up with demand as doctors, nurses and specialists such as respiratory therapists become exhausted or, worse, become infected or sick themselves.

The typical workaround for staffing shortages — hiring clinicians from out of town — isn't the solution anymore, even though it helped ease the strain early in the pandemic, when the first surge of cases was concentrated in a handful of "hot spot" cities such as New York, Detroit, Seattle and New Orleans.

Recruiting those temporary reinforcements was also easier in the spring because hospitals outside of the initial hot spots were actually [seeing fewer patients](#) than normal, which led to [mass layoffs](#). That meant many nurses were able — and excited — to catch a flight to another city and [help with treatment](#) on the front lines. In many cases, hospitals [competed](#) for traveling nurses, and the payment rates for temporary nurses spiked.

Health officials report that backup clinicians are becoming much harder to find. "Hospital capacity is almost exclusively about staffing," says Dr. Lisa Piercey, who heads the Tennessee Department of Health. "Physical space, physical beds, not the issue." When it comes to staffing, the coronavirus creates a compounding challenge.

Read full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/11/30/938425863/as-hospitals-fill-with-covid-19-patients-medical-reinforcements-are-hard-to-find>

Can your boss make you get a COVID vaccine? *Probably*

(Fortune) The pandemic has taken a devastating toll on millions of U.S. businesses, but now there's light at the end of tunnel. In the coming weeks, drug makers are poised to distribute [highly effective COVID vaccines](#) that could soon end the outbreak.

So long as people agree to get vaccinated.

The advent of the vaccines is great news for the country. But it also creates a quandary for employers who are already navigating [tricky legal issues](#) related to COVID, such as whether they can require workers to come into the office. In the case of the vaccines, can companies force employees to get a shot?

The short answer is yes.

Read the full story: <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/boss-covid-vaccine-probably-170000669.html>

Related story - [Don't fall for fake vaccine scams, FBI warns](#)

As major pharmaceutical companies inch closer to releasing an FDA-approved coronavirus vaccine, federal law enforcement officials are warning that scammers are also hard at work looking to take advantage of vulnerable people.

In the coming weeks, FBI special agents want everyone to look out for schemes offering fake vaccines.

"The FBI has been closely following scams connected with the COVID pandemic," said FBI Special Agent Michelle Lee. "Definitely, we saw instances where unscrupulous individuals, criminal organizations, were taking advantage of the fear and the vulnerability that a lot of folks in our community have."

Worse than being scammed out of money, the consequences of injecting a fake vaccine into your body could be life-threatening, said Dr. Harry Croft, a San Antonio psychiatrist.

You can report vaccine scams to the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.IC3.gov or your local FBI field office, which can be located at www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices.

Full story: <https://www.ksat.com/news/local/2020/11/26/dont-fall-for-fake-vaccine-scams-fbi-warns/>

Suspected North Korean Hackers Target COVID-19 Vaccine Maker AstraZeneca

Story: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/coronavirus-vaccine-north-korea-suspected-hackers_n_5fc0ef66c5b66bb88c663d87

2020's Safest Cities in America

(Wallet Hub) People encounter hazards every day, some serious, others rare and innocuous. We fear certain kinds more than others, though, and COVID-19 is one of the biggest concerns in 2020. A recent Gallup poll found that **49%** of Americans are "very" or "somewhat" worried about getting coronavirus, though that number has been as high as 59% in recent months. While COVID-19 has dominated the news this year, Americans still have other dangers to worry about, from mass shootings to riots to traffic accidents.

Here's how the major cities in and around KY ranked:

- ✓ Lexington-Fayette – 167
- ✓ Louisville – 121
- ✓ Charleston, WV – 117
- ✓ Cincinnati, OH – 133
- ✓ Huntington, WV – 65
- ✓ Nashville, TN - 122

Full story and table of cities: <https://wallethub.com/edu/safest-cities-in-america/41926>

New Threat to Aviation – Keyhole Wasps!

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/brisbane-airport-wasps-scn/index.html>

Too Many Storms, Not Enough Names

(NPR) This season also set a record for the most U.S. continental landfalls by a named storm: 12. Given the number of storms, the United States got off relatively lightly. [Phil Klotzbach](#), a research scientist at Colorado State University's Department of Atmospheric Science, says, "We did not have any of these hurricanes make landfall in any major metropolitan areas."

One reason this season was so active is [La Niña](#). That's a weather pattern caused by the interaction of the ocean and atmosphere in the Pacific. Michael Mann, an atmospheric scientist at Pennsylvania State University, says there's another important factor — ocean temperatures in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico set new records this year. Scientists say climate change is making hurricanes stronger, wetter and more damaging. A recent study published in [Nature](#) says because they are carrying more moisture, hurricanes are also keeping their strength longer after they make landfall, causing more damage from winds and flooding.

With so many storms, this year the National Hurricane Center went further into the Greek alphabet for names than it had previously. But some meteorologists see a problem. The World Meteorological Organization says some particularly damaging storms this year, Eta and Iota, won't have their names retired. The letters remain part of the Greek alphabet and are available for future storms.

James Franklin, former branch chief of forecasters at the National Hurricane Center, says the issue also came up after the only other time Greek letters were used — the 2005 season. "The suggestion back in 2006," Franklin says, "was to come up with an alternative list of regular names that could be used if the alphabet was exhausted. And that would make it very easy to retire a name."

It's an idea the National Hurricane Center staff plans to bring up once again when the World Meteorological Organization meets this spring.

Read full story and hear the NPR podcast: <https://www.npr.org/2020/11/30/937986687/too-many-storms-not-enough-names>

**Towards 6G Wireless Communication Networks:
Vision, Enabling Technologies and New Paradigm Shifts**

The fifth generation (5G) wireless communication networks are being deployed worldwide from 2020 and more capabilities are in the process of being standardized, such as mass connectivity, ultra-reliability, and guaranteed low latency.

However, 5G will not meet all requirements of the future in 2030 and beyond, and sixth generation (6G) wireless communication networks are expected to provide global coverage, enhanced spectral/energy/cost efficiency, better intelligence level and security, etc.

To meet these requirements, 6G networks will rely on new enabling technologies, i.e., air interface and transmission technologies and novel network architecture, such as waveform design, multiple access, channel coding schemes, multi-antenna technologies, network slicing, cell-free architecture, and cloud/fog/edge computing.

Learn more: <https://www.eurasiareview.com/30112020-towards-6g-wireless-communication-networks-vision-enabling-technologies-and-new-paradigm-shifts/>

ASPR TRACIE [Express – December Update #1](#)

ASPR's Technical Resources, Assistant Center and Information Exchange ([TRACIE](#)) released an [Express message](#) with new COVID-19 resources. One of the new resources is a *Hospital Operations Toolkit for COVID-19*.

- [Hospital Operations Toolkit](#): A single source of information for hospitals preparing to manage large numbers of patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The toolkit is comprised of four primary sections: Capacity, Infection Prevention and Control, Patient Care Policies/Processes, and Administration.
- [Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital \(BCCFH\): One State's Experience during COVID-19](#): This case study highlights the joint effort to establish the BCCFH, an alternate care site created to manage patient surge from COVID-19.
- [Role of Community Pharmacists in COVID-19](#): In this presentation, Dr. L'Altrelli from UPMC Presbyterian, discusses the role of pharmacists during the pandemic. Check out the rest of the [Healthcare Operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic speaker series](#).
- [Physician Well-Being- What's Changed and What's More Important than Ever in the Wake of COVID-19](#): In this presentation, Drs. Ripp and Carr from Mt. Sinai Health System, discuss steps they've taken to mitigate staff stress and increase wellness and resilience. Check out the entire [COVID-19 Healthcare Professional Stress and Resilience speaker series](#).

**FEMA Offers Comment Period and Webinars
on Two Emergency Operations Center Toolkit Documents**

FEMA's National Integration Center is seeking public feedback on [2 Emergency Operations Center \(EOC\) Toolkit documents](#). The 35-day **national engagement period** is open December 1, 2020 - January 5, 2021 at 5:00 pm EST.

The [2 EOC Toolkit documents](#)– the EOC How To Quick Reference Guide and the EOC References and Tools – are a collection of guidance and best practices for the emergency management community, specifically for EOCs. To provide comments on the drafts, complete the feedback form and submit the form to fema-nims@fema.dhs.gov.

Webinars

The National Integration Center is hosting a series of three 60-minute webinars to discuss the 2 EOC Toolkit documents and answer related questions. All webinars are open to the whole community.

Each stakeholder webinar will cover the same information; choose the session most convenient for you.

Advance registration is required due to space limitations. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. To register, click on your preferred webinar session from the list below.

- ✓ Webinar 1: [December 10, 2020 - 2:00PM EST](#)
- ✓ Webinar 2: [December 15, 2020 – 4:00PM EST](#)
- ✓ Webinar 3: [December 17, 2020 – 1:30PM EST](#)

[FOOTNOTE from Dick Bartlett: At the end of December I will be retiring from the Emergency Preparedness role here at the Kentucky Hospital Association. I will continue to work with the KY Trauma Care System as the Trauma Coordinator, and will assist KHA with specific projects.]

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 preparedness@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.

Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Holiday Fires

Did you know?



A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes **1 in every 4** winter fires.

As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.



Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.



Make sure your tree is **at least 3 feet away** from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators and space heaters.



Water your Christmas tree everyday.

A dry tree is dangerous because it can catch on fire easily.

U.S. Fire Administration FEMA

Following a few simple tips can help make your holidays fire-safe:

- Water your live Christmas tree every day. A dry tree is a fire hazard. Trees too close to a heat source cause 1 in every 4 winter fires.
- Make sure you are using the right lights. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Choose holiday decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and things that can burn. More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles. Consider using flameless candles, they look very similar and are safer.
- Blow out lit candles and turn off all light strings and decorations when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Make sure your decorations don't block windows and doors.