



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

## Kentucky has its Worst, and Deadliest Day from COVID-19

Governor Andy Beshear today went almost immediately into the numbers, and made it clear that not only is this the worst day since the coronavirus pandemic started, but it is the deadliest. 4,151 new cases, with 461 kids 18 and under. Positivity is now 9.59%.

He said that we also hit a record number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients (1,777), with 444 in the ICU (up 20 from yesterday); and 241 on vents (up 12 from yesterday). There are 57 long-term care facilities in the state with 15 or more positive COVID-19 cases.

The Governor reported that this was the deadliest day with 35 new deaths; bringing the total to 1,943 to date.

There are more than 358 testing locations across the state, with new locations at the KY Exposition Center and Keeneland in Lexington. See more: <https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-covid-testing>

Watch the Governor's briefing here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ft4R2H3mXkQ>

Daily statistics page: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/COVID19DailyReport.pdf>

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## CDC advisers are meeting to vote on who will get a Covid-19 vaccine first

(CNN) Advisers to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have [called an emergency meeting](#) to vote on who they recommend should be the first to get a coronavirus vaccine once one is authorized. The meeting kicked off at 2 p.m. ET. Officials said they expect the meeting to last until 5 p.m. ET.

**What officials have said so far:** The CDC has already recommended that the first group — designated as 1a — should include frontline health providers and support personnel. The 1a group likely should also include residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, who have been badly hit by the pandemic, the CDC has said.

**Remember: No Covid-19 vaccine has been approved yet.** The US Food and Drug Administration has a meeting scheduled for Dec. 10 to discuss Pfizer's application for emergency use authorization for its Covid-19 candidate. The agency has a second meeting on Dec. 17 to consider Moderna's application.

CNN source: [https://www.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-12-01-20-intl/h\\_db68af2d24c5dc55535012affcc5ad74](https://www.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-12-01-20-intl/h_db68af2d24c5dc55535012affcc5ad74)

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## Beyond burnout:

### For health care workers, this surge of Covid-19 is bringing *burnover*

(Stat News) Covid-19 is roaring back for a third wave. The first two substantially increased feelings of moral injury and burnout among health care workers. This one is bringing [burnover](#).

Health care systems are scrambling anew. The crises of ICU beds at capacity, [shortages of personal protective equipment](#), emergency rooms turning away ambulances, and [staff shortages](#) are happening this time not in isolated hot spots but in almost [every state](#). Clinicians again face work that is risky, heart-rending, physically exhausting, and demoralizing, all the elements of burnout. They have seen this before and are intensely frustrated it is happening again.

Too many of them are [leaving health care long before retirement](#). The disconnect between what health care workers know and how the public is behaving, driven by relentless disinformation, is [unbearable](#). Paraphrasing a colleague, "How can they call us essential and then treat us like we are disposable?"

Read more: <https://www.statnews.com/2020/11/25/beyond-burnout-health-care-workers-covid-19-surge-burnover/>

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**UK's Psychosocial Support for Healthcare and Behavior Healthcare Providers during COVID-19  
Well@Work Podcast- Episode 9: Using Accountability Partners to Build Resilience at Work**

Link: [https://youtu.be/\\_7K4WMBbtQw](https://youtu.be/_7K4WMBbtQw)

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## FDA Issues New Policy on Dry Heat for Reuse of Certain Respirators

(FDA) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued guidance on the use of dry heat to help support the single-user reuse of certain particulate filtering facepiece respirators (FFRs), such as N95 respirators, by health care personnel when there is a limited supply of respirators during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The immediately-in-effect guidance provides the FDA's thinking and recommendations regarding the use of bioburden reduction systems that use dry heat to reduce the bioburden, or amount of microorganisms present, on certain respirators for reuse by a single user. Bioburden reduction systems are intended to achieve a certain level in microbial reduction on a device; these are not decontamination systems.

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**CIDRAP Stories:**

**Black kids bear brunt of severe COVID-linked syndrome**

[\(CIDRAP\)](#) A study of 223 patients younger than 20 years hospitalized with the rare but serious COVID-19–related multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) in New York City found that black children were disproportionately affected.

The population-based cohort study, published as a [research letter](#) today in *JAMA Network Open*, involved analysis of the medical records and lab data of all pediatric MIS-C patients reported to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene from Mar 1 to Jun 30.

MIS-C is believed to be an abnormal immune response to the novel coronavirus, similar to but distinct from Kawasaki disease. Although the syndrome was thought to affect only children, a recent [study](#) identified it in adults as well.

Overall, the incidence of MIS-C was 0.01%. While black children make up 22.2% of New York City's population and 19.9% of pediatric COVID-19 hospitalizations, they constituted 34.4% of MIS-C cases. Hispanic children made up 29.8% of the cases, similar to their proportion of the city's population (35.6%), although they accounted for 40% of COVID-19 hospitalizations.

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**Nursing Homes Fined for COVID Infection Control Lapses**

*Industry representatives argue penalties are counterproductive*

Read more: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/publichealthpolicy/healthpolicy/89897>

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**Coronavirus cases fell by roughly 30% during England's lockdown**

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/30/uk/coronavirus-england-lockdown-uk-gbr-intl/index.html>

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**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines**

Extracts from [December 1, 2020](#)

**[The PPE Crisis Didn't Go Away: Across the U.S., Grassroots Supply Networks are Trying to Fill the Void](#)**

*(STAT)* The failure of the federal government to procure adequate protective equipment for frontline workers is an ongoing tragedy. At the same time, a grassroots movement including organizations like Get Us PPE is trying to fill the void. With the pandemic projected to worsen in the coming months, the question is whether it will be enough.

**[Fourth State Confirms Mink Farm Coronavirus Outbreaks as U.S. Looks to Avoid Denmark's Disaster](#)**

*(Washington Post)* At least 10 minks and an undisclosed number of human farmworkers tested positive for the coronavirus, the U.S. Agriculture Department confirmed Friday. The infected animals were ordered isolated, sparing the American minks from the grim fate of their European counterparts: Danish minks were culled en masse weeks earlier after scientists discovered they carried a mutated strain of the virus that if spread back to humans could reduce the efficacy of a potential vaccine.

**[Outdoor Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and Other Respiratory Viruses, a Systematic Review](#)** *(Journal of Infectious Diseases)* Existing evidence supports the wide-held belief that the the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission is lower outdoors but there are significant gaps in our understanding of specific pathways.

**[Some Health Care Workers Are Wary Of Getting COVID-19 Vaccines](#)** *(NPR)* It makes sense: Getting a safe, effective vaccine would help keep them and their patients healthy. Seeing doctors, nurses and medical aides getting COVID-19 vaccines would also set an example for the community. But the speed of COVID-19 vaccine development, along with concerns about political interference with the process, has left some health care workers on the fence about COVID-19 vaccines.

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**Experts develop research agenda for pediatric infections, stewardship**

[\(CIDRAP News Scan\)](#) A group of clinicians and researchers with expertise in pediatric healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and antimicrobial stewardship has developed a list of high-priority research topics for improving health outcomes in children.

Published last week in *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, the list of recommendations was developed through a multistep, 7-month process that included literature review, interactive teleconferences, web-based surveys, and two in-person meetings. At the end of the process, experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and academic children's hospitals across the country came up with six HAI topics and six antimicrobial stewardship topics as high-priority targets for future research.

## High-path avian flu outbreaks expand in Europe, other regions

More countries reported additional highly pathogenic H5N8 and H5N5 avian flu outbreaks in poultry, and numerous more—even outside of Europe—reported more detections of both strains in wild birds, according to the latest notifications from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

### **Crisis Standards of Care Webinar— What's Working and What Isn't?**

Thursday, December 3, 2020  
12:00 PM ET / 9:00 AM PT

Webinar Details and Registration Information [Please Click Here](#)

ASPR TRACIE is hosting [this webinar](#) where speakers will discuss clinical consultation versus triage support, systems-level information sharing, coalition-level coordination activities, and recent publications/resources to help with planning efforts (e.g., [CSC: Lessons Learned from New York City Hospitals' COVID-19 Experience](#), [ASPR TRACIE COVID-19 CSC Resources](#)). There will also be significant time provided for participant Q&A.

**[Register today!](#)**

### Global Resilience Commission Webinar **Leadership, Communities, and Strategic Risk Solutions and Requirements in the Time of COVID**

Thursday, December 3rd - 1100 AM EDT

[Register for the Webinar](#)

### **[The Impact of Telehealth on Health Equity from the Perspective of Large Healthcare Systems during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)**

**Tuesday, Dec 8 at 2 PM ET**

Zoom link below to join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600369650>

Telephone: +1 669 254 5252 ID: 160 036 9650

*Alternative way to tell a dispatcher where you are...*

### **What3words divides the world into trillions of 10-foot location squares**

*[FYI – KY Hospital Association is at [///similar.edge.hairbrush](#)]*

Learn more: <https://www.zdnet.com/article/what3words-divides-the-world-into-trillions-of-10-foot-location-squares/what3words-for-emergencies-real-life-stories>

**[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](mailto: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.