



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for December 7, 2020

Governor Says Additional Vaccine Shipment Expected in December

(From [Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear announced the state is expecting two additional COVID-19 vaccine shipments before the end of the year. In total, the state expects at least 38,000 Pfizer doses and 109,000 Moderna doses in December. The Governor expects more Pfizer allocations to be announced at a later date, possibly before the end of the month.

The Governor expects Kentucky will receive approximately: 38,000 Pfizer doses the week of Dec. 13-19 (previously [announced on Nov. 30](#)); 76,000 Moderna doses the week of Dec. 20-26; and more than 33,000 Moderna doses from Dec. 27-31. Gov. Beshear reminded Kentuckians that while these numbers are the state's best estimate at this time based on available information from the federal government, they are subject to change.

As of 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, Gov. Beshear reported the following COVID-19 numbers:

- New cases today: 1,972
- New deaths today: 10
- Positivity rate: 9.60%
- Total deaths: 2,082
- Currently hospitalized: 1,700
- Currently in ICU: 410
- Currently on ventilator: 210

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.

Feds passed up chance to lock in more Pfizer vaccine doses

(AP) — The administration opted last summer *not* to lock in a chance to buy millions of additional doses of one of the leading coronavirus vaccine contenders, a decision that could delay the delivery of a second batch of doses until manufacturer Pfizer fulfills other international contracts.

The revelation, confirmed Monday by people familiar with the matter, came a day before President Donald Trump aimed to take credit for the speedy development of forthcoming coronavirus vaccines at a White House summit Tuesday.

Under its contract with Pfizer, the Trump administration committed to buy an initial 100 million doses, with an option to purchase as many as five times more. This summer, the White House opted not to lock in an additional 100 million doses for delivery in the second quarter of 2021, according to people who spoke about the matter on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it publicly.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-donald-trump-business-coronavirus-pandemic-michael-pence-88fd7c59fd0af8669ed3cdafdf08881e>

What Flu Vaccination Rates in Rural America Tell Us about the Advent of COVID-19 Vaccines

(USA Today) America's poor track record vaccinating people against the flu spells trouble for the coming effort to immunize the nation against COVID-19, experts say, particularly in rural areas where the novel coronavirus is raging out of control.

A USA TODAY analysis of flu vaccine rates among Medicare participants shows that rural counties from West Texas to northern Nebraska to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan had some of the country's lowest vaccination rates in 2017, the most recent year with data. It's a pattern that holds true across America. The more rural the county, the lower flu vaccination rates tended to be.

Data for the analysis came from the [County Health Rankings](#) project and the [Index of Relative Rurality](#), a metric that ranks counties based on population size, density, remoteness, and built-up area. The analysis identified 604 counties where fewer than a third of Medicare participants received flu vaccines, 580 of which were predominantly rural.

Read more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/12/06/flu-vaccine-rates-rural-covid-19-vaccine/3832618001/>

Britain begins mass vaccinations

Read more: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/britains-nhs-takes-on-a-mass-vaccination-challenge/ar-BB1bl0aL?li=BBnb7Kz>

Experimental flu vaccine could last for years, early results show

Early stage trial shows a universal flu shot protects against all strains of the flu while producing no more side effects than the current seasonal vaccines.

Read more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/cold-and-flu/experimental-flu-vaccine-could-last-years-early-results-show-n1250228>

Kids likely not driving household COVID-19 outbreaks

(CIDRAP) A [study](#) in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* yesterday shows that children are unlikely to be the source of COVID-19 household outbreaks and are less likely to be infected with SARS-CoV-2 by another household member, with implications for vaccine distribution.

The role of children in the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, has not been fully defined. While children typically have the highest rates of flu infection and are thought to play a major role in disease spread, scientists are still assessing data on their contribution to COVID-19 transmission.

A number of studies show low rates of pediatric SARS-CoV-2 infection and spread and mild symptoms in infected children, the study authors note. But they also point to studies that show that children shed virus at levels comparable to adults—suggesting that children could be a significant source of community transmission—with households thought to be one of the most common settings for transmission.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/12/kids-likely-not-driving-household-covid-19-outbreaks>

Related - Study: OK for moms with COVID, newborns to share hospital room

California County Stops Sending Ambulances to all 911 Calls Due to COVID-19 Surge

(EMS1) San Bernardino County emergency dispatchers have stopped sending an ambulance to all 911 calls, a strategy that's lightening their load as coronavirus-related calls surge.

Instead, people whose symptoms appear consistent with COVID-19 or the flu but who do not appear to need hospitalization are being visited by paramedics without an ambulance, said Steve Tracy, a spokesman for the San Bernardino County Fire Department. The new policy started Friday afternoon, Nov. 27, he said.

"We're only a couple days into it, but there's already 52% reduction in transports, which is really helping the hospitals," Tracy said Monday, Nov. 30.

Riverside County has a similar plan ready but has not implemented it, Bruce Barton, head of the county's emergency management department, said Monday.

Before San Bernardino County's new policy began, some ambulances were waiting four to six hours at a hospital before they could release a patient, Tracy said.

Full story: <https://www.ems1.com/coronavirus-covid-19/articles/calif-county-stops-sending-ambulances-to-all-911-calls-due-to-covid-19-surge-WgIGF1zTCIGBFLO/>

Note: This approach typically involves what is called [Community paramedicine](#). It is a relatively new and evolving healthcare model. It allows paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to operate in expanded roles by assisting with public health and primary healthcare and preventive services to underserved populations in the community

Related – KBEMS site on Mobile Integrated Healthcare and Community Paramedicine

https://kbems.kctcs.edu/about/committees-subcommittees/mobile_integrated_healthcare_and_community_paramedicine.aspx

The next potential COVID-19 Problem...

Pandemic Pushes Fuel Makers in Richer Countries to the Brink – Refineries Closing

(Wall Street Journal) A decade ago, Australia was home to seven refineries. Now, it has four. Soon, it could have just one.

Covid-19 is accelerating a rash of global refinery shutdowns in the world's richest economies. Companies from energy giant Royal Dutch Shell PLC to Australian fuel company Ampol Ltd. are closing facilities or considering doing so as they reckon with anemic fuel demand and growing competition from newer, more efficient fuel-making facilities in Asia and the Middle East.

Eleven refineries from the U.S. to Japan have said this year that they intended to close. Three have announced partial shutdowns, and at least another five are on the chopping block, according to analytics firm IHS Markit .

The thinning out is part of a [global shift in fuel-making power](#) away from wealthier countries, where demand is in long-term decline and there are many older, smaller refineries. Newer, larger facilities in countries such as China generally are able to produce fuels for less, benefitting from growing regional markets and shipping their products overseas.

Read more: <https://apkmetro.com/pandemic-pushes-fuel-makers-in-richer-countries-to-the-brink/>

Toll of nonfatal gun injuries needs to be addressed, new report finds

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/toll-nonfatal-gun-injuries-among-latinos-blacks-needs-be-addressed-n1250068>

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.