



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for December 11, 2020

KY COVID Positivity Rate Drops Below 9%

(Press release) Today, Gov. Andy Beshear announced the state's positivity rate has decreased for the eighth straight day, now dropping under 9%; reaching 8.86%. As of 4 PM, new cases for today totaled 3,691, with 22 new deaths. 1,717 patients are in the hospital, with 432 in the ICU and 253 on vents.

Full press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=506>
KY COVID-19 Daily Summary: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/COVID19DailyReport.pdf>

U.S. FDA set to authorize Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

(Reuters) - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said on Friday it was working rapidly to issue an emergency use authorization (EUA) for Pfizer Inc's COVID-19 vaccine, with the green light coming possibly as soon as Friday evening, according to the New York Times.

The newspaper reported on Friday that the FDA is likely to issue the EUA by Friday evening, citing people familiar with the agency's planning. It had reported on Thursday night that the FDA would announce the news on Saturday.

Swift clearance of the vaccine was widely expected after a panel of expert advisers to the FDA on Thursday endorsed its emergency use to help stem a pandemic that has killed more than 285,000 people in the United States.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-fda-pfizer/us-fda-set-to-authorize-pfizer-covid-19-vaccine-idUSKBN28L1IG>

CDC Projects COVID-19 Deaths will hit 332,000 to 362,000 by January 2nd

See CDC Forecasts: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/forecasting-us.html>

Summary of what happened Thursday Afternoon – What's next Key committee endorses Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine, paving way for clearance by FDA and vaccinations in US to begin

Read more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/12/10/pfizer-covid-19-vaccine-candidate-final-review-vrbpac-fda/3850826001/>

Second dose of COVID vaccine from Pfizer or Moderna is needed, but timing doesn't have to be exact

(USA Today) People who get one of the [new COVID-19 vaccines](#) will be expected to get their second shot 21 or 28 days after the first one, depending on the manufacturer. But what happens if someone misses that deadline by a day, a week or even longer?

"There is the regulatory answer and there is the scientific observation," [Moncef Slaoui](#), co-leader of Operation Warp Speed, the federal government's vaccine development effort, said in a Wednesday news conference.

[Regulators are likely to authorize](#) both vaccines – one likely within the next four days and the other a week later – with the expectation that people receive them on the schedule by which they were tested in clinical trials. [The vaccine made by Pfizer/BioNTech](#) is to be given in two doses 21 days apart, while [Moderna's vaccine](#) was studied with the two doses coming 28 days apart.

From a scientific perspective, such precision is not that important and the immune system generally responds better when there's a wider gap between vaccinations, said Slaoui, an immunologist who spent a 30-year career in vaccine development. The level of protection increases dramatically – from 52% to 95% – after the second shot, he said, and traditionally second shots provide longer-lasting immunity than a single dose.

Read full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/12/09/covid-vaccine-timing-second-pfizer-and-moderna-shots-not-critical/3867521001/>

Related - No, the COVID-19 vaccine doesn't cause infertility in women

(USA Today) False claims about COVID-19 vaccines continue to appear on social media sites as the Food and Drug Administration gets closer to authorizing one from Pfizer and its partner BioNTech for use in Americans. One post that's garnered attention is a screenshot shared by anti-vaccine advocates that falsely claims the vaccine could cause infertility in women. This is misinformation.

Pfizer spokeswoman Jerica Pitts [confirmed to The Associated Press](#) the vaccine candidate has not been found to cause infertility or sterilization.

Full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/12/10/covid-vaccine-debunking-claims-causes-infertility-sterilization/6497018002/>

Data error made situation at St. Elizabeth Fort Thomas look dire, officials say

(Cincinnati Enquirer) Jaws dropped Thursday morning at St. Elizabeth Healthcare when leaders saw the Fort Thomas hospital listed in the New York Times as one of the busiest COVID-19 care centers in the nation. St. Elizabeth's main COVID-19 facility, its [Fort Thomas hospital, has been busy](#), the leaders said, but not as busy as that, and they went on the hunt for the mistake.

St. Elizabeth officials pinned the problem on the [Kentucky Hospital Association](#), but a KHA official said the culprit was a coding bug in the computers of the Kentucky Department of Public Health. That agency is compiling bed capacity data across the commonwealth and reporting it to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Read more: <https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2020/12/10/covid-19-st-elizabeth-healthcare-fort-thomas-hhs-bed-capacity/3878562001/>

MedPage Today: As the pandemic surge continued, a third of U.S. hospitals reported 90%-100% occupancy of ICU beds, and patients with COVID-19 occupied almost half of all ICU beds at the country. (CNN)

'Indiana is on fire'

Gov. Eric Holcomb orders hospitals to delay elective surgeries as COVID-19 overwhelms health care system

(Chicago Tribune) Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb said Wednesday hospitals are ordered to cancel or delay elective surgeries from Dec. 16 to Jan. 3. The announcement came as Indiana looks for options to fight the nation's [second highest per-capita COVID-19 spread](#), straining its health care system.

Full story: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/ct-ptb-covid-indiana-hospital-cancel-surgeries-st-1210-20201209-ue3zumvnbjgbfldxqsvoir5qi-story.html>

'Stop Swapping Air' campaign launched to slow COVID-19 spread

The Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) launched the "Stop Swapping Air" public service messaging campaign this week in partnership with Clear Channel Outdoor Holdings, Inc., a New York-based national outdoor billboard advertising company.



The phrase "Stop Swapping Air" was coined on an episode of the [Osterholm Update: COVID-19 podcast](#), hosted by infectious disease expert Dr. Michael Osterholm, PhD, MPH, director of CIDRAP at the University of Minnesota and newly appointed member of President-elect Joe Biden's coronavirus task force. CIDRAP publishes CIDRAP News.

The 8-week campaign will feature billboards in the Minneapolis–St. Paul metro area. The campaign is based on the idea that the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 is to avoid sharing air by not spending time in enclosed spaces with people who are not in your "pod"—a small number of trusted people who are also not having contact with others, most commonly immediate family.

Still hunting for Clorox wipes?

Shortages now likely to last until mid-2021, company says

Read more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2020/12/10/clorox-wipes-shortages-likely-last-until-mid-2021/3886716001/>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines

Extracts from [December 11, 2020](#)

[Analyses of Risk, Racial Disparity, and Outcomes Among US Patients With Cancer and COVID-19 Infection](#) (*JAMA Oncology*) In this case-control analysis of electronic medical records from 73.4 million unique patients, patients with a recent diagnosis of cancer were at significantly increased risk for COVID-19 infection and its adverse outcomes, especially in African Americans. Based on these findings, it is important to closely monitor patients with cancer and protect them from exposure to severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 and the severe outcomes of COVID-19.

[Sanofi and GSK Announce A Delay in Their Adjuvanted Recombinant Protein-based COVID-19 Vaccine Program to Improve Immune Response in the Elderly](#) (*Sanofi*) Sanofi and GSK announce a delay in their adjuvanted recombinant protein-based COVID-19 vaccine program to improve immune response in older adults. Phase 1/2 study interim results showed an immune response comparable to patients who recovered from

COVID-19 in adults aged 18 to 49 years, but a low immune response in older adults likely due to an insufficient concentration of the antigen.

[Australian Vaccine Abandoned Over False HIV Response](#) (*BBC*) A promising Australian candidate for a coronavirus vaccine has been abandoned after trial participants returned false HIV positive results. Australia had previously agreed to buy 51 million doses of the vaccine being developed by Australian firm CSL and the University of Queensland (UQ). The government said orders of other vaccines would now fill the shortfall. CSL and UQ stressed that the positive results were false - meaning trial participants' health was not at risk. The Australian government said it had now entered an agreement for the Novavax vaccine, and upped its existing order of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine.

[States Urge Congressional Funding for COVID-19 Vaccine Education](#) (*Homeland Preparedness News*) A key state health regulator told the panel that state health agencies are sorely lacking in capabilities to educate the public on the new vaccines and on their effectiveness and to dispel myths and vaccine hesitancy and the states have asked Congress for \$8.4 billion in supplemental funding to help the cause.

ASPR TRACIE Recording Now Available
CSC - Legal Considerations during COVID-19

In [this presentation](#), James Hodge Jr., JD, LL.M (Director of the Center for Public Health Law and Policy at Arizona State University; Director, Western Region Office, Network for Public Health Law) shares legal information specific to COVID-19 emergency declarations, emergency powers and limitations, crisis standards of care, and liability protections. Check out the other presentations from the [ASPR TRACIE Healthcare Operations during COVID-19 Speaker Series](#).

CDC Clinicians Webinar December 14 @ 1 PM ET
What Every Clinician Should Know about COVID-19 Vaccine Safety

Zoom link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1611264903>

More info and call-in phone lines: https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_121420.asp

CDC Clinicians Webinar December 17 @ 2 PM ET
Making Practical Decisions for Crisis Standards of Care
at the Bedside During the COVID-19 Pandemic

(CDC) Healthcare operations and healthcare services delivery change due to scarcity of required resources under pervasive (e.g., pandemic influenza, COVID-19) and catastrophic disaster (e.g., earthquake, hurricane) conditions. The standards of care proposed under these unique and challenging conditions must be a reasonable approach to healthcare service delivery that merges public health, ethical, and medical care demands.

During this COCA Call, experts from Hennepin Healthcare and Bellevue Hospital will present background on the Institute of Medicine (IOM) framework, *Guidance for Establishing Crisis Standards of Care for Use in Disaster Situations* (IOM, 2009), and identify how Crisis Standards of Care apply to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Presenters will also highlight systems-level information sharing and coalition-level coordination activities to help clinicians plan for these potential situations and make medical decision during a crisis.

Zoom link below to join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1613403966>

Other connection options & more info: https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_121720.asp

Continuing Education info: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/continuingeducation.asp>

Personal data sold on dark web for as little as 50 cents

A study looked at the potential consequences of doxing, a practice where a person shares information about another individual without their consent with the aim of embarrassing, hurting them or putting them into harm.

In the analysis of active offers on 10 international darknet forums and marketplaces, researchers revealed the very high demand there is for individuals' private information. The cost of an ID is as little as 50 cents and varies according to the type and detail of data on offer.

They also found that personal financial information, such as credit card details, banking and e-payment service access have remained just as much in demand as around a decade ago, with prices unchanged in recent years.

(Source: [InfoSecurity Magazine](#))

The KHEREF 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 KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.