



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for December 17, 2020

## KY COVID Update

(From [Press Release](#)) On Thursday, Gov. Andy Beshear updated Kentuckians on COVID-19 and said while new cases continue to plateau and the state's positivity rate declines, the commonwealth set a record of newly reported deaths – a result of the state's previous spike in cases. He reported that there were 54 deaths today; the previous record was 38 deaths on December 2nd.

There were 3,349 new cases reported today, with a positivity rate of 8.45%. The number of people hospitalized went up to 1,817, with 431 in the ICU and 254 on vents.

### FDA advisory panel endorses Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine, clearing way for authorization

(STAT) An advisory panel on Thursday recommended that the Food and Drug Administration issue an emergency use authorization for a Covid-19 vaccine developed by Moderna, all but guaranteeing the agency will do so.

The authorization, expected on Friday, will mark the second Covid-19 vaccine cleared by the agency — and amount to one more step toward curbing a pandemic that has infected an estimated 17 million people and killed more than 300,000 in the United States.

Full story: <https://www.statnews.com/2020/12/17/moderna-vaccine-fda-panel/>

### 2 Alaska health care workers have allergic reactions after taking Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine

(CBS) One health care worker in Alaska experienced a serious allergic reaction and was hospitalized after taking Pfizer's [COVID-19](#) vaccine, state officials said Wednesday. The worker, who is middle-aged and had no previous history of allergies, had stabilized with treatment but was being kept in a Juneau hospital to be monitored for another day.

The worker received the vaccine Tuesday at Bartlett Regional Hospital. Ten minutes after taking the vaccine she "showed signs of an anaphylactic reaction, with increased heartbeat, shortness of breath and skin rash and redness," according to Dr. Lindy Jones, the emergency room director at Bartlett. "She was given epinephrine and Benadryl, admitted to the hospital, and put on an intravenous epinephrine drip. Her reaction was serious but not life threatening."

A second health care worker, a male, suffered a less-serious allergic reaction to the vaccine at the same hospital on Wednesday. Ten minutes after getting the injection, the man experienced "eye puffiness, lightheadedness, and scratchy throat," Bartlett hospital said in a statement. "His reaction was not considered anaphylaxis."

"He felt completely back to normal within an hour and was released," after treatment in the emergency department with epinephrine, Pepcid and Benadryl, according to the hospital, which noted: "He too does not want his experience to have a negative impact on his colleagues lining up for the vaccine."

The hospital said 144 staff members were vaccinated Wednesday of a total of nearly 400 who had requested it. Data on the two allergic reactions was being shared with the CDC.

The two Bartlett workers have been the country's only cases of allergic reactions to the Pfizer vaccine, according to Dr. Jay Butler, the CDC's deputy director for infectious diseases.

Full CBS story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/alaska-covid-vaccine-allergic-reaction-health-care-worker/>

### CDC Clinicians Call Friday at 2 PM ET

#### **“What Clinicians Need to Know About the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines**

Zoom: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1606816862?pwd=NFFB50ErU09BOVB5UlpOZzg2SjRwUT09>

Watch via U.S. Stream TV: <https://www.ustream.tv/channel/dwxer96bR7g>

The slide set will be available under "Call Materials" on the [COCA Call webpage](#).

### CDC FAQ on Wearing a Mask After Vaccination

#### **Do I still need to wear a mask if I was vaccinated?**

Yes. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to us to help stop this pandemic, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations for how to protect yourself and others

will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19. Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before deciding to change recommendations on steps everyone should take to slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision.

***When can I stop wearing a mask and avoiding close contact after I have been vaccinated?***

There is not enough information currently available to say if or when CDC will stop recommending that people wear masks and avoid close contact with others to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before making that decision. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision.

Source and more FAQ's: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

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**Measles vaccinations taking back seat to COVID concerns**

(CIDRAP) The COVID-19 pandemic has diverted parents' attention away from other potentially severe infectious diseases, and vaccine hesitancy has risen, resulting in delayed childhood vaccinations for measles—especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) but also in the United States, two new studies have found.

The first study, published yesterday in *Nature* by a team led by researchers from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, assessed measles vaccinations in 101 LMICs through 2019. They found that, while substantial progress was made in immunizing children against measles from 2000 to 2010, efforts stalled in the last decade in LMICs.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/12/measles-vaccinations-taking-back-seat-covid-concerns>

<p>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 <a href="#">Emergency Preparedness Updates available here</a>. 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 <a href="mailto:Preparedness@kyha.com">Preparedness@kyha.com</a> (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.</p>
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