



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for December 18, 2020

FDA prepares to OK a second vaccine as average daily cases and deaths hit records

(CNN @ 4:49 PM 12-18-20) US officials say they're "rapidly" working toward issuing emergency authorization for what would be the nation's second Covid-19 vaccine -- even as coronavirus hospitalizations, cases and deaths are piling up in unprecedented ways. The Food and Drug Administration is widely expected to issue the authorization soon for Moderna's vaccine candidate, after the agency's vaccine advisers voted Thursday to recommend this. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would need to green-light the vaccine before shots can be administered -- and a CDC advisory panel is meeting this weekend to discuss it.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/18/health/us-coronavirus-friday/index.html>

Kentucky COVID Update

(From Press Release) As of 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, Gov. Beshear reported 3,179 new cases, with 1,712 hospitalized, 410 in the ICU, and 227 on vents. The positivity rate is 8.59%. There were 28 new deaths reported today.

The Governor said Kentuckians can now view his new [executive order](#) related to public health precautions in schools. Gov. Beshear first announced these [updated requirements and recommendations](#) on Dec. 14.

To view the [full daily report](#), [incidence rate map](#), 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.

See all of the Kentucky Department for Public Health's winter holiday guidance here: English [full guidance](#), [one-pager](#) and [single slide](#) and Spanish [full guidance](#), [one-pager](#) and [single slide](#).

EEOC gives green light to require vaccines for employees

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/covid-19-vaccine-employers-exclude-unvaccinated-workers/>

CPT codes announced for AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine candidate

(From [AHA Now](#)) The American Medical Association yesterday [announced](#) Current Procedural Terminology immunization and administration codes for reporting on medical claims the COVID-19 vaccine under development by AstraZeneca and University of Oxford. The codes are effective for use once the vaccine receives emergency use authorization or approval from the Food and Drug Administration.

CDC warns of a 'substantial increase' in fatal drug overdoses coinciding with the Covid-19 pandemic

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/18/us/cdc-pandemic-fatal-drug-overdoses-rise/index.html>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from December 18, 2020

[Some States Say Pfizer Vaccine Allotments Cut for Next Week](#) (*Associated Press*) Several states say they have been told to expect far fewer doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in its second week of distribution, prompting worries about potential delays in shots for health care workers and long-term care residents. But senior Trump administration officials on Thursday downplayed the risk of delays, citing a confusion over semantics, while Pfizer said its production levels have not changed.

[Nuclear Weapons Agency Breached Amid Massive Cyber Onslaught](#) (*Politico*) The Energy Department and National Nuclear Security Administration, which maintains the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, have evidence that hackers accessed their networks as part of an extensive espionage operation that has affected at least half a dozen federal agencies, officials directly familiar with the matter said. On Thursday, DOE and NNSA officials began coordinating notifications about the breach to their congressional oversight bodies after being briefed by Rocky Campione, the chief information officer at DOE.

Related #1 – (CBS) [U.S. cybersecurity agency warns of "grave" threat from massive hack](#)

Related – CISA Emergency Directive 21-01: <https://cyber.dhs.gov/ed/21-01/>

EMR-InfoGram Stories

✓ Report on law enforcement challenges and best practices for response to civil unrest - [full report](#)

- ✓ Two comprehensive reports offer guidance for local disaster readiness
 - The International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) has published [a study surveying hundreds of local communities on the state of their preparedness for natural disasters](#).
 - A report from the National Academy of Public Administration reinforced the findings of the ICMA study with their [March 2020 report](#) on emergency and disaster management responses.
- ✓ [LAFD successfully deploys firefighting robot](#)

Scientists reinvent the atomic clock, making it far more accurate

(BGR) The watch on your wrist might seem pretty accurate on a day-to-day basis but it's got nothing when compared to atomic clocks. Scientists use atomic clocks for a variety of purposes, and the more accurate they are, the better they are at providing useful data. But while the most common atomic clocks are an order of magnitude more accurate than your typical wall clock, they're not perfect.

Now, [a team of researchers](#) has developed what they say is even more accurate than anything else being used today, and over a span of billions of years, it would put most other atomic clocks to shame. That's a bold stance, but the scientists appear to have the data to back it up.

Learn more: <https://bgr.com/2020/12/17/new-atomic-clock-mit/>

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.