



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for December 21, 2020

First Shipment of Newly Authorized Moderna Vaccine Arrives in KY, Adding to Kentucky's Arsenal Against COVID-19

On Sunday, Gov. Andy Beshear hailed the authorization of the Moderna vaccine against the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), saying this second vaccine will be administered soon in the commonwealth. As of 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, Gov. Beshear reported 1,765 new cases, with a positivity rate of 8.73%. There are 1,607 people hospitalized, with 403 in the ICU and 226 on vents. There were 26 new deaths to report.

Full news release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=525>

[KDPH UPDATE FOR KY COVID VACCINATORS – See last page!]

Public health officials release winter holiday guidance for Kentuckians

(WLEX) With the winter holiday season underway, Kentucky public health officials are urging people to celebrate the holidays differently this year to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This holiday season, they're urging people to modify holiday plans to keep family members, friends, families, and communities healthy and safe. They include the following:

- ✓ Limit the size of gatherings to two households and a maximum of 8 people
- ✓ Always wear a face covering or mask
- ✓ Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet or more
- ✓ Avoid large gatherings, especially those held indoors
- ✓ Do not host or attend large parties or events
- ✓ Avoid traveling: If you do, be informed of the risks involved

Video report: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/public-health-officials-release-winter-holiday-guidance-for-kentuckians>

One pager for posting: <https://gscdn.govshare.site/381d0fbb43b611527a8f1c329301ef51fd555fcf/Winter%20Holidays%202020.pdf>

Full guidance: https://gscdn.govshare.site/381d0fbb43b611527a8f1c329301ef51fd555fcf/Winter%20Guidelines%20December%2012%202020_DPH%20FINAL.pdf

Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine arrives in Louisville

(WAVE) A shipment of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine has arrived in Louisville Sunday morning. The vaccine, [which was approved for emergency authorization by the FDA on Friday](#), began shipping out across the United States over the weekend. Moderna's vaccine is the second to be authorized for emergency use, following the approval of Pfizer's vaccine on December 11.



UPS previously announced in a release that through a partnership with global pharmaceutical and medical supply distributor McKesson, would assist in vaccine delivery efforts. A truck carrying the vaccines was led into UPS Worldport around 9:45 a.m. Sunday. Two truckloads arrived at UPS Worldport Sunday morning, with more expected. The vaccines came from a McKesson distribution facility located in Shepherdsville.

Over the weekend, crews went to work loading, tagging and shipping this second vaccine from Moderna around the US. Officials say at least one

shipment of vaccines from Sunday will be used here locally, but the name of that healthcare facility is not being given out. Health care workers and nursing homes will be the first to receive the vaccines.

Full story and video report: <https://www.wave3.com/2020/12/20/modernas-covid-vaccine-arrives-louisville/>

FDA Emergency Use Authorization of Moderna's COVID-19 Vaccine

(From AHA) The Food and Drug Administration last night granted an [emergency use authorization](#) (EUA) to Moderna for its mRNA-1273 COVID-19 vaccine, paving the way for its immediate administration across the country. As required under the EUA, Moderna has released fact sheets for [providers](#) and for [patients](#).

ACIP Recommends People over 75 and Essential Workers Next

(AP) A federal advisory panel recommended Sunday that people 75 and older and essential workers like firefighters, teachers and grocery store workers should be next in line for COVID-19 shots, while a second

vaccine began rolling out to hospitals as the nation works to get the coronavirus pandemic under control. Sunday's vote by the panel was who should be next in line. It's not clear how long it will take to vaccinate those groups. Vaccine doses have come out slower than earlier projections. But at the same time, some experts noted that not everyone who is recommended to get vaccinated may choose to get a shot.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/us-news-pandemics-coronavirus-pandemic-coronavirus-vaccine-145d1bae81aaa05df26cfed0d24f0e10>

OWS Official Apologizes for Errors in COVID Vax Estimate

Outlines plan to distribute Moderna's newly authorized vaccine

(MedPage Today) Gen. Gustavo Perna, chief operating officer of Operation Warp Speed (OWS), the Trump administration's effort to speed up COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics, apologized for overestimating the delivery speed on Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine and said he expected distribution of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine to proceed smoothly.

Perna apologized for promising states more of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine than was actually delivered last week. "I want to assure everybody and take personal responsibility for the miscommunication," he said. "I know that's not done much these days, but I am responsible and I take responsibility."

Read more details: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/90340>

FDA investigating five allergic reactions after Pfizer shot

(Reuters) - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is investigating around five allergic reactions that happened after people were administered Pfizer Inc and BioNTech SE's COVID-19 vaccine in the United States this week, a top FDA official said late on Friday.

Dr. Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, said at a press conference that the allergic reactions had been reported in more than one state, including in Alaska. Marks also said that a chemical called *polyethylene glycol* (PEG) that is an ingredient in the Pfizer vaccine - as well as the Moderna Inc vaccine authorized on Friday - "could be the culprit" causing the reactions. Marks said that allergic reactions to PEG could be somewhat more common than previously understood. The cases in Alaska were similar to two cases reported last week in Britain.

Story link: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-vaccines-fda-idUSKBN28T05J>

What we know about the new coronavirus variant in the UK

(BBC) The rapid spread of a new variant of coronavirus has been blamed for the introduction of strict tier four mixing rules for millions of people, harsher restrictions on mixing at Christmas in England, Scotland and Wales, and other countries placing the UK on a travel ban.

Three things are coming together that mean it is attracting attention:

- It is rapidly replacing other versions of the virus
- It has mutations that affect part of the virus likely to be important
- Some of those mutations have already been shown in the lab to increase the ability of the virus to infect cells

Will the vaccines work against the new variant? Almost certainly yes, or at least for now. All three leading vaccines develop an immune response against the existing spike, which is why the question comes up. Vaccines train the immune system to attack several different parts of the virus, so even though part of the spike has mutated, the vaccines should still work.

Full story: <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-55388846>

COVID-19 Is Far More Lethal, Damaging Than Flu, Data Shows

(HealthDay News) [COVID-19](#) is far more harmful and deadly than the seasonal [flu](#), new studies confirm.

Researchers analyzed U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs data on more than 3,600 patients hospitalized with [COVID-19](#) between Feb. 1 and June 17 of this year, and more than 12,600 hospitalized with the [flu](#) between Jan. 1, 2017 and Dec. 31, 2019. The average age of patients in both groups was 69.

The death rate among [COVID-19](#) patients was 18.5%, while it was 5.3% for those with the flu. Those with COVID were nearly five times more likely to die than flu patients, according to the study published online Dec. 15 in the *BMJ*. Full story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=250101>

FDA OKs First Over-the-Counter Home Test for COVID-19

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/544672531>

Drones deliver PPE to communities in Appalachian Kentucky

(WLEX) As the COVID-19 vaccine rolls out across the country, people are encouraged to continue following CDC guidelines and wearing Personal Protective Equipment. However, there are still parts of Kentucky where there's little access to these materials.

That's why the University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health, Kentucky Homeplace, and the USA Drone Port partnered to explore the use of drones to deliver PPE to people in Appalachian Kentucky. With funding from the UK Center for Appalachian Research in Environmental Sciences, or UK-CARES, they started a research project known as the Jericho Project.

See video report and read more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/drones-deliver-ppe-to-communities-in-appalachian-kentucky>

A Company Made P.P.E. for the World. Now Its Workers Have the Virus.

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/544881903>

1 in 5 prisoners in the US has had COVID-19, 1,700 have died

(AP) One in every five state and federal prisoners in the United States has tested positive for the coronavirus, a rate more than four times as high as the general population. In some states, more than half of prisoners have been infected, according to data collected by The Associated Press and The Marshall Project.

As the pandemic enters its 10th month — and as the first Americans begin to receive a long-awaited COVID-19 vaccine — at least 275,000 prisoners have been infected, more than 1,700 have died and the spread of the virus behind bars shows no sign of slowing. New cases in prisons this week reached their highest level since testing began in the spring, far outstripping previous peaks in April and August.

Learn more: <https://apnews.com/article/pandemics-race-and-ethnicity-prisons-united-states-coronavirus-pandemic-0bef0673013aa579551db5ad61b885e0>

No more ICU beds at the main public hospital in largest U.S. county as COVID surges

(Kaiser Health News) In California, only [3% of ICU beds were available](#) as of Thursday. In the 11-county Southern California region, no ICU beds were open, and in the San Joaquin Valley, just 0.7% were. The county of Los Angeles, the nation's largest, [was perilously close](#) to zero capacity.

Hospital staff members have also been scouring the insurance plans of patients to see if they can be transferred to other hospitals. "But at this point, it's become almost impossible, because they're all filling up."

Read full story: <https://khn.org/news/article/no-more-icu-beds-at-the-main-public-hospital-in-the-nations-largest-county-as-covid-surges/>

Congress finally moves to stop surprise medical billing as part of spending deal

(CNN) – **Developing Story** - Congress may finally be ready to address one of Americans' biggest health care headaches: surprise medical billing.

Lawmakers said they will include a bipartisan, bicameral agreement to stop the practice in this week's government spending bill. The deal among key players in both the House and Senate was released earlier this month -- a year after the last [joint-chamber agreement](#) was announced before withering amid [competing measures in the House](#).

At issue are the bills that patients get after receiving care from out-of-network physicians or hospitals, often in emergency situations. Roughly 1 in every 6 emergency room or in-hospital stays generated at least one out-of-network medical bill in 2017, according to a [Kaiser Family Foundation analysis](#).

Nearly 2 in 5 insured, non-elderly adults received an unexpected medical bill, a [2018 Kaiser study](#) found. Among that group, 31% owed \$500 or more.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/21/politics/surprise-medical-billing-congress/index.html>

Trauma Injury Prevention Team

Nearly Half of Teens Get Behind the Wheel Shortly After a Concussion

Read more <https://news360.com/article/544666266>

USPS Cuts Could Pose Harm If Mail-Order Meds Delayed

(HealthDay) Delayed mail delivery due to a push from the White House and others to slash spending and services could have enormous consequences for Americans who depend on the U.S. Postal Service for access to urgently needed prescription medications, a new study warns.

"We found that among those who rely exclusively on mail-order pharmacies, about half are elderly, more than a quarter have [heart disease](#), and about 1 in 5 have [diabetes](#)," said lead author Dr. Adam Gaffney. He's a pulmonary and critical care physician with the Cambridge Health Alliance in Massachusetts.

He said many patients who depend on mail-order meds have significant disabilities — 18% have trouble [walking](#) a few blocks; 9% have difficulty doing errands alone; and 4% have serious visual impairments.

The upshot: "Millions of Americans -- including those with serious chronic illnesses as well as major disabilities - - rely on the U.S. Postal Service for timely delivery of their vital medications," he said.

The postal service has delivered medications to Americans' doorsteps for more than a century.

Read full story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=250013>

CNN Analysis: 2020's "Year of Reckoning" Revealed Fault Lines in US Policing

(IACP News) [CNN](#) (12/18, de Puy Kamp) reports, "The national reckoning over race and policing" has "led policing in America to a defining crossroads: Will there be substantive reforms to improve how law enforcement protects and serves the community, or will the energy of 2020 dissipate and allow agencies to retreat to their traditional ways of enforcing law and order?"

Police departments and unions say the answer lies within unifying national policing standards and improving existing policies," while "activists contend that cutting police budgets and reducing police interactions are the best ways to limit harm," but "in the absence of well-funded social welfare services, those very stakeholders see an American society that relies heavily on law enforcement to handle issues ranging from homelessness and mental health crises to maintaining student safety in schools. '2020 has just been a collision of so many pressing challenges,' said Cynthia Renaud, president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. 'And law enforcement has been at the forefront of all of those trying to respond to it, trying to work and serve their communities, and also trying to be responsive to the change and the changes that our society has been so vocal that they want.'"

Two KY Officers Down from COVID-19

(Supporting Heroes) It is with deep regret we notify you of the line-of-duty death of Officer David Ragle of the Kentucky Department of Corrections -- Northpoint Training Center in Danville. Officer Ragle died Saturday evening from complications of COVID-19 contracted in the line-of-duty. In addition, it is with deep regret we also notify you of the line-of-duty death of Deputy Ronald Bradley of the Rockcastle County Sheriff's Office in Mount Vernon, Kentucky. Deputy Bradley died Sunday, December 13th, from complications of COVID-19 contracted in the line-of-duty.

Full report: <https://mailchi.mp/supportingheroes/officerdown-louisville-ky-779630?e=f32ed01ac1>

EKU Teaching Robotic Firefighting

(EKU) Fire is a classical element that has been an equalizer on Earth prior to the start of written history. It has many positive attributes (heat, energy, cleansing, etc.) but it can be extremely dangerous when outside of control. Structure, vehicle, aircraft ship fires and wildfires can wreak havoc and cause serious injury and/or death. Thankfully, brave men and women have dedicated their lives to protecting others from flames that can occur due to a myriad of reasons anywhere, at any time. Unfortunately, firefighters are only human and can succumb to injury or death as well.



Robotic firefighting systems are designed with certain tasks in mind. These include analyzing and locating fires, conducting search and rescue, monitoring hazardous variables and the primary task of fire control and suppression.

Learn more: <https://safetymanagement.eku.edu/blog/the-use-of-robotics-in-firefighting/>

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.

From KY Public Health's Immunization Branch
IMPORTANT- COVID-19 Vaccine Reporting Reminder

As we begin rolling out additional COVID-19 vaccines to Kentucky Hospitals, the KYIR team wanted to send a reminder about the required data reporting elements.

The CDC is requiring that participants report their COVID-19 vaccination data to local jurisdictions. Kentucky is requiring COVID-19 vaccine program participants to report COVID-19 vaccination data to the statewide Kentucky Immunization Registry (KYIR). Reporting requirements may be met through two available options: connecting your EHR through the Kentucky Health Information Exchange (KHIE) and to KYIR or entering both patient and immunization data directly into KYIR.

Many hospitals utilize an occupational health system to record employee vaccinations. Please know that these systems are often times not connected to KHIE and KYIR. Please take this into consideration as you continue to strategize the most effective workflows for employee vaccination events.

Please be aware of the following data elements which must be recorded in your EHR for reporting to the KYIR. The following elements are required to be reported from the state level to the CDC on a daily basis and it is crucial that you include them in your workflow.

Recipient Demographic Data

- Recipient First Name
- Recipient Middle Name
- Recipient Last Name
- Recipient Date of Birth
- Recipient Sex
- Recipient Street Address
- Recipient City
- Recipient State
- Recipient Zip Code
- Recipient Race
- Recipient Ethnicity

Vaccine Administration Data

- Vaccine Administration Date
- Vaccine CVX Code
- Vaccine NDC
- Vaccine MVX
- Vaccine Lot Number
- Vaccine Expiration Date
- Vaccine Administering Site
- Vaccine Route of Administration
- Vaccination Refusal

COVID-19 vaccine code sets may be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/code-sets.html> Please use the sale NDC in your system, if possible. It is the NDC listed on the box. CVX codes are often times in a data dictionary or code table in your system and automatically tied to a vaccine. If you need assistance, please reach out to your IT team or EHR vendor on how you may need to update those to include the COVID-19 CVX codes.

If you have questions concerning your EHR's connection to KHIE and/or KYIR, please feel free to reach out to chfsoatskir@ky.gov

If you have questions concerning KYIR access or training, please contact kyirhelpdesk@ky.gov

Thank you for all your hard work and planning. Your efforts are vital in the vaccine response to COVID-19 and protecting the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Sarah Wible, MPH

KYIR Coordinator | Epidemiologist

Kentucky Immunization Branch

KYIR Helpdesk: KYIRHelpdesk@ky.gov | 502-564-0038

Questions Regarding COVID-19 Provider Enrollment: COVID19VaccineHelp@ky.gov