



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for December 26, 2020

FBI at home of possible person of interest in Nashville bomb

(AP) Federal agents converged Saturday on the home of a possible person of interest in the explosion that rocked downtown Nashville as investigators scoured hundreds of tips and leads in the blast that damaged dozens of buildings on Christmas morning.

More than 24 hours after the explosion, a motive remained elusive as investigators worked round-the-clock to resolve unanswered questions about a recreational vehicle that blew up on a mostly deserted street on a sleepy holiday morning and was prefaced by a recorded warning advising those nearby to evacuate. The attack, which damaged an AT&T building, continued to wreak havoc Saturday on cellphone service and police and hospital communications in several Southern states.

There were other signs of progress in the investigation, as the FBI revealed that it was looking at a number of individuals who may be connected to it. Officials also said no additional explosive devices have been found — indicating no active threat to the area. Investigators have received around 500 tips and leads.

The infrastructure damage, meanwhile, was broadly felt, due to an AT&T central office being affected by the blast. Police emergency systems in Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama, as well as Nashville's COVID-19 community hotline and a handful of hospital systems, remained out of service.

The building contained a telephone exchange, with network equipment in it — but the company has declined to say exactly how many people have been impacted.

Asked whether the AT&T building could have been a possible target, Douglas Korneski, the special agent in charge in charge of the FBI's Memphis field office, said "We're looking at every possible motive that could be involved."

AT&T said restoration efforts are facing several challenges, which include a fire that "reignited overnight and led to the evacuation of the building." This has forced their teams to work with safety and structural engineers and drilling access holes into the building in order to reconnect power.

The outages had even briefly grounded flights at the Nashville International Airport, but service was continuing normally as of Saturday. The Federal Aviation Association has since issued a temporary flight restriction around the airport, requiring pilots to follow strict procedures until Dec. 30.

According to Metro Nashville Police Chief John Drake, police officers responded on Friday to a report of shots fired when they encountered the RV blaring a recorded warning that a bomb would detonate in 15 minutes. Police evacuated nearby buildings and called in the bomb squad. The RV exploded shortly afterward.

Read the full AP story for more details: <https://apnews.com/article/us-news-nashville-coronavirus-pandemic-tennessee-dc6eb653053967a4187f0ca8276d20a8>

Related stories - AT&T working to restore outages after Nashville explosion

(CNN) AT&T on Saturday continued working to restore outages caused by the Christmas Day [explosion of an RV parked](#) near a transmission building in Nashville that disrupted service in the region, officials said.

A [statement posted on the company's website](#) said that they were still facing challenges, including dealing with evacuations of the building due to a fire reigniting overnight

Emergency responders are working with telecommunications workers to get communications up and running after the explosion, Nashville Fire Chief William Swann said during a press conference Saturday.

Swann said telecommunications workers were trying to get generators back in order so mobile phones will be back in operation. They are hoping that within the next day or so everything will be back online, Swann said.

AT&T says that they have teams on site working with safety and structural engineers. They said that the focus continues to be on safe and secure power restoration to the equipment.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/25/us/nashville-explosion-service-disruptions/index.html>

Bowling Green PD still working with limited 911 service

Story link: <https://www.wbko.com/2020/12/26/bqpd-still-working-with-limited-911-service/>

KSP: Cell phone outage causing issues for emergency dispatch centers

Story link: <https://www.wbko.com/2020/12/25/ksp-cell-phone-outage-causing-issues-for-emergency-dispatch-centers/>

Kentucky COVID Update

(From [press release](#)) As vaccines continue to arrive, on Saturday, Gov. Andy Beshear updated Kentuckians on COVID-19 case numbers. "...One piece of good news is that our positivity rate continues to decline. It was even under eight percent on Christmas Day," said Gov. Beshear.

As of 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, Gov. Beshear reported 764 new cases, with a positivity rate of 8.04%. There are 1,511 hospitalized, with 396 in the ICU and 237 on vents. There were 4 new deaths reported.

On Friday, there were 1,803 new cases with a positivity rate of 7.95%. 11 deaths were reported. Thursday, there were 2,742 new cases, a positivity rate of 8.2%, and 53 deaths.

AG Daniel Cameron issues warning for potential COVID-19 vaccination scams

(WAVE) - Attorney General Daniel Cameron issued an alert Thursday to Kentuckians, warning about the potential for scams related to the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

Cameron said as the vaccine becomes available, fraudsters may try to impersonate distributors, medical providers, or local health department officials claiming they need personal information or payment in exchange for a vaccine.

A similar situation happened in April shortly after the pandemic first struck when fake COVID-19 testing sites started popping up around Louisville..

Full story: <https://www.wave3.com/2020/12/24/ag-daniel-cameron-issues-warning-potential-covid-vaccination-scams/>

Related story - Scammers begin targeting people who want COVID-19 vaccine

Read more: https://www.wdrb.com/news/scammers-begin-targeting-people-who-want-covid-19-vaccine/article_d0991038-461a-11eb-aa36-abc7dadf10c4.html

Another new coronavirus variant found in Nigeria

(Reuters) -Another new variant of the novel coronavirus seems to have emerged in Nigeria, the head of Africa's disease control body said on Thursday, cautioning more investigation was needed. The news comes after Britain and South Africa both reported new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that appear to be more contagious, leading to new travel restrictions and turmoil in markets.

"It's a separate lineage from the UK and the South African lineages," John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) told an online news conference from Addis Ababa. The detection of the new variants in Nigeria and South Africa prompted an emergency meeting of the Africa CDC this week. Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-africa-idUSKBN28Y1B7>

Study finds 12.6% mortality among hospitalized COVID-19 patients

(CIDRAP News Scan) A multistate analysis of hospitalized COVID-19 patients in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* yesterday found that 12.6% of patients died, with blacks especially hard hit.

Researchers used electronic health record data from 15 facilities in a St. Louis-region hospital network to evaluate outcomes among a diverse group of 1,577 adults (49.9% male, median age 63 years, 58.8% black) hospitalized for COVID-19 from Mar 15 to Jul 25.

The study is one of the first to longitudinally describe COVID-19 hospitalization trajectories, showing patient transitions between clinical care states and providing valuable information for health system planning purposes.

Overall, 34.1% of patients required intensive care unit (ICU) admission (95% confidence interval [CI], 26.4% to 41.8%), and 12.3% received invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV) (95% CI, 8.5% to 16.1%). At 28 days after admission, 12.6% of patients had died (95% CI, 9.6% to 15.6%), with 11.2% remaining in the ICU (95% CI, 5.2% to 17.2%). A higher percentage of patients receiving IMV had died by day 28 than patients in the overall sample (16.2%). Dec 22 *Am J Epidemiol* [study](#)

CIDRAP News Scan and full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/12/news-scan-dec-23-2020>

U.S. Life Expectancy Rose in 2019, But 2020 Reverses That Trend

<https://news360.com/article/545154453>

Underground Insulin Markets Are Busy As COVID-19 Hammers Economy

(WFPL) Economic problems caused by COVID-19 hit diabetics especially hard. The American Diabetes Association says about a quarter of people with the disease are tapping savings, loans or stimulus checks to buy insulin. And some are taking big risks to get the life-saving drug. The FDA says getting drugs this way is risky, because they may be counterfeit or have harmful ingredients. The agency and other health experts say improper storage poses another big risk.

Learn more; <https://wfpl.org/underground-insulin-markets-are-busy-as-covid-19-hammers-economy/>

**White Christmas leads to 8,000 without power across Eastern KY,
road conditions slowed response teams**

(KyForward News) Many residents of eastern Kentucky not only had a White Christmas but one without power. Snow and gusty winds swept through the state Thursday and left about 8,000 without power in areas of eastern Kentucky. The storm brought anywhere from four to eight inches of blowing snow and took out utility lines, causing nearly 160 outages, Kentucky Power said in a news release. About 5,000 of those customers had power restored by around 5:30 p.m. on Christmas.

Read more; <https://www.kyforward.com/white-christmas-leads-to-8000-without-power-across-eastern-ky-road-conditions-slowed-response-teams/>

**Leapfrog Group rates patient safety in Kentucky hospitals;
Most get Cs but 16 standouts get A's**

(KyForward News) More Kentucky hospitals than the last time got a grade of A on a nonprofit group's rating of patient safety in hospitals, but for the fifth grading period in a row, most of the 45 Kentucky hospitals got C's.

The Leapfrog Group, based in Washington, D.C., rates more than 2,600 hospitals. Most of Kentucky's 126 hospitals were not rated, but those that are have a majority of the hospital beds in the state. St. Elizabeth Healthcare got its fifth-consecutive A since 2015, the first year it was graded.

Leapfrog gave A's to 16 Kentucky hospitals, or about 36 percent of those it graded, up from about 26% getting As on the last report. Based on the number of hospitals with As, [Leapfrog ranked Kentucky 21st](#) among the states, up from 33rd in the last report. It gave B's to eight hospitals, C's to 19, and D's to two.

The twice-yearly grades are based on 27 performance measures of patient safety that indicate how well hospitals protect patients from errors, injuries, accidents and infections. The report uses data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Leapfrog's own survey, and other supplemental data sources. Hospitals are only graded if they have submitted adequate data for evaluation, Leapfrog says.

Full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/leapfrog-group-rates-patient-safety-in-kentucky-hospitals-most-get-cs-but-16-standouts-get-as/>

Why we have a massive e-waste problem

Tech companies aren't doing enough to keep their devices out of landfills

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/26/tech-companies-arent-doing-enough-to-fix-the-e-waste-problem.html>

Holiday Feel Good Story

Guy Gave Homeless Man a Dollar. Then Things Got Good

(Newser) In April 2017, Michael Hansen came across a homeless man sleeping on the street and bent down to give him some money. Then he recognized the man: "It was my best friend from elementary school all through high school," Hansen tells [KSL](#). Namely, Korey Hathaway, who at the time had been without a home for five years as he struggled with drug addiction after breaking his hand in a construction accident and moving from pain meds to heroin. Candice Madsen, a producer for KSL, was walking by as the friends shared pizza on the sidewalk; they asked her to take a picture and shared their story. She ultimately produced a piece for the TV station about their reunion 14 years after they'd last seen one another.

Hansen worked to help Hathaway get off the streets; in 2018, Hathaway was hospitalized for months for heart, lung, and kidney failure. Hansen wasn't sure his friend would live, but as he offered his friend a blessing at the hospital, he suddenly knew Hathaway could survive. "Michael came and gave me a blessing and it's been going uphill ever since," Hathaway says, adding that Hansen was "the only thing that pulled me out" of the rock bottom he'd hit. He recovered, with the support of others including family members—like his son. "I've been trying to make it up to him. Spend as much time with him as I can," he says. "Before it was Korey. Now I'm Dad." The lifelong friends, plus Madsen, recently returned to the spot where Hansen and Hathaway reunited to give KSL an update; watch it [here](#). (Read more [uplifting news](#) stories.)

Source: <https://www.newser.com/story/300477/homeless-man-turns-out-to-be-passerbys-long-lost-pal.html>

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.