



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for December 30, 2020

## KY COVID Update

(From [press release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear updated Kentuckians on COVID-19 case information and encouraged safe and small New Year's celebrations, ideally with just one household.

"Our report for today is higher than it has been for a number of days. The progress we have made is fragile. We have to keep working and making good decisions every day," said Gov. Beshear. "We need everybody to be safe this New Year's Eve. Do not gather in large groups."

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

As of 4 PM today the Governor reported 3,784 new cases, with a positivity rate of 9.09%. There are 1,673 hospitalized, with 433 in the ICU and 234 on vents. There were 29 new deaths reported today. 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](http://kycovid19.ky.gov).

## US officials address questions on coronavirus variant, vaccines

(CIDRAP) Amid concerns about the identification of a more-transmissible coronavirus variant in Colorado and mounting frustration over the slow pace of COVID-19 vaccination, the third wave of coronavirus infections in the United States continues unabated.

The US reported 201,555 new COVID-19 cases yesterday, and 3,725 virus-related deaths, according to [data](#) from the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. The nation's [total number](#) of cases has climbed to 19,653,653, with 340,956 deaths. The [COVID Tracking Project](#) reports that 124,686 Americans are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, and 22,838 are in intensive care units.

There have now been more than 71,000 COVID-19 deaths in December, the deadliest month of the pandemic. Among the recent deaths is 41-year-old congressman-elect Luke Letlow, who [died yesterday](#) at a hospital in Shreveport, Louisiana, from COVID-19 complications. Letlow won a Dec 5 runoff election to represent Louisiana's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

### **Another suspected coronavirus variant case**

At a [press conference](#) this morning, Colorado governor Jared Polis and state health officials provided additional information on the confirmed coronavirus variant case identified yesterday by the Colorado State Laboratory, along with a suspected case.

State epidemiologist Rachel Herlihy, MD, MPH, said the B.1.1.7 variant of the virus was confirmed in a Colorado National Guard member in his 20s who was deployed on Dec 23 to support staffing at a nursing home in Simla, Colo. The nursing home currently has an ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, and National Guard personnel at the facility are routinely tested. Tests conducted on Dec 24 and analyzed at the state lab confirmed the case and identified a suspected case in another National Guard member working at the facility.

Herlihy said investigators are trying to determine whether the two National Guard members acquired their infections while working at the nursing home or elsewhere. The state deployed a team to the facility yesterday to collect and test specimens from residents and staff. [NOTE – see [lasted development from California below](#).]

### **Slow vaccine rollout addressed**

Meanwhile, at a [press briefing](#) today in Washington, DC, Operation Warp Speed officials answered questions about COVID-19 vaccine administration, which has been slower than anticipated. The most recent data from the CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#) show that more than 12.4 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech and vaccine have been distributed, but only 2.5 million doses have been administered.

Read full CIDRAP story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/12/us-officials-address-questions-coronavirus-variant-vaccines>

### **Related breaking story - Health Officials Say COVID-19 Variant Was Detected in California**

Learn more: <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/california-governor-says-covid-19-variant-was-detected-in-southern-california/2495856/>

### **Nurse Gets Vaccine, Tests Positive 6 Days Later**

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s300652>

## 2nd Vaccine OK'd in UK Is Cheaper, Easier to Store

AstraZeneca/Oxford shots will start to be administered in Britain next week

(Newser) A big update in vaccination efforts from across the pond: In what Prime Minister Boris Johnson [is calling](#) a "triumph for British science," regulators in the United Kingdom have given the green light to a second vaccine there, this time for one from AstraZeneca and Oxford University. Why this vaccine is especially encouraging, per [NBC News](#): It doesn't cost as much to make, and it can be stored for at least six months at normal refrigeration temperatures, not the subzero temps required by the Pfizer and Moderna versions. [CNN](#) notes Britain is the first nation to approve the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Read more: <https://www.newser.com/story/300667/2nd-vaccine-okd-in-uk-is-cheaper-easier-to-store.html>

## Louisville Lays Out Plans for First Mass Vaccination Site

(WFPL) Louisville will open its first drive-through COVID-19 vaccination site at Broadbent Arena at the Kentucky Expo Center next week. The mass vaccination site will initially be for healthcare workers, EMTs and medical first responders, not the general public.

SarahBeth Hartlage, interim medical director at the Louisville department of health and wellness, said the health department administered 110 vaccines on Monday. Once the Broadbent site is up and running, daily capacity could increase significantly.

"When the site is running at full capacity, we anticipate at least 600 people per dose, per day, which is to say 600 first doses and 600 second doses," she said.

Learn more: <https://wfpl.org/louisville-lays-out-plans-for-first-mass-vaccination-site/>

## National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine [Webinar](#) **Crisis Standards of Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic** **Real-time Legal Issues & Solutions**

January 7, 2021 | 3:30 - 4:45pm ET

[Register Here](#)

As hospitals and other providers experience significant patient surge at a pivotal stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, the [National Academy of Medicine](#) and its partners have called on federal, state/territorial, and tribal leaders and private sector actors to shift to crisis standards of care. Resource scarcities of available ICU beds, personnel, treatments, personal protective equipment, and vaccinations justify critical changes in health care delivery. Yet substantial legal and policy issues can stand as obstacles to implementation without real-time solutions.

In this session, Dr. Dan Hanfling, Professor James Hodge, and Research Scholar Jen Piatt will examine key legal issues underlying crisis standards of care. These include concerns surrounding emergency declarations, invocation, duties to care, inter-jurisdictional challenges, discrimination, licensure/scope of practice, risks of liability, documentation, and mitigation. Potential solutions to real-time issues will be offered, including through direct questions among attendees and others.

For more information, please [visit their website](#).

## Kentucky records significant increase in overdose deaths as COVID-19 pandemic worsens opioid crisis

(KyForward News) New federal data shows the coronavirus pandemic has contributed to the country's deadliest 12-month period for drug overdose fatalities, including a sharp increase in overdose deaths in the Ohio Valley.

According to the latest data by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 81,000 people died due to drug overdoses in the 12 months from May 2019 through May 2020 — the largest number of overdose deaths recorded in a year — forcing the federal agency to issue a health advisory making recommendations to tackle this spike in deaths.

In the Ohio Valley, West Virginia and Kentucky each reported a 22% jump in overdose deaths compared to the same period a year earlier, while Ohio recorded a 13% rise.

West Virginia had more overdose deaths per 100,000 people in this 12-month period than anytime since January 2015 when CDC began to document overdose death estimates.

Read more: <https://www.kyforward.com/kentucky-records-significant-increase-in-overdose-deaths-as-covid-19-pandemic-worsens-opioid-crisis/>

## Nashville Bomber's Girlfriend Warned Police About Him In 2019

More than a year before the explosion that rocked Nashville last week, Anthony Warner's girlfriend told police that he "was building bombs in the RV trailer at his residence," according to a police report filed in August 2019. Yet the report indicates Nashville police never made contact with Warner. Despite having the report in their database, police did not share it with the public until Tuesday evening — four days after Warner drove his RV to downtown Nashville, Tenn., and detonated a bomb out of the vehicle, killing himself and injuring at least seven people. Whether law enforcement had any warning about the bombing has been an open question since the explosion.

Read more: <https://www.kbbi.org/post/nashville-bombers-girlfriend-warned-police-about-him-2019>

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### Saboteurs Cut Off Aspen's Heat *Gas lines were shut down at 3 sites*

(Newser) Somebody shut off gas lines to Aspen, Colorado Saturday night, leaving thousands of people without heat in what police called a coordinated attack. "They turned off gas lines," a police official said. Utility officials said about 3,500 customers lost service, [ABC](#) reports. To restore it, crews were going to each natural gas meter, turning it off manually, then relighting the pilot light. The utility wasn't sure how long that will take. In the meantime, Aspen police were distributing about 6,000 portable space heaters; temperatures were forecast to fall near zero Tuesday night. Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/300638/attack-leaves-thousands-without-heat.html>

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### Police In California Notice An Increase In Street Races and Takeovers Since Beginning Of Pandemic

(IACP News) The [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (12/29, Licas) reports police in Southern California have noticed an increase in street races and intersection takeovers since the coronavirus pandemic began. NHTSA estimates that approximately 1,053 fatalities and over 84,468 injuries in California each year between 2014 and 2018 were a result of speeding. During that period, "between 26% and 30% of all deadly crashes in the state involved drivers who were going too fast."

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](mailto: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.