



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 2, 2021

Governor provides COVID-19 Update

(From [press release](#)) In the first COVID-19 update of the new year, Gov. Andy Beshear said the state's elevated positivity rate is likely due to some labs and public testing sites being closed over the holiday, which increases the percentage of tests conducted in medical settings where patients are experiencing symptoms and suspect they have the virus.

Case Information – Jan. 2

New cases: 1,470
New deaths: 22
Positivity rate: 10.79%
Total deaths: 2,698
Currently hospitalized: 1,635
Currently in ICU: 428
Currently on ventilator: 211

Case Information – Jan. 1

New cases: 3,124
New deaths: 14
Positivity rate: 10.32%
Total deaths: 2,676
Currently hospitalized: 1,671
Currently in ICU: 423
Currently on ventilator: 216

To view the [full daily report](#), [incidence rate map](#), testing locations, the White House Coronavirus Task Force reports for Kentucky and vaccine information, visit kycovid19.ky.gov.

State's poor health rankings are a caution flag in pandemic, but virus shouldn't keep you from making regular visits to doctors

(KY Health News) A new state-by-state comparison of the nation's health ranks Kentucky near the bottom in a variety of significant categories. Though the [2020 America's Health Rankings Annual Report](#) from the **United Health Foundation** may underscore Kentucky's longstanding position as a state with serious health challenges, this year's rankings also provide a great service by raising a caution flag related to Kentucky's battle against Covid-19.

First, consider that Kentucky is ranked 49th among all states for percentage of residents (15 percent) who suffer from three or more of these [chronic conditions](#): arthritis, asthma, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cardiovascular disease, cancer, depression and diabetes.

As Covid-19 cases have climbed in Kentucky, one major concern is that Kentuckians still may be skipping preventive and non-Covid-related visits to the doctor to reduce their risk of exposure to the virus. But the decision to delay such visits – which may include screenings such as mammograms and colonoscopies, as well as annual wellness exams – could have serious health consequences, especially for those with chronic conditions that require regular, ongoing medical attention.

We don't have to skip these important visits. In recent months, health providers and clinics have taken a variety of steps to reduce the risks of contracting Covid-19.

US Surpasses 20 Million Confirmed Coronavirus Cases

The United States has reached a sobering milestone while marking the new year. On Friday, the first day of 2021, the U.S. recorded its 20 millionth confirmed coronavirus case since the beginning of the pandemic. That's according to numbers from Johns Hopkins University, [which reported 20,037,736 cases and 346,687 deaths in the U.S. at the time of publication on Friday](#). Over 83 million coronavirus cases have been confirmed worldwide.

The U.S. reached [10 million cases on Nov. 9](#). In less than two months, the country doubled its total number of infections. The nation accounts for nearly a quarter of all infections in the world and a fifth of all deaths.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/01/01/952701402/us-surpasses-20-million-confirmed-coronavirus-cases>

Dr Anthony Fauci says US will not delay second doses of COVID vaccine

(The Guardian) The American infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci has said he does not agree with the UK's approach of [delaying the second dose](#) of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

On Friday, Dr. Fauci told CNN that the United States would not be following in the UK's footsteps and would follow Pfizer and BioNTech's guidance to administer the second dose of its vaccine three weeks after the first. Despite an outcry from doctors, the [UK's chief medical officers defended](#) their plans this week to delay the second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine to patients, meaning people would now wait up to 12 weeks. The change is to prioritize giving more people their first dose.

Dr. Fauci told CNN: "We know from the clinical trials that the optimal time is to give it on one day and for [the Moderna jab which is also approved in the US] wait 28 days and for Pfizer 21 days later." He added that while you can "make the argument" for stretching out the doses, he would not be in favor of doing that.

Pfizer and BioNTech also warned that the two doses were crucial to achieving maximum protection against COVID, saying that they did not have evidence that the first dose alone would protect patients after three weeks.

Full story: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/02/dr-anthony-fauci-says-us-will-not-delay-second-doses-of-covid-vaccine?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1

Pfizer and BioNTech to offer COVID vaccine to volunteers who got placebo

(Reuters) Pfizer Inc and its partner BioNTech Se plan to give volunteers who received a placebo in its COVID-19 vaccine trial an option to receive a first dose of the vaccine by March 1, 2021, while staying within the study.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-vaccine-unblinding/pfizer-and-biontech-to-offer-covid-vaccine-to-volunteers-who-got-placebo-idUSKBN296200>

Related - Some Health Care Workers Are Hesitant About Getting COVID-19 Vaccines

Story: <https://www.npr.org/2021/01/01/952716705/some-health-care-workers-are-hesitant-about-getting-covid-19-vaccines>

**Just How Much More Transmissible Is the New Coronavirus Variant?
British researchers come up with numbers**

Read more: https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/90499?xid=NL_breakingnewsalert_2021-01-02&eun=g173976d0r

Related - Countries where new UK coronavirus variant has been identified

Read more: <https://www.businessinsider.com/new-coronavirus-variant-all-the-countries-where-its-been-identified-2020-12>

UK reactivates emergency COVID-19 hospitals, closes London primary schools

Britain will allow mixing of COVID-19 vaccines on rare occasions

(Reuters) Britain will allow people to be given shots of different COVID-19 vaccines on rare occasions, despite a lack of evidence about the extent of immunity offered by mixing doses. In a departure from other strategies globally, the government said people could be given a mix-and-match of two COVID-19 shots, for example if the same vaccine dose was out of stock, according to guidelines published on New Year's Eve. "(If) the same vaccine is not available, or if the first product received is unknown, it is reasonable to offer one dose of the locally available product to complete the schedule," according to the guidelines.

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-britain-vaccine/britain-will-allow-mixing-of-covid-19-vaccines-on-rare-occasions-idUSKBN2970CK>

**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](#)

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

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.