



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 8, 2021

U.S. sees five deadliest days since COVID-19 pandemic's start in last two weeks

(CNN) In just less than two weeks, the US recorded its five deadliest days since the [Covid-19 pandemic's start](#) - with [more than 4,000 virus-related deaths](#) reported Thursday. The nation's total Covid-19 death toll has now climbed to more than 365,300, according to [data](#) from Johns Hopkins University. And another nearly 115,000 people could lose their life over the next four weeks, [according to projections](#) from the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.

In other words, the pandemic is not yet showing any signs of slowing down. Rather, across the country, states are reporting an increase in numbers.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/08/health/us-coronavirus-friday/index.html>

Gov. Beshear: More Than 15,000 COVID Cases Reported Over Past Three Days

(From [press release](#)) – On Friday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced the third-highest ever report of new COVID-19 cases, surpassed only by the [Jan. 7](#) and [Jan. 6](#) reports. The Governor has reported 15,403 new COVID-19 cases in just three days.

“We are at a really tough point once again in our war against COVID-19. We have successfully stopped three waves of this virus, but we are now seeing a real and significant increase in cases and our positivity rate from people’s gatherings around the holidays,” said Gov. Beshear.

As of 4 PM Friday, the Governor reported 4,750 new cases, with a positivity rate of 11.9%. There are 1,748 currently hospitalized, with 383 in the ICU and 217 on vents. There were 13 new deaths reported today. To view the [full daily report](#), [incidence rate map](#), information on [testing locations](#), [vaccines](#), [contact tracing](#), [school reports and guidance](#), [guidance for health care providers](#) and the White House Coronavirus Task Force reports for Kentucky and more, visit kycovid19.ky.gov.



New testing equipment at Shelbyville Hospital could provide faster COVID results

(WAVE) The wait for COVID-19 test results could become shorter in Shelby County with new technology at a local hospital that speeds up the process to under an hour. Shelbyville Hospital was able to acquire a Cepheid brand gene analyzer in December, and it will soon be able to conduct PCR nasal swab tests on-site. UofL Health is preparing the coronavirus testing device for a tentative rollout next week.

Kentucky Hospital Association President Nancy Galvagni told WAVE 3 that testing for COVID at smaller hospitals is crucial. "If you know very rapidly if someone is positive, you can get that patient into treatment very quickly," she said. "There's a lot of new therapies that have been approved. If someone is early in the course of the disease, they can get an infusion of these antibodies and it has been very successful in keeping patients out of the hospital."

Full story and video report: <https://www.wave3.com/2021/01/07/new-testing-equipment-shelbyville-hospital-could-provide-faster-covid-results/>

Moderna CEO says COVID-19 vaccine protection may last years

(CBS) Moderna's CEO said the company's new COVID-19 vaccine may prevent infection for years. While speaking at a virtual event by Oddo BHF, a financial service group, Moderna CEO Stephane Bancel said the once-believed "nightmare scenario" that the vaccine won't work is now out the window. "We believe there will be protection potentially for a couple of years," Bancel said.

He explained that the "antibody decay generated by the vaccine in humans goes down very slowly," [Reuters reports](#). However, there are still questions about elderly patients because, as is true with every virus, their immune system goes down over time, Bancel said.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/covid-vaccine-last-years-moderna-ceo/>

Novavax coronavirus vaccine becomes fifth to begin Phase 3 trials in US

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/28/health/novavax-covid-vaccine-trial-phase-3/index.html>

A more contagious coronavirus strain has been found in 8 states and 33 countries

(USA Today) A more contagious coronavirus variant [first identified in the United Kingdom](#) continues to crop up across the U.S. and around the globe, threatening to further strain overburdened health care systems just as vaccines are rolling out worldwide.

At least eight U.S. states and 33 countries have identified the new variant, known as B.1.1.7. Several nations have also identified an additional variant, first identified in South Africa, that also appears to infect people more easily.

Read on to learn more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2021/01/02/new-covid-strain-b-117-explained/4112125001/>

CDC Clinician's Outreach

Lab Alert: [FDA Issues Safety Communication](#) about Risk of False Results with Curative SARE-CoV-2 Test for COVID-19

CDC COVID-19 [What's New Extracts](#)

- [When Vaccine is Limited, Who Gets Vaccinated First?](#) Friday, January 08, 2021
- [How to Make 0.1% Chlorine Solution to Disinfect Surfaces in Healthcare Settings](#) Friday, January 08, 2021
- [Participation in Fraternity and Sorority Activities and the Spread of COVID-19 Among Residential University Communities - Arkansas, August 21-September 5, 2020](#) Thursday, January 07, 2021
- [Opening of Large Institutions of Higher Education and County-Level COVID-19 Incidence - United States, July 6-September 17, 2020](#) Thursday, January 07, 2021
- [Improving Ventilation in Your Home](#) Thursday, January 07, 2021
- [K-12 Schools COVID-19 Mitigation Toolkit](#) Thursday, January 07, 2021
- [HHS Announces \\$22 Billion in Funding to Support Expanded Testing, Vaccination Distribution](#) Thursday, January 07, 2021
- [Operational Considerations for Schools](#) Thursday, January 07, 2021
- [Testing Guidelines for Nursing Homes](#) Thursday, January 07, 2021

**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [January 8, 2021](#)**

[SARS-CoV-2 Transmission From People Without COVID-19 Symptoms](#) (*JAMA*) In this decision analytical model assessing multiple scenarios for the infectious period and the proportion of transmission from individuals who never have COVID-19 symptoms, transmission from asymptomatic individuals was estimated to account for more than half of all transmission. The findings of this study suggest that the identification and isolation of persons with symptomatic COVID-19 alone will not control the ongoing spread of SARS-CoV-2.

[Biden Plans to Release Nearly All Available Vaccine Doses in an Attempt to Speed Delivery](#) (*New York Times*) President-Elect Joseph R. Biden Jr. plans to release nearly all available coronavirus vaccine doses “to ensure the Americans who need it most get it as soon as possible,” a sharp break from the Trump administration’s practice of holding back some of the vaccine, the Biden transition team said Friday. Because both of the vaccines that have emergency approval require two doses, the Trump administration has been holding back roughly half of its supply to ensure those already vaccinated receive the booster dose.

[Why West Virginia's Winning The Race To Get COVID-19 Vaccine Into Arms](#) (*NPR*) Nearly two weeks before most states started vaccinating anyone, pharmacist Gretchen Garofoli went to a long-term care facility in Morgantown, W.Va., on Dec. 15 and administered one of the first COVID-19 vaccinations in the state. So far, West Virginia is outpacing the rest of the country. Having delivered vaccine to health workers and completed a first round of shots at all its long-term care facilities, the state is now administering second doses and moving on to other populations, including people age 80 and over, and teachers who are 50 and older. Meanwhile, many other states are still struggling with the complex logistics of distributing the lifesaving medicines.

Nations facing drug shortages use registries, other steps

Read more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/01/nations-facing-drug-shortages-use-registries-other-steps>

5 Deaths from US Capitol Attack
More than 50 LEOs Injured

(CNN) A US Capitol police officer died Thursday from injuries sustained after a mob of [President Trump's supporters stormed the US Capitol](#) on Wednesday. Four other people died Wednesday during the stunning attack at the heart of American democracy as mob members vandalized the building and assaulted police officers. One woman was fatally shot by police and three people died of apparent medical emergencies.

Several DC Metropolitan Police officers (*another report said more than 50 law enforcement officers*) were also injured during the insurrection, police Chief Robert Contee said. One officer had significant facial injuries from being struck by a projectile, and another officer was hospitalized after being pepper-sprayed.

Metro Police made 80 arrests related to unrest this week in downtown DC, including 68 arrests Wednesday night, according to a mayor's spokeswoman. Most were for violations of the [mayor's 6 p.m. curfew](#). DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services transported people to area hospitals with injuries ranging from cardiac arrest to multiple fractures after falling from scaffolding on the West front of the Capitol building. Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/07/us/capitol-mob-deaths/index.html>

***Related* – Multiple Explosives found at RNC, DNC 'the real deal'**

(NY Post) Two realistic-looking homemade bombs were found Wednesday in Washington, DC — one just outside the headquarters of the Republican National Committee and the other near the Democratic National Committee’s offices, authorities said.

Federal authorities also found a truck near the RNC site packed with guns and ammunition, [sources told the Washington Post](#).

Reports of the apparent makeshift explosive devices came as supporters of President Trump [stormed the US Capitol building](#) in a violent attempt to derail the certification of the 2020 presidential election.

One bomb — fashioned out of a metal pipe with wires connecting to a plastic kitchen timer — was found next to a trash can at the Beltway headquarters of the RNC, the [Washington Post reported](#).

Read more: <https://nypost.com/2021/01/06/multiple-explosive-devices-found-amid-washington-dc-protests/>

Extremist Groups Use US Capitol Attack as Recruitment Tool

([IACP News](#)) [USA Today](#) (1/7, Carless) reports, “Wednesday’s mob insurrection at the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., is unlikely to be the last violent action from far-right extremists, who may also be using the week’s extraordinary events to recruit members for a swelling coalition around outgoing president Donald Trump, according to experts on extremism.” USA Today adds, “While this week’s attack was extraordinary in its brazenness, it was also a wake-up call to federal and local law enforcement that threats from far-right Trump supporters should be taken very seriously over the last two weeks of Trump’s presidency and beyond, said Mary McCord, legal director at the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. ‘There’s a whole lot of talk about what happened in far-right extremist forums and chatrooms today, and about how the inauguration on January 20 will be the last stand and now is the time to recruit,’ McCord said.”

***Related* - 5 Terrorism Trends to Watch in 2021**

(HS Today) Among many critical national security lessons, 2020 emphasized the importance of staying nimble as multiple threats simultaneously unfold. A pandemic was coupled with the most active Atlantic hurricane season in history, political tension and protests kept law enforcement on its toes, and entities from critical

infrastructure operators to local governments and houses of worship were forced to assess and adjust security postures based on an overlapping – and often overwhelming – saturation of threats.

Even the response to COVID-19 gave the homeland community fresh insight on confronting this shifting threat landscape in 2021. With all of the other challenges vying for the attention of security professionals, entities must resolve to wisely shape counterterrorism strategies and not let this focus take a backseat. Today's threats underscore the need to adapt as concerns arise with new or evolved groups, movements, and tactics.

- Conspiracy theory extremism
- Violence against faith-based institutions
- Domestic extremism
- Complex coordinated attacks
- ISIS and al-Qaeda moving forward

Full story & details: <https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/infrastructure-security/5-terrorism-trends-to-watch-in-2021/>

----- **From US DHS/Fire Administration's [InfoGram](#) for January 8, 2021** -----

US [DHS Blue Campaign](#) recognizes
National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on January 11th

National 911 Annual [Report](#) Released
National 911 "State of 911" webinar series Jan 12 12-1 PM ET
[Registration for this webinar](#) is required.

US DHS S&T's Master Question List for COVID-19 offers Guidance for Decision-makers

(DHS) The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) has aggregated a [Master Question List for COVID-19](#), offering scientifically informed briefs in response to the most common public health questions about what is currently known about COVID-19, and what additional information is still needed. The information is intended for use by those with a non-medical, non-scientific background, but is also rigorously cited by the most current publicly available scientific studies. This resource will be useful to government decision-makers and anyone involved in the operational response to COVID-19.

This document will be periodically updated with the latest information. Check back for future updates to the [DHS S&T's Master Question List for COVID-19 webpage](#). For the latest public health information on COVID-19, consult the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

First Responder's Toolbox on Vehicle Borne IEDs

(ODNI) The Joint CT Assessment Team (JCAT) has developed a [First Responder's Toolbox on Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device \(VBIED\): Preparedness, Recognition, And Response](#). This is a comprehensive resource for first responders to increase VBIED awareness to aid in preparedness, recognition, and response.

First Responder Toolboxes are developed by the Joint CT Assessment Team (JCAT) and hosted by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODIN). You can view the archive of the First Responder Toolboxes at [ODIN's First Responder Toolbox page](#).

Latest CISA guidance and directives on SolarWinds Orion software supply chain compromise

(CISA) The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Agency (CISA) released another [Joint Statement](#) on January 5, along with the Federal Bureau Of Investigation (FBI), the Office Of The Director Of National Intelligence (ODNI), and the National Security Agency (NSA). The statement officially acknowledges that the incident is "likely Russian in origin" and likely "an intelligence gathering effort." Approximately 18,000 customers of the Solar Winds' Orion product are impacted, but a much smaller number have been compromised by follow-on activity. CISA is identified as the lead agency for asset response and is focused on sharing information about this incident quickly with government and private sector partners.

Related - Recent "swatting" attacks target residents with camera and voice-capable smart devices
[FBI public service announcement](#)

Swatting is a term used to describe a hoax call made to emergency services, typically reporting an immediate threat to human life, to draw a response from law enforcement and the S.W.A.T. team to a specific location. Recently, offenders have been using victims' smart devices, including video and audio capable home surveillance devices, to carry out swatting attacks. (Source: [Security Week](#))

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.