



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 13, 2021

Kentucky Announces 4th Highest Number of New COVID-19 Cases

(From [press release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear announced the state's fourth-highest report of new COVID-19 cases and third-highest report of new COVID-19 deaths. "We're going to pass 3,000 COVID-19 deaths in the commonwealth," said Gov. Beshear. "That is tragic. We can stop this. We need to wear masks. We need to follow the rules and restrictions, and now is not the time to pull away the authority that keeps us safe. That allows us to be fluid and flexible with a virus that appears to be mutating and spreading more aggressively."

As of 4 PM today he announced 4,560 new cases, with 1,702 hospitalized. 403 are in the ICU and 225 on vents. The positivity rate is now 12.29%. There were 47 new deaths reported today, for a total of 2,991.

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.

U.S. Plan to Expand Access to Covid-19 Vaccine Likely Sets Up New Debacles

(STAT News) As health authorities across the country struggle to get Covid-19 vaccination programs up and running, outgoing Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar threw a new wrench into the works on Tuesday, telling states to expand priority access to tens of millions of additional people immediately. But it will be several months before there is enough vaccine available to meet that kind of demand. It will likely take until the end of March before Operation Warp Speed has 200 million doses to distribute. Even if those doses can be manufactured and shipped seamlessly, that's only enough for 100 million people, given that the currently authorized vaccines require two doses each.

Read full story to learn more: <https://www.statnews.com/2021/01/12/u-s-plan-to-expand-access-to-covid-19-vaccine-likely-sets-up-new-debacles/>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [January 13, 2021](#)

[Vitamin D and COVID-19: Why the Controversy?](#) (*The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology*) The issue of vitamin D supplementation has been extensively debated, with strong arguments in favour and against. The COVID-19 pandemic has further escalated the discussion.

[Johnson & Johnson Expects Vaccine Results Soon but Lags in Production](#) (*New York Times*) Johnson & Johnson expects to release critical results from its Covid-19 vaccine trial in as little as two weeks — a potential boon in the effort to protect Americans from the coronavirus — but most likely won't be able to provide as many doses this spring as it promised the federal government because of unanticipated manufacturing delays.

[Third Time's the Charm? Brazil Scales Back Efficacy Claims for COVID-19 Vaccine from China](#) (*Science*) In the third in a series of conflicting announcements about a Chinese-made COVID-19 vaccine candidate, Brazilian researchers reported today that the results of their efficacy trial were less impressive than they claimed last week. When analyzed by stricter criteria than used earlier, the vaccine's efficacy against all forms of COVID-19, including mild cases, dropped from about 78% to 50%. The vaccine still appeared to give nearly 100% protection against disease severe enough to require hospitalization, although the trial amassed too few of those cases for that result to reach statistical significance.

[CDC Expands Negative COVID-19 Test Requirement to All Air Passengers Entering the United States](#) (*US CDC*) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is expanding the requirement for a negative COVID-19 test to all air passengers entering the United States. Testing before and after travel is a critical layer to slow the introduction and spread of COVID-19. This strategy is consistent with the current phase of the pandemic and more efficiently protects the health of Americans. Variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus continue to emerge in countries around the world, and there is evidence of increased transmissibility of some of these variants. With the US already in surge status, the testing requirement for air passengers will help slow the spread of the virus as we work to vaccinate the American public.

[Regeneron Announces U.S. Government Agreement to Purchase Additional COVID-19 Antibody Cocktail Doses](#) (*Regeneron*) New agreement covers 1.25 million additional doses of the casirivimab and imdevimab antibody cocktail, bringing total potential U.S. supply to over 1.5 million doses. Doses are being supplied for use pursuant to the FDA Emergency Use Authorization for high-risk patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 in order to reduce the risk of progression to severe COVID-19 and/or hospitalization

Why You Should Still Wear a Mask and Avoid Crowds After Getting The COVID-19 Vaccine

(NPR) It may seem counterintuitive, but health officials say that even after you get vaccinated against COVID-19, you still need to practice the usual pandemic precautions, at least for a while. That means steering clear of crowds, continuing to wear a good mask in public, maintaining 6 feet or more of distance from people outside your household and frequently washing your hands. We talked to infectious disease specialists to get a better understanding of why.

In the short run, it will take some time for the vaccine's effectiveness to build up. (Effectiveness is [defined as not getting sick with COVID-19](#). If 100 vaccinated people are exposed to a virus and 50 of them subsequently develop symptoms, that vaccine is 50% effective.) With the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, a study published in [The New England Journal of Medicine](#) in December found that protection doesn't start until 12 days after the first shot and that it reaches 52% effectiveness a few weeks later. A week after the second vaccination, the effectiveness rate hits 95%. In its [application for authorization](#), Moderna reported a protection rate of 51% two weeks after the first immunization and 94% two weeks after the second dose.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/01/12/956051995/why-you-should-still-wear-a-mask-and-avoid-crowds-after-getting-the-covid-19-vac>

British ER nurse gets COVID-19 days after his second vaccine dose is canceled

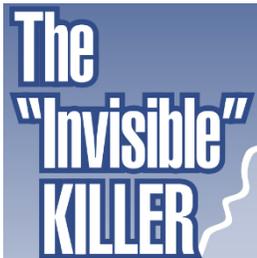
Read more: <https://nypost.com/2021/01/12/er-nurse-gets-covid-just-days-after-second-dose-is-canceled/>

Different Vaccine Is Making Headlines, This One for MS

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s301199>

Dept. for Public Health reminding of danger from carbon monoxide poisoning during winter

(KyForward News) With recent winter temperatures below freezing, the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) wants to remind residents to take action to prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.



“As we move into the winter months, cold weather and weather-related power outages are more likely to result in Kentuckians using generators and gas grills to provide heat. CO created by these heat sources is odorless and deadly so it is important to follow proper safety precautions and use CO detectors to keep our families safe. Working together, we can keep ourselves and our loved ones informed and safe while keeping warm this winter,” said Dr. Steven Stack, KDPH commissioner.

In Kentucky, CO poisoning sends an average of 217 people per year to the emergency room, according to data from [Kentucky's Environmental Public Health Tracking Program](#).

Data from the [National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program](#) tells us that from 2014-2018 an average of 16 Kentuckians die every year from unintentional CO poisoning. These deaths and trips to the emergency room for CO poisoning are preventable when people are prepared.

Read more: <https://www.kyforward.com/dept-for-public-health-reminding-kentuckians-of-danger-of-carbon-monoxide-poisoning-during-winter/>

The Upcoming Inauguration Anatomy of a National Special Security Event

(Dom Prep Journal) As the 2021 presidential inauguration approaches, law enforcement agencies and local jurisdictions in and around Washington, D.C. face many challenges. The recent riot at the U.S. Capitol building adds to the threats that professionals are planning for during the upcoming National Special Security Event (NSSE). This 2017 article provides a behind-the-scenes glimpse into NSSEs.

Full story: <https://www.domesticpreparedness.com/preparedness/anatomy-of-a-national-special-security-event/>

Related story #1 - Key States Work to Secure Capitol Buildings In Advance Of Possible Protests ([IACP News](#)) [CNN](#) (1/12, Levenson) reports that “States across the country are increasing security at their capitol buildings ahead of what the FBI has warned are ‘armed protests’ being planned at all 50 state capitols,” noting that “the FBI’s bulletin was not publicly released but was leaked to reporters.” CNN outlines the steps some states are taking to prepare for possible protests, including Michigan introducing a ban on open-carry at its capitol; Wisconsin authorizing its state National Guard; and Pennsylvania closing its capitol to the public.

Related story #2 – NPR: About 20,000 National Guard Members To Deploy For Inauguration

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/congress-electoral-college-tally-live-updates/2021/01/13/956458463/20-000-national-guardsmen-will-be-deployed-for-inauguration-d-c-official-says>

Bill in US House to better prepare for pandemics, other threats

(Homeland Preparedness) U.S. Reps. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) and John Katko (R-NY) introduced a bill to enhance the nation's readiness to prepare for and respond to public safety and national security threats – including pandemics. Their bill — the Analyzing Disaster Vulnerabilities and Applicable National Capabilities for Emergencies (ADVANCE) Act – would resume a discontinued program that analyzed the impacts of threats on critical infrastructure.

In 2005, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS') National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center (NISAC) produced detailed analyses of what would happen to critical infrastructure sectors and systems – including transportation and hospitals – if a pandemic or another type of threat or disaster hit the United States. Specifically, the bill would direct NISAC to conduct hazard exercises twice a year to test and improve the federal government's ability to simulate the impact of natural disasters and public health crises on critical infrastructure.

In addition to the biannual hazard exercises, the ADVANCE Act would require NISAC to report annually to Congress on the potential impacts of natural disasters and public health emergencies on critical infrastructure.

Story link: <https://homelandprepnews.com/stories/59908-reps-spanberger-katko-introduce-bill-to-better-prepare-for-pandemics-other-threats/>

Hospitals Members – AHA Cyber Webinar

**Combating Ever Increasing Cyber Threats Together
Identifying Emerging Issues, with Tools/Methods for Reducing Risk**

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 1:00:00 PM EST - 2:00:00 PM EST

More info and register: https://events-na12.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1295154209/en/events/event/shared/3283419432/event_landing.html?scoid=3286216740&campaign-id=AHA%20Events%20Edu

Just released: ASPR TRACIE-Developed Resources Digest (CY 2020)

(ASPR) We know 2020 was a whirlwind for healthcare system preparedness professionals, compounded by significant amounts of information being shared and updated on a frequent basis. It was a record-breaking year for ASPR TRACIE, too. [This digest](#) includes categorized links to all of the resources we developed during calendar year 2020.

Questions?

- ✓ [ASPRtracie.hhs.gov](https://asprtracie.hhs.gov)
- ✓ Or email: askasprtracie@hhs.gov
- ✓ Or call: [844-5-TRACIE \(844-587-2243\)](tel:844-5-TRACIE)

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.