



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 14, 2021

Kroger Regional Vaccination Sites Will Open Feb. 1 for Phase 1A, 1B and 1C

(From [press release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear, state officials and Kroger leadership announced a new partnership to significantly increase the speed of COVID-19 vaccinations across the commonwealth. The first Kroger regional, drive-through vaccination sites will open the week of Feb. 1 for Kentuckians in Phase 1A, 1B and 1C. For more details on who is included in each phase, click [here](#). On Jan. 28, the Governor said more details would be announced on site locations and how to sign up.

The Governor announced that Transportation Secretary Jim Gray has also been named Director of the Vaccine Distribution Project. The Governor and the Kentucky Department for Public Health outlined these phases to help providers distribute vaccines in the most equitable order they can while still vaccinating people as fast as possible.

The Governor said 324,650 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been received in Kentucky and 172,537 doses have been administered. Of the doses administered, 28,977 have been given to long-term care facility residents and staff.

As of 4 PM today, the Governor reported 4,084 new cases with a positivity rate of 12.34%. There were 51 new deaths reported today.

[Global COVID deaths near 2 million as hospitals struggle](#)

Vision problems arise in young school kids in COVID-19 quarantine

(CIDRAP) The prevalence of near-sightedness, or myopia, increased 1.4 to 3 times in Chinese children aged 6 to 8 years during COVID-19 quarantine, according to a [study](#) today in *JAMA Ophthalmology*. Led by researchers at Tianjin Medical University, the prospective study used school-based vision screenings in 123,535 children aged 6 to 13 years from 10 elementary schools in Feicheng, China, over 6 consecutive years, ending in July 2020. They recorded the spherical equivalent refraction for each student and compared their findings, as well as the prevalence of myopia, in children during the pandemic versus in the previous 5 years.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/01/vision-problems-arise-young-school-kids-covid-19-quarantine>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from January 14, 2021

[Convalescent Plasma Antibody Levels and the Risk of Death from Covid-19](#) (*NEJM*) In a retrospective study based on a U.S. national registry, we determined the anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibody levels in convalescent plasma used to treat hospitalized adults with Covid-19. Of the 3082 patients included in this analysis, death within 30 days after plasma transfusion occurred in 115 of 515 patients (22.3%) in the high-titer group, 549 of 2006 patients (27.4%) in the medium-titer group, and 166 of 561 patients (29.6%) in the low-titer group. The association of anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibody levels with the risk of death from Covid-19 was moderated by mechanical ventilation status.

[Allocating Scarce Intensive Care Resources During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Practical Challenges to Theoretical Frameworks](#) (*Lancet Respiratory Medicine*) For some, available medical resources could not meet the increased demand and rationing was ultimately required. Hospitals and governments often sought to establish triage committees to assist with allocation decisions. However, for institutions operating under crisis standards of care (during times when standards of care must be substantially lowered in the setting of crisis), relying on these committees for rationing decisions was impractical—circumstances were changing too rapidly, occurring in too many diverse locations within hospitals, and the available information for decision making was notably scarce. Furthermore, a utilitarian approach to decision making based on an analysis of outcomes is problematic due to uncertainty regarding outcomes of different therapeutic options. We propose that triage committees could be involved in providing policies and guidance for clinicians to help ensure equity in the application of rationing under crisis standards of care.

[People with Disabilities Desperately Need the Vaccine. But States Disagree on When They'll Get it.](#)

(*Washington Post*) "When will people with disabilities get the coronavirus vaccine?" Tens of thousands of Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities — who are two to three times as likely to die of covid-19 — are waiting for an answer. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said health-care personnel and residents of long-term-care facilities should be first in line, in phase "1a." Disability advocates say

guidance should be interpreted to include all people with disabilities who receive long-term care, whether in large institutions, smaller group homes or in settings like Lincicome's, who is paid to live with a North Carolina man who has round-the-clock needs. But as guidance from the federal government has been translated into vaccine distribution plans made by states, those with disabilities have been downgraded to lower priority status.

[Bechtel-led Plant in Kentucky Safely Destroys Chemical Weapons](#) (Homeland Preparedness News)

Officials at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant in Richmond, Ky., began destroying its next batch of chemical weapons, bringing the nation closer to its goal of eradicating the national stockpile by 2023. Specifically, a 155-millimeter artillery projectile filled with VX nerve agent was robotically opened and drained on Jan. 10. It is the first of more than 60 tons of VX 155mm projectiles scheduled to be processed.

New Hope For Treating Meth Addiction

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/01/14/956785847/a-medical-treatment-for-meth-addiction-proves-effective-in-new-trial>

**ASPR Webinar on Maintaining Resilient Communications in Healthcare
Lessons Learned from Nashville & Planning for the Inauguration
January 15, 2 to 3:30 PM ET - [Register today](#)**

Prepare now for vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices

(US Fire Administration) Prepare now for vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices

[Read the article.](#)

Travel Impacts from Snow Showers Friday Night

(NWS Louisville) They are expecting locally intense snow showers at times, beginning late Friday afternoon in southern Indiana and west of I-65 in Kentucky, and expanding east across Kentucky in the evening. Quick snow accumulations on roadways and locally reduced visibilities will be possible at times, potentially resulting in travel impacts, especially as pavement and air temperatures drop. Intermittent snow showers will continue for much of the weekend, with the potential to impact travel again later Saturday night into Sunday morning.



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(NWS Paducah) Snow showers may cause scattered slick spots Friday afternoon and night. Snow showers are expected to develop across the region Friday afternoon and persist into the overnight hours. Surface and air temperatures are forecast to be

primarily above freezing during the daytime hours. However, given the convective nature of these snow showers, there is the potential for brief bursts of moderate to even heavy snow, to allow for light accumulations in some areas. As temperatures cool Friday evening and overnight, additional light snow accumulations will be possible. Currently, amounts ranging from a dusting to near an inch are forecast for this event.

(NWS Wilmington) Scattered snow showers will develop Friday afternoon and continue into Friday evening. Some of these could be heavy with very low visibility and light accumulations. After sunset, pavement temperatures may cool enough that roads could quickly become slippery as the snow showers move through.

**Save the Date: [KY Pediatric Emergency Care Coalition](#)
2021 Annual Meeting – Virtual - March 3, 2021**

There is NO [REGISTRATION FEE](#) to participate!

**Anticipate morning sessions will focus on the Emergency Department
Afternoon sessions will have topics relevant to both EMS and ED personnel**

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.