



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 16, 2021

Saturday KY COVID numbers

(WLEX) On Saturday, Governor Andy Beshear's office reported 3,096 more cases of COVID-19 in Kentucky. There have been a total of 324,325 cases of COVID-19 in the state since the pandemic hit in early March 2020. 32 more Kentuckians have died after contracting the virus. The death toll during the pandemic is now 3,093. The state's positivity rate is 11.74%. There are currently 1,631 COVID-positive patients at Kentucky hospitals. 408 of those patients are in the ICU and 214 are using a ventilator.

Source: <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/saturday-covid-19-update-3-096-cases-32-more-deaths>

Coroner in Frankfort's county says suicides doubled in 2020, while overdoses rose by about half, those with fentanyl nearly tripling

KY Health News) Kentucky coroners aren't required to issue annual reports, but some do, and the 2020 report from Franklin County Coroner Will Harrod suggests it's a good time to ask your coroner for a report. As experts have warned, the pandemic seems to have increased drug overdoses and suicides. Harrod reported to the county Fiscal Court that overdose-related deaths in the county that has the state capital increased from 17 to 25 in 2020, most from fentanyl, and the number of suicides doubled, to 12.

<Click the headline above to read more.>

Kentucky State Capitol, surrounding grounds off limits this weekend

(WKYT) The Kentucky State Capitol and its surrounding grounds will be off limits to people this weekend, ahead of next week's Presidential Inauguration. Gov. Andy Beshear and state police say nobody has filed any permits to protest or have a gathering this weekend, but because of threats to all state capitols, the Capitol Building and the entire area surrounding it will be off limits to everyone on Sunday.

Friday afternoon, we saw signs of changes. Iron tables and chairs were moved off the portico and wooden barricades were removed. Those barricades were ironically placed there during protests last spring from people upset over the business closings. The governor released a message about the closing Sunday, which is on the WKYT story site: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/01/15/beshear-kentucky-is-prepared-to-deal-with-violent-protests/>

Related story – Armed Boogaloo Rallies “will continue” as Planned

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/armed-capitol-rallies-will-continue-as-planned-boogaloo-group-member-says/>

Up To 25,000 Troops Descend On Washington for Inauguration

(NPR) Next week's swearing-in of President-elect Joe Biden will see the biggest security presence of any inauguration in U.S. history. For days, thousands of National Guard troops have been pouring into the capital, and by Wednesday's ceremony, up to [25,000 troops](#) will be in place to guard against security threats.

The nation's capital will look much different than it did in the days leading up to [the attack on the U.S. Capitol building](#) earlier this month. The area around the Capitol has been blocked off by barricades, and the National Mall is [already closed](#) to the public across its entire length — from the Capitol down to the Lincoln Memorial, 2 miles away.

Troops are pouring in from all over the country. There's really no historical precedent for this level of National Guard activation.

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/insurrection-at-the-capitol/2021/01/16/957642610/unprecedented-number-of-troops-descend-on-washington-d-c-for-bidens-inauguration>

Pandemic Shortens U.S. Life Expectancy, Study Concludes

(NPR) The coronavirus pandemic appears to have shortened the average life expectancy in the United States, according to new research, and the impact is most dire for racial and ethnic minorities.

The deaths caused by COVID-19 have reduced overall life expectancy by 1.13 years, according to the analysis by researchers at the University of Southern California and Princeton University.

That would be the largest single-year decline in life expectancy in the past 40 years and cut U.S. life expectancy to 77.48 years — the lowest it's been since 2003, the researchers say.

"This impact is about 10 times as large as the worrisome annual decreases several years ago that were attributed largely to drug overdoses, other external causes, and respiratory and cardiovascular diseases," the researchers write in a [paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#).

The reduction in life expectancy is estimated to be even greater among racial and ethnic minorities. Life expectancy is estimated to fall by 2.10 years among Blacks and 3.05 years among Latinos. The decline would be 0.68 years among whites.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/01/15/957209935/pandemic-shortens-u-s-life-expectancy-study-concludes>

Microsoft, Oracle and other tech giants team up Covid-19 vaccine 'passports'

(CNN) With coronavirus vaccines [now rolling out](#) across the United States, businesses and schools are considering [how, and what it will take](#), to safely resume in-person operations.

Some of the country's biggest tech firms and health care organizations have joined together to help facilitate that return to "normal." The group, called the Vaccine Credential Initiative, wants to ensure that everyone has access to a secure, digital record of their Covid-19 vaccination — like a digital [vaccine passport](#) — that can be stored in people's smartphones. The records could be used for everything from airline travel to entering concert venues.

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/16/tech/coronavirus-vaccine-records-microsoft-salesforce/index.html>

Related - America's vaccine rollout is riddled with data woes

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/states-want-vaccinate-more-people-data-who-has-received-shot-n1254449>

Rural health departments face added challenges in vaccine distribution

(WLEX) As the state prepares to head into Phase 1b of Kentucky's vaccine rollout, rural communities are experiencing more problems with administering the shots. More than 226,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been received in Kentucky, according to the state's most recent data. Of those, approximately 2,200 have been administered to Kentuckians in the Lake Cumberland District Health Department's 10-county region.

Public Health Director Shawn Crabtree said the number of doses they've received to date is not enough for everyone in his district who falls under Phase 1a, and it won't be enough when Phase 1-b kicks off in February.

Full story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/rural-health-departments-face-added-challenges-in-vaccine-distribution>

HHS requests hospital data on COVID-19 vaccinations. (AHA Today)

The Department of Health and Human Services Jan. 12 updated its [guidance](#) to hospitals on the reporting of COVID-19-related data.

Related – Per Azar - U.S. does not have reserve stockpile of COVID-19 vaccines

Reuter's story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-vaccines/u-s-does-not-have-reserve-stockpile-of-covid-19-vaccines-health-chief-azar-idUSKBN29K2RG>

Already had COVID-19? You still need a vaccine – YES!

The vaccine can reduce your chances of becoming reinfected and sick again in the future.

Read more: <https://www.popsoci.com/story/health/covid-19-vaccine-immune-response/>

Coronavirus variant could become dominant strain by March, CDC warns

Learn more: <https://www.statnews.com/2021/01/15/covid19-b117-variant-cdc/>

Oh great - Ice Cream In Northeastern China Tests Positive For COVID-19

What Happened to the Flu This Year?

(MedicineNet) The United States has far fewer [flu](#) cases than normal, and experts say it's probably due to measures people are taking to protect themselves from [COVID-19](#). [Flu](#) season usually peaks between December and February. [Influenza](#) typically causes about 45 million illnesses, 810,000 hospitalizations and 61,000 deaths in the United States each year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and [Prevention](#). But so far this flu season, there have been just 925 reported cases of the flu *nationwide*.

Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=250948>

Biden picks NYC emergency management chief Deanne Criswell to head FEMA

<https://news360.com/article/546586476>

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.

