



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 19, 2021

A Year After First US COVID Case, Death Toll Tops 400K

It passed 300K just 5 weeks ago

(Newser) On President Trump's final full day in office, the US passed yet another bleak milestone in the pandemic. The official death toll rose above 400,000, less than five weeks after it topped 300,000. The death total—which the [AP](#) notes is around the size of the populations of Tulsa, Tampa, or New Orleans—comes almost exactly a year after the [first US coronavirus case](#) was confirmed. With the daily death toll averaging more than 3,000, the US death toll is expected to exceed that of World War II by the end of the week, making the pandemic the third-deadliest event in US history, after the Civil War and the 1918 flu pandemic. [USA Today](#) reports that on Jan. 12, Americans were dying from COVID at the rate of one every 19 seconds—faster than the death rate among Allied soldiers on D-Day.

Read more; <https://www.newser.com/story/301503/us-covid-death-toll-reaches-400k.html>

----- KY Governor Updates COVID-19 Cases

(From [press release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear updated Kentuckians on increased funding for Kentucky hospitals, COVID-19 cases and COVID-19 vaccines as well as bills he is vetoing because they are unconstitutional and a threat to Kentucky lives during this pandemic.

The Governor said 332,450 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been received in Kentucky and 221,440 doses have been administered. Of the doses administered, 36,970 have been given to long-term care facility residents and staff. More than 83,000 doses were administered from Jan. 10 to 16, about 16,000 more than were administered the week prior. Of the doses administered, 209,736 were first doses and 11,704 were booster doses.

The Governor said Kentucky is now administering the vaccine faster than the federal government is sending it new doses. The state expects to receive 56,175 new doses next week. Kentucky has been [recognized](#) as one of only nine states that have administered more than half of the doses they've received.

The Governor also [announced](#) Kentucky hospitals will receive an additional \$800 million to \$1 billion annually to help advance the quality of care of Medicaid members and provide a stable base for hospitals that will extend beyond the financial challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic

As of today, there were 2,250 new cases with 27 new deaths reported. The positivity rate is now 11.55%. There are 1,633 currently hospitalized, with 442 in the ICU and 208 on a vent.

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.

----- Most Americans want vaccine as nation tops 400,000 COVID deaths

(CIDRAP) One day before Joe Biden is sworn in as the 46th president of the United States, a new poll from [Washington Post-ABC News](#) shows that 52% of Americans think the coronavirus outbreak is out of control, and 62% say trying to control the pandemic is more important than restarting the economy. The numbers come as a national vaccine campaign has rolled out in fits and starts across the country.

Though the new poll still shows a political divide, most Americans said they will (40%) or probably will (23%) get a COVID-19 vaccine when one is made available to them. Half of Democrats polled said they would definitely get a vaccine, while only 25% of Republicans said the same.

Full report: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/01/most-americans-want-vaccine-nation-tops-400000-covid-deaths>

University of Kentucky's
Well@Work Podcast- Episode 12:
Psychological First Aid <https://youtu.be/ouWS4wHbOi8>

Crowded ICUs tied to higher risk of COVID-19 death

(CIDRAP) COVID-19 patients admitted to intensive care units (ICUs) at US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals during peak coronavirus patient surges were twice as likely to die than those treated during low-demand periods, an observational [study](#) published today in *JAMA Network Open* suggests.

VA researchers studied 8,516 COVID-19 patients, 94.1% of them men, admitted to ICUs at 88 veterans hospitals from Mar 1 to Aug 31, 2020, with 30 days of follow-up.

Compared with COVID-19 patients treated in the ICU during times of low ICU demand ($\leq 25\%$), those treated during times of 25% to 50% demand had an adjusted hazard ratio (aHR) of 0.99. But the aHR jumped to 1.19 when ICU demand was 50% to 75% and to 1.94 when demand was greater than 75%.

The death rate did not increase with increasing ICU demand in patients treated in the noncritical setting. The overall all-cause death rate varied over time, ranging from a high of 25.0% in April to a low of 12.5% in July.

Learn more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/01/crowded-icuz-tied-higher-risk-covid-19-death>

California Urges Halt to Batch of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Doses After Reports of Reactions

(PBS) California's state epidemiologist is urging a halt to more than 300,000 coronavirus vaccinations using a Moderna vaccine version because some people received medical treatment for possible severe allergic reactions. Dr. Erica S. Pan on Sunday recommended providers stop using lot 41L20A of the Moderna vaccine pending completion of an investigation by state officials, Moderna, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the federal Food and Drug Administration.

"Out of an extreme abundance of caution and also recognizing the extremely limited supply of vaccine, we are recommending that providers use other available vaccine inventory," Pan said in a statement. She said more than 330,000 doses from the lot arrived in California between Jan. 5 and Jan. 12 and were distributed to 287 providers.

Fewer than 10 people, who all received the vaccine at the same community site, needed medical attention over a 24-hour period, Pan said. No other similar clusters were found.

Moderna in a statement said the company "is unaware of comparable adverse events from other vaccination centers which may have administered vaccines from the same lot."

Full story: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/california-urges-stop-to-300000-covid-19-vaccines-after-some-fall-ill>

Pentagon Nixed Request to Give COVID Vaccine to National Guard Before Inauguration

Officials in charge of planning the Biden inauguration asked in early December that troops deployed to keep D.C. safe for the event get vaccinated. That request was denied.

Full story: <https://www.thedailybeast.com/pentagon-denied-request-to-give-covid-19-vaccine-to-national-guard-troops-before-inauguration>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from January 19, 2021

[Covid-19 Vaccine Guidance for Those Who Are Lactating is Based on Faulty Assumptions, Experts Say](#) (STAT News) Government guidelines and news headlines alike have grouped those who are breastfeeding and pregnant together when talking about Covid vaccine safety. But as people try to make their own decisions without safety data, it might help to acknowledge that getting vaccinated during pregnancy and lactation carry different theoretical risks — and potential benefits.

[Clinical Characteristics and Outcomes of Hospitalized Women Giving Birth With and Without COVID-19](#) (JAMA Internal Medicine) The higher rates of preterm birth, preeclampsia, thrombotic events, and death in women giving birth with COVID-19 highlight the need for strategies to minimize risk.

[Another Coronavirus Variant Linked to Growing Share of Cases, Several Large Outbreaks, in California](#) (Washington Post) Health officials stress they haven't determined whether the variant might be more contagious or resistant to vaccines

[Reductions in 2020 US life Expectancy Due to COVID-19 and the Disproportionate Impact on the Black and Latino Populations](#) (PNAS) COVID-19 has generated a huge mortality toll in the United States, with a disproportionate number of deaths occurring among the Black and Latino populations. Measures of life expectancy quantify these disparities in an easily interpretable way.

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.