



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 21, 2021

Biden's COVID-19 plan: Masks, testing, more vaccine supplies

(AP) A day after being sworn in, [President Joe Biden is rolling out a national strategy](#) to fight COVID-19, reopen the nation's schools and restart the U.S. economy. His plan calls for an expansion of coronavirus testing, accelerated vaccine distribution and new action to prepare for future biological threats. The plan is tied to [a \\$1.9 trillion plan](#) that Biden unveiled last week to combat the pandemic.

The administration's new strategy is based around seven major goals:

- RESTORING TRUST
- VACCINES
- MITIGATE SPREAD
- EMERGENCY RELIEF
- SCHOOLS AND WORKERS
- ADDRESSING DISPARITIES
- PREPARING FOR FUTURE THREATS

Full story: <https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-politics-pandemics-coronavirus-pandemic-2ccee30ccf92784a84cbfa16ed6c3ca>

Download PDF of National COVID Plan: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf>

Related - Extracts from [Global Biodefence for January 21, 2021](#)

- [EO on Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board and Ensuring a Sustainable Public Health Workforce](#)
- [EO on Ensuring a Data-Driven Response to COVID-19 and Future High-Consequence Public Health Threats](#)
- [EO on a Sustainable Public Health Supply Chain](#)
- [EO on Ensuring an Equitable Pandemic Response and Recovery](#)
- [EO on Supporting the Reopening and Continuing Operation of Schools and Early Childhood Education Providers](#)
- [EO on Protecting Worker Health and Safety](#)

Gov. Beshear reports 3,728 new COVID-19 cases; 58 is record daily death total

Link to recording & story link: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/01/21/watch-live-gov-beshear-gives-update-on-covid-19/>

Press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=565>

Related – Governor Encourages Everyone to Get Vaccinated: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=564>

Fauci says COVID vaccines appear to be less effective against some new strains

(CNBC) New data shows that the Covid-19 vaccines currently on the market may not be as effective in guarding against new, more contagious strains of the coronavirus, White House health advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci said on Thursday.

A handful of new strains of the coronavirus have emerged overseas that have given scientists some cause for concern. Some variants that have been identified in the United Kingdom, South Africa and Brazil appear to be more transmissible than previous strains but not necessarily more deadly.

While it's no surprise the virus is mutating, researchers are quickly trying to determine what the changes might mean for recently developed lifesaving vaccines and therapeutics against the disease.

Some early findings [that were published in the preprint server](#) bioRxiv, which have yet to be peer reviewed, indicate that the variant identified in South Africa, known as 501Y.V2, can evade the antibodies provided by some coronavirus treatments, and may reduce the efficacy of the current line of available vaccines.

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/21/dr-fauci-says-covid-vaccines-appear-to-be-less-effective-against-some-new-strains.html>

Related story - Reinfections More Likely with New Coronavirus Variants

(NPR) The variant in Brazil is causing a surge in Manaus, a city where the virus previously infected huge numbers in the spring of 2020. Researchers are trying to determine why.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2021/01/21/958953434/reinfections-more-likely-with-new-coronavirus-variants-evidence-suggests>

Nasal Spray COVID Vaccine Shows Promise in Trials

(HealthDay News) A spritz instead of a shot to ward off [COVID-19](#)? Researchers report that a nasal spray [vaccine](#) against the new coronavirus shows promise in animal testing.

Rodents that were given two doses of the [vaccine](#) had antibody and T-cell responses that were strong enough to suppress [SARS-CoV-2](#), the coronavirus that causes [COVID-19](#).

The vaccine also reduced lung damage, inflammation and disease severity in the rodents, according to scientists from Lancaster University in England and Texas Biomedical Research Institute in San Antonio.

Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=251010>

Related story - A Vaccine for Kids Is Coming, Slowly

(The Atlantic) Even though kids rarely get very ill from COVID-19, vaccinating them will likely be key to reaching herd immunity. With COVID-19 vaccines proven to be safe and effective in most adults, [Pfizer](#) and [Moderna](#) have both begun U.S. trials for kids as young as 12. And if those trials go smoothly, the vaccines will be tested in younger and younger kids. This is typical for new vaccines: "It's called the age deescalation strategy," Carol Kao, a pediatrician at Washington University in St. Louis, told me.

There are some 70 million kids in the U.S., nearly a [quarter of the country's population](#). Children in general are not especially vulnerable to COVID-19; most infections are mild or even asymptomatic. In some very rare cases—[fewer than 0.01 percent](#)—young patients can develop a complication called multisystem inflammatory syndrome, or MIS-C, but it is generally quite treatable in a hospital.

Learn more; <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2021/01/should-kids-get-covid-19-vaccine/617762/>

Many Parents Support 'Teens Helping Teens' Mental Health Programs at Schools

<https://news360.com/article/546977290>

Kids' ER Visits for Injuries Rose During Lockdown, While Non-Injury Cases Fell

(HealthDay News) When the coronavirus pandemic began, one U.S. children's hospital saw an increase in [trauma](#) cases from recreational and outdoor activities, even as total ER visits dropped by 50%, researchers report.

What happened? Their new study suggests that being in lockdown, with schools closed, may have prompted more kids to go outside and play -- and potentially get injured doing so. At the same time, parents may have feared taking their children to the hospital unless it was a dire injury.

Study author Dr. Zaid Haddadin, a postdoctoral research fellow at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, and his colleagues looked at the number of emergency room visits for respiratory illnesses or [trauma](#) between March and May 2020.

Over that time, a total of nearly 6,400 pediatric emergency room visits occurred in 2020, compared with more than 12,000 in 2019. Meanwhile, the number of respiratory care for kids visits dropped by 58% in 2020, the researchers found. Read more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=250972>

6 things starting to sell out again as COVID-19 cases rise

Discover more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/reviewedcom/2021/01/21/6-things-starting-sell-out-again-covid-19-cases-rise-toilet-paper-cleaning-wipes-air-purifiers/6659684002/>

John Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [January 21, 2021](#)

[Eli Lilly Says Its Monoclonal Antibody Prevented Covid-19 Infections in Clinical Trial](#) (STAT News) Eli Lilly said Thursday that its monoclonal antibody prevented Covid-19 infections in nursing home residents and staff in a clinical trial, the first time such a treatment has been shown to prevent infection. Lilly released the results in a press release, although it said that it would publish the data in a research paper as quickly as possible.

[Factors Associated With US Public Motivation to Use and Distribute COVID-19 Self-tests](#) (JAMA Network Open) We found that the majority of survey participants were motivated to distribute COVID-19 self-test kits and to use self-test kits. Motivation is a prerequisite for voluntary behavior,⁵ and our findings suggest that the secondary distribution of COVID-19 self-test kits may be associated with increased test uptake and case detection. However, individuals with lower socioeconomic status reported lower motivation and may be less likely to distribute test kits and self-test; behavioral interventions may help increase motivation in this population.

[Dr. Anthony S. Fauci Remarks at the World Health Organization Executive Board Meeting](#) (HHS) In addition to retracting the notification of withdrawal and retaining membership in the WHO, the United States will

cease the drawdown of U.S. staff seconded to the WHO and will resume regular engagement of U.S. government personnel with the WHO both directly and through our WHO Collaborating Centers.

Current, Deadly U.S. Coronavirus Surge Has Peaked, Researchers Say (NPR) The devastating fall and winter wave of coronavirus infections that is causing so much misery across the U.S. appears to have finally peaked, according to several researchers who are closely tracking the virus. While another surge remains possible, especially with new, more infectious variants on the horizon, the number of new daily infections in the current wave appears to have hit a high in the past week or two and has been steadily declining in most states since, the researchers say. And while hospitals in some places are still being overwhelmed, the overall number of hospitalized patients also appears to have reached a peak and begun to decline slightly. It's down from a peak of over 132,000 patients on Jan. 6 to 122,700 as of Wednesday. Declines in daily deaths could soon follow, experts say.

Are Pricey Air Ambulance Rides Really Saving More Lives?

*MedicineNet) Air ambulance service is pricey, but promises lifesaving speed by providing rapid straight-line helicopter transport for critically ill patients. But a new study out of Denmark questions whether that expensive haste winds up saving more lives.

Researchers found no statistically significant difference in the death rate between people transported by ground ambulance or helicopter, according to findings published recently in *JAMA Network Open*.

That remained true even when researchers only looked at people with critical illness or injuries. They, too, died at statistically similar rates. Read more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=251045>

FDA approves 1st long-acting HIV drug combo, monthly shots

<https://news360.com/article/547040395>

German scientists make paralyzed mice walk again

(Reuters) German researchers have enabled mice paralyzed after spinal cord injuries to walk again, re-establishing a neural link hitherto considered irreparable in mammals by using a designer protein injected into the brain.

Spinal cord injuries in humans, often caused by sports or traffic accidents, leave them paralyzed because not all of the nerve fibers that carry information between muscles and the brain are able to grow back.

But the researchers from Ruhr University Bochum managed to stimulate the paralyzed mice's nerve cells to regenerate using a designer protein.

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-science-germany-genetherapy-paralysis/german-scientists-make-paralyzed-mice-walk-again-idUSKBN29Q2GC>

----- From [AHA News Now](#) -----

GAO: Rural hospital closures reduce access to care

Over 100 rural hospitals have closed since 2013, resulting in patients traveling a median 20 miles farther for health care services, according to a [report](#) released today by the Government Accountability Office. For less common hospital services, the median distance increased much more, GAO found. For 11 closed hospitals that offered treatment services for alcohol or drug abuse, for example, the median additional distance to access these services was 39 miles. Counties with closures also generally had fewer physicians and other health care professionals per 100,000 residents than did counties without closures and their Medicare beneficiaries were less healthy, GAO said. For hospitals that closed between 2014 and 2017, the median total facility margin fell to -13.8% in the year before closure. The share of all rural hospitals at high risk of financial distress has increased in the past five years, the report notes.

OCR proposed rule on HIPAA privacy standards officially published

The Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights today formally published in the Federal Register a [proposed rule](#) released Dec. 10 that would modify HIPAA privacy standards for individually identifiable health information. The 60-day comment period on the rule ends on March 22. AHA staff are reviewing the rule and plan to submit comments.

KY Public Health Preparedness has two job postings

Regional Coordinator for HEART Region 4

Job posting: <https://gohire.org/job/healthcare-coalition-readiness-and-response-coordinator-ky-region-4/>

Medical Operations Coordinator

Will do medical surge planning and response within the State Health Operations Center (SHOC).

Job posting: <https://gohire.org/job/medical-operations-coordinator-kdph-frankfort-ky/>

KSHE Sharing this job posting:

[Facilities Manager](#)

Lexington Clinic - LEXINGTON, Kentucky, 40504

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant application periods now open

The [United States Fire Administration \(USFA\)](#) has [posted open application periods](#) for two of the three [Assistance to Firefighters grant programs](#) offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the upcoming year. These are:

- The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program, currently open for applications until **Friday, Feb. 12**.
- The Firefighter Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grant program, open for applications starting on **Monday, 25, 2021** through **Friday, Feb. 26, 2021**.

The AFG grant provides critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability and support community resilience. For more information on the AFG grant and how to apply, please visit FEMA's [AFG Grants page](#).

For information on the FP&S grant and how to apply, visit FEMA's [FP&S Grants page](#).

FEMA is offering several webinar workshops on how to apply for these grants. Registration is not required. To participate in a webinar, visit [FEMA's AFG Program Workshops page](#).

**By-the-book response to large WV chemical plant explosion
highlights importance of training on your emergency plans**

A [large chemical plant explosion widely reported in the media in early December 2020](#), just outside of Charleston, West Virginia, killed one plant worker and injured three others. Responders closely followed their emergency plans. They called Metro 911 to issue a shelter-in-place declaration and activated an emergency operations center.

The way this incident unfolded is a sobering lesson on the importance of maintaining updated emergency plans and practicing with those plans so that everyone involved knows how to follow them. FEMA offers a [comprehensive set of guidance documents on emergency planning considerations](#) for use by state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies to use in their own emergency plans.

FEMA's [Planning Considerations: Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place](#)

To review FEMA's emergency planning resources, see FEMA's [Planning Guides page](#).

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.