



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 29, 2021

Kentucky Sees 11th Straight Day of Positivity Rate Decline

(From [press release](#)) , Gov. Andy Beshear announced the state's positivity rate has declined to 8.75%. There were 2,608 new cases recorded today, along with 57 new deaths.

Dr. Steven Stack, commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health, said in addition to the [Find a Vaccine website](#), a new hotline has been added to help Kentuckians who do not have access to the internet or computer or need additional assistance. The hotline – 855-598-2246 or TTY 855-326-4654 (for deaf or hard of hearing Kentuckians) – is available 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. EST Monday through Friday.

On Jan. 20, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH, [extended](#) a federal moratorium on evictions until at least March 31. Following the CDC's order, today, Gov. Beshear signed an [executive order](#) extending the state's moratorium on evictions to at least March 31.

For more information visit kycovid19.ky.gov.

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [January 29, 2021](#)

[Outcomes of COVID-19 Among Hospitalized Health Care Workers in North America](#) (*JAMA Network Open*)

This propensity-matched multicenter cohort study included 122 HCWs hospitalized with COVID-19 matched to 366 non-HCWs hospitalized with COVID-19. The odds of the primary outcome—mechanical ventilation or death—were not significantly different for HCWs compared with non-HCWs.

[They're A Precious Commodity, So Why Are Some COVID-19 Vaccines Going To Waste?](#) (*NPR*) COVID-19 vaccines are one of the nation's most precious commodities right now. Yet in many cases across the country, expiring doses have gone to waste. Just last week, for example, the Ohio Department of Health suspended a vaccine provider in Columbus after nearly 900 doses spoiled before they could reach residents in long-term care facilities. It's hard to know exactly how many doses are being thrown out across the country, but Amesh Adalja, an infectious disease specialist at Johns Hopkins University, said strict guidelines around vaccine eligibility are causing surplus doses to be discarded.

[J&J One-dose Covid Vaccine is 66% Effective, a Weapon but Not a Knockout Punch](#) (*STAT News*)

Johnson & Johnson said Friday that its single-dose Covid-19 vaccine reduced rates of moderate and severe disease, but the shot appeared less effective in South Africa, where a new coronavirus variant has become common. Overall, the vaccine was 66% effective at preventing moderate to severe disease 28 days after vaccination. But efficacy differed depending on geography. The shot was 72% effective among clinical trial volunteers in the U.S, but 66% among those in Latin America, and just 57% among those in South Africa. Though markedly below the levels seen with the first two authorized Covid-19 vaccines, those rates are above the thresholds originally set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for a vaccine to be considered useful.

[Critical Vaccine Distribution, Supply Chain, Program Integrity, and Other Challenges Require Focused Federal Attention](#) (*GAO*)

This review of the federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic is our fifth comprehensive report since June 2020 about the implementation of the CARES Act. As of January, 27 of our 31 previous recommendations had not been implemented. This report makes 13 new recommendations to improve agencies' public health and economic recovery efforts, including the development of a national testing strategy.

Fauci sees vaccination for kids by late spring or the summer

(AP) The government's top infectious disease expert said Friday he hopes to see some kids starting to get vaccinated for COVID-19 in the next few months. It's a needed step to securing widespread immunity to the virus. Vaccines are not yet approved for children, but testing already is underway for those as young as 12.

If those trials are successful, Dr. Anthony Fauci said they would be followed by another round of testing down to those 9 years old. Read full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/lifestyle-anthony-fauci-coronavirus-pandemic-infectious-diseases-coronavirus-vaccine-47af1ca6b75a2cedaac7923b7b084404>

Pentagon close to reaching agreement to provide around 450,000 Covid-19 vaccinations a day *if they're available*

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/29/politics/pentagon-vaccination-agreement/index.html>

Related - HHS releases details on change to permit retired and inactive clinicians to administer COVID-19 vaccines.

(AHA Today) The Department of Health and Human Services yesterday [amended its declaration](#) under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act to permit physicians, registered nurses and practical nurses whose license or certification has expired in the past five years to prescribe, dispense and/or administer COVID-19 vaccines in any state or U.S. territory. To participate, they must be active and in good standing before their license or certification expired. The amended declaration also authorizes any health care provider currently licensed or certified and in good standing to prescribe, dispense and/or administer COVID-19 vaccines in any state or U.S. territory. All providers authorized under the amended declaration must complete Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Vaccine Training. Providers who are not currently practicing or whose license or certification expired also must complete an on-site observation period. For more information, [see the press release FAQs](#)

COVID-19 antibodies transmit from moms to babies during pregnancy

(CIDRAP) SARS-CoV-2 antibodies transferred across the placenta in 87% of pregnant women who had COVID-19 at some point, suggesting that newborns of seropositive mothers may have some protection against the novel coronavirus at birth, according to a [study](#) today in *JAMA Pediatrics*. However, a second, unpublished study suggests that the maternal-infant antibody transfer is lower than expected.

Learn more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/01/covid-19-antibodies-transmit-moms-babies-during-pregnancy>

**Pipe bombs placed at RNC, DNC night before Capitol riot
FBI increases reward for info on bomb suspects to \$100,000**

See the poster and learn more: <https://news360.com/article/547653216>

**SAVE THE DATE
2021 Kentucky Trauma and Emergency Medicine Symposium**

October 21-22 at Galt House, Louisville
Optional pre-conference workshops October 20th
Continuing Education credits provided.

**Massive Russian hack went FAR BEYOND SolarWinds:
30% of victims had NOT even installed the software**

Investigators have revealed the massive suspected Russian cyber attack that preyed on government agencies and blue-chip businesses may be far greater than first realized, as a third of victims had not even installed the software previously thought to have been used to carry out the 'Pearl Harbor of hacks'.

Brandon Wales, the acting director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency which is investigating the attack, said a staggering 30 percent of federal agencies and private firms now known to have been breached had no direct connection to SolarWinds.

Read more: <https://dailyuknews.com/us-news/massive-russian-hack-went-far-beyond-solarwinds-30-of-victims-had-not-even-installed-the-software/>

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.