



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for February 1, 2021

Kentucky COVID Update

There were 1,623 new cases reported today by Governor Beshear, with a positivity rate of 8.85%. There are 1,314 people in a hospital with COVID, including 337 in the ICU and 178 on a vent. 35 deaths were recorded. The Governor showed charts illustrating that Kentucky is experiencing its third straight week of declining new cases and positivity.

He also announced that he has signed an Executive Order to extend the mask mandate another 30 days.

For more details, and a link to the renewed Executive order, go to this link to the Press Release:

<https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=583>

To watch the briefing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vta7zirbsyY>

Current Regional Statistics

Region	COVID-19 Inpatient	COVID-19 ICU	COVID-19 on Ventilator	Inpatient Capacity Used for COVID-19	ICU Capacity Used for COVID-19	Ventilator Capacity Used for COVID-19	Inpatient Capacity in Use	ICU Capacity in Use	Ventilator Capacity in Use
Region 1	70	16	10	8.8%	15.7%	10.1%	50.51%	60.78%	21.21%
Region 2	72	14	15	8.7%	11.5%	17.4%	54.49%	50.82%	34.88%
Region 3	412	103	68	10.8%	19.8%	15.6%	62.70%	64.11%	38.22%
Region 4	86	26	4	10.1%	24.1%	3.4%	56.22%	83.33%	20.17%
Region 5	242	55	32	8.8%	13.2%	6.2%	70.63%	72.36%	39.34%
Region 6	148	44	15	11.6%	25.1%	13.4%	78.72%	60.00%	68.75%
Region 7	52	7	5	8.3%	10.9%	4.3%	65.71%	82.81%	17.95%
Region 8	125	36	16	10.4%	26.5%	10.8%	59.40%	80.88%	27.03%
Region 9	76	23	10	11.4%	20.2%	10.0%	64.11%	54.39%	22.00%
Region 10	31	13	3	6.5%	28.9%	5.2%	52.95%	91.11%	27.59%

Data is derived from the most recent report from facilities as of 12am. COVID-19 census numbers include both confirmed and suspected patients. Red shading indicates regions with current inpatient, ICU, or ventilator capacity in use 80% or higher.

Source: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/COVID19DailyReport.pdf>

AHA Today: Nearly 13M receive at least one COVID-19 dose in first month

(CDC) About 12.9 million people received at least one dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines between Dec. 14 and Jan. 14, the first month of the U.S. COVID-19 vaccination program, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [reported](#) today. Among recipients reporting demographic data, 63% were women, 55% were aged 50 or older, and 60.4% were white, which likely reflects the demographic characteristics of the health care personnel and long-term care facility residents in the Phase 1a priority group, the authors said. “As the vaccination program expands, it is critical to ensure efficient and equitable administration to persons in each successive vaccine priority category, especially those at highest risk for infection and severe health outcomes,” they said.

A second [CDC report](#) released today looks at COVID-19 vaccination coverage at 11,460 skilled nursing facilities conducting at least one vaccination clinic during the first month of the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program, a public-private partnership between CDC, CVS Pharmacy, Managed Health Care Associates and Walgreens to provide on-site COVID-19 vaccination. A median 77.8% of residents and 37.5% of staff members received at least one vaccine dose between Dec. 18 and Jan. 17, the authors said, adding that focused communications and outreach might improve vaccination acceptance and coverage among staff at SNFs and other long-term care facilities.

What went wrong with America's \$44 million vaccine data system?

(Tech Review) The CDC ordered software that was meant to manage the vaccine rollout. Instead, it has been plagued by problems and abandoned by most states.

Unless you're in one of the few states using it, you may not have heard of VAMS. But it was supposed to be a one-stop shop where employers, state officials, clinics, and individuals could manage scheduling, inventory, and reporting for covid shots—and free for anyone to use. “Instead, “VAMS has become a cuss word,” Marshall Taylor, head of South Carolina's health department, [told state lawmakers](#) in January. He went on to describe how the system has badly hurt their immunization efforts so far. Faced with a string of problems and bugs, several states, including South Carolina, are choosing to hack together their own solutions, or pay for private systems instead.

In reality, many states are choosing to pay other vendors rather than using VAMS for free. Others are doing essentially nothing, leaving the planning up to county health departments. To some watchdogs, VAMS is the latest example of a broken system for building government technology.

Read more: <https://www.technologyreview.com/2021/01/30/1017086/cdc-44-million-vaccine-data-vams-problems/>

Additional Covid-19 vaccines bring choices - and complications - to the rollout

(Stat News) It's always good for consumers to have options, right? And indeed, the United States should soon have three Covid-19 vaccines being injected into people's arms, with more potentially on the way in the coming months, accelerating the race to vaccinate hundreds of millions of people as quickly as possible.

But all vaccines are not equal, and increasingly, health authorities and providers will be dealing with shots with varying attributes: different storage requirements, efficacy, dosing regimens, and manufacturing platforms. That, plus the possibility of a pickier public who may want a certain shot over another, could complicate an already-messy rollout. But the different features also open the door to greater access beyond just more supply — a more convenient one-shot vaccine will likely soon be available.

Full story: <https://www.statnews.com/2021/01/29/additional-covid19-vaccines-bring-choices-and-complications-to-rollout/>

KHA to Host KDPH Webinar on COVID Vaccine Confidence Presenter: Dr. Emily Messerli, Immunization Branch Mgr Tuesday, February 2 at 11:00 a.m. (ET)

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89696860207?pwd=QmhmaHJyYmRVaTBwUXVvdWQvMGFOQT09>

Phone: 19292056099,,89696860207#,,,,*2501#

Related story - Anti-Vaxxers Mounting Internet Campaigns Against COVID-19 Shots

Read more: <https://news360.com/article/547692945>

Double-masking not a bad idea, though not supported by studies

(UPI) Could wearing two masks be better than one?

The emergence of new and more infectious COVID-19 variants has led health experts to consider "double masking" as a potential way to better protect yourself and those around you.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is investigating whether donning a medical mask underneath a typical cloth mask would provide more protection, said Dr. John Brooks, chief medical officer for the CDC's COVID-19 response.

"While this strategy may be an excellent solution, we haven't seen data from experiments yet testing two masks together," he said in a Friday media briefing from the Infectious Diseases Society of America. "CDC scientists today are conducting experiments to evaluate the effectiveness of wearing two masks in this fashion, and we'll share that information as soon as it's available."

Read full UPI story: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/01/30/Experts-Double-masking-not-a-bad-idea-though-not-supported-by-studies/6581611958947/

Chilling trend: A longer, deadlier pandemic

(Axios) Mutated versions of the coronavirus threaten to prolong the pandemic, perhaps for years — killing more people and deepening the global economic crisis in the process. The U.S. and the world are in a race to control the virus before these variants can gain a bigger foothold. But many experts say they already expect things to get worse before they get better. And that also means an end to the pandemic may be getting further away.

Learn more: <https://www.axios.com/coronavirus-variants-pandemic-longer-contagious-deadly-88cdee57-a640-484e-860f-2cec9f950a94.html>

UK's Most Recent Well@Work Program for Healthcare Providers

Well@Work Podcast- Episode 13: Circle of Influence

<https://youtu.be/Uq51g4TJlnU>

----- From [ICAP "The Lead" News](#) -----

Law Enforcement Uncovers Evidence of Coordination in Jan. 6 Storming of US Capitol

The [Washington Post](#) (1/30, A1, Barrett, Hsu, Davis) reports FBI agents nationwide “are working to unravel the various motives, relationships, goals and actions of the hundreds of Trump supporters who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6,” and “a top priority of the agents’ work is to determine the extent to which that violence and chaos was preplanned and coordinated.” The Post adds investigators “caution there is an important legal distinction between gathering like-minded people for a political rally – which is protected by the First Amendment – and organizing an armed assault on the seat of American government,” but “video and court filings, for instance, describe how several groups of men that include alleged members of the Proud Boys appear to engage in concerted action.”

Prosecutors Take Ideology Of Capitol Rioters Into Account For Sedition Charges. [Bloomberg](#) (1/29, Yaffe-Bellany) reports federal prosecutors “probing the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol are building complex conspiracy cases that take aim at far-right activists, zeroing in on the motives and ideologies of the extremist groups that participated in the siege.” Bloomberg says the prosecutors built cases against “the most visible perpetrators of the siege” by using “photos and videos culled from social media,” but now “are relying on more traditional law-enforcement tools, including over 500 grand-jury subpoenas and search warrants, to probe the origins of the insurrection and the motives of the rioters,” in order to bring sedition charges. Per Bloomberg, “Much will depend on which part of the statute the prosecutors focus on.”

FBI Supporting Security Planning For Super Bowl LV

[WTSP-TV](#) St. Petersburg, FL (1/30) reports that the FBI “announced on Friday that it would be ready to respond to any threats surrounding Super Bowl LV through intelligence sharing, personnel, and the Joint Terrorism Task Force.” The agency “[said] it activated an Intelligence Operations Center, which is comprised of representatives from 17 different federal, city, state, local and private sector partners.”

China's push to control Americans' health care future

U.S. officials say the Chinese government is trying to collect Americans' DNA

Learn more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/biodata-dna-china-collection-60-minutes-2021-01-31/>

[See story below on 23andMe.]

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines

Extracts from [February 1, 2021](#)

[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.

[COVID-19 Rarely Spreads through Surfaces. So Why are we Still Deep Cleaning?](#) (*Nature*) As evidence has accumulated over the course of the pandemic, scientific understanding about the virus has changed. Studies and investigations of outbreaks all point to the majority of transmissions occurring as a result of infected people spewing out large droplets and small particles called aerosols when they cough, talk or breathe. These can be directly inhaled by people close by. Surface transmission, although possible, is not thought to be a significant risk

[New 23andMe Tool Assesses Risk of Covid-19 Becoming Severe](#) (*Bloomberg*) DNA-testing company 23andMe Inc. has launched a new tool that aims to predict an infected person’s risk of developing a severe case of Covid-19, expanding the company’s bid to deliver actionable insight on health. The company’s new COVID-19 Severity Calculator was launched on Wednesday. It pulls data from a Covid-19 study begun in April that queried more than a million participants on their ethnicity, lifestyle, height, weight, health conditions, genetics and experience with the disease, among other things. An algorithm was created from the data that the company says can predict the likelihood of hospitalization for those infected.

AS OF TODAY - [CDC Requires Wearing of Face Masks While on Public Transportation and at Transportation Hubs](#) (*CDC*) As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to surge in the United States, CDC is implementing provisions of President Biden’s Executive Order on Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel and will require the wearing of masks by all travelers into, within, or out of the United States,

e.g., on airplanes, ships, ferries, trains, subways, buses, taxis, and ride-shares. The mask requirement also applies to travelers in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and seaports; train, bus, and subway stations; and any other areas that provide transportation.

Injury Prevention Idea...

Airbag Jeans? Idea Is No Joke for Motorcyclists

(Newser) Motorcyclists who fall off their bikes at high speeds might have much smoother landings in the near future. [CNN Business](#) reports that "airbag jeans" are becoming closer to reality. The company Airbag Inside Sweden AB has designed a prototype for the special pants, which look fairly ordinary on the outside but are lined on the inside with airbags that inflate if a rider falls off the bike. (You can get a sense of it in this [video](#).) While similar technology exists to protect the upper body of motorcyclists, nobody has yet figured out how to make it work on the lower body. In this iteration, the jeans are tethered to the bike, and the airbags inflate if the rider is abruptly jettisoned.

Read more: <https://www.newser.com/story/301727/these-jeans-could-make-motorcyclists-safer.html>

InfraGard Webinar

February 4 @ 9:30 am - 11:00 am PST (12:30 PM ET)

Procurement Fraud and Collusion- From Red Flags to Prosecution

Presented by InfraGard Los Angeles | Questions to: IGLATraining@infragardlosangeles.org

[Click to register.](#)

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.