



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for February 2, 2021

Kentucky's Vaccine Supply to Increase by Additional 5%

Governor says Kentucky has reached fifth straight day with positivity rate below 9%

(From [press release](#)) On Tuesday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced the federal COVID-19 team will increase Kentucky's vaccine supply by an additional 5%. In total, the state's supply will increase by 22% the week of Feb. 8 compared with the week of Jan. 25.

The Governor also noted Tuesday was the fifth day in a row that the state's COVID-19 positivity rate has stayed under 9%. There were 2,443 new cases reported today, and 32 new deaths. 1,335 are currently hospitalized, with 373 in the ICU and 172 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.

Related - Kroger Opens Regional Vaccine Site at Kentucky Horse Park

Read more: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=584>

Just out - Beshear Files Lawsuit to Stop Lawmaker's Actions on COVID-19 Response

<https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=586>

Moderna Increases COVID-19 Vaccine Shipments While Pfizer Lags Behind

(NPR, February 1, 2021) President Biden said last Tuesday that his administration is already working on ordering more COVID-19 vaccine doses to increase the U.S. supply through this summer. But before that can happen, Pfizer and Moderna have to fulfill their commitments under their original federal supply contracts. Each company is responsible for supplying the U.S. government with 100 million doses of the vaccine by March 31. Although both companies will need to significantly increase the number of weekly doses they release to the government to reach those goals, Moderna has made significant progress in the last week. [<Read More >](#)

Related - White House to begin shipping COVID-19 vaccines to drug outlets

(CIDRAP) President Joe Biden's coronavirus czar, Jeff Zients, announced the administration would send 1 million doses of mRNA vaccines to more than 6,500 pharmacies across the country next week in an effort to further expand vaccination in the United States.

The [1 million doses](#) represent a weekly shipment expected to ramp up quickly, Zients said during a press conference. The announcement builds on a federal partnership with commercial pharmacies first created under former president Donald Trump. Eventually, Zients said, 40,000 retail pharmacies, including Walgreens, CVS, and Rite Aid locations, will receive millions of vaccine doses to distribute.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/02/white-house-begin-shipping-covid-19-vaccines-drug-outlets>

Related - [Russia's COVID vaccine 92% effective, even in those over 60](#)

KDPH Discusses Increasing Vaccine Confidence

KHA hosted Dr. Emily Messerli, Manager of the Immunizations Branch at the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH), who presented a session today on Increasing Vaccine Confidence. A recent Harris poll showed only 58% of nurses would definitely receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Messerli reported that a survey has been deployed in Kentucky and she shared preliminary results.

The Question - *Would definitely accept the vaccine:*

- ✓ Nurses: 80%
- ✓ MDs: 75%
- ✓ Pharmacists: 69%

Dr. Messerli suggested the following would help in discussing the vaccine with co-workers, patients, family and friends:

- Education about development, safety and recommendations
- Empathy
- Dispelling myths
- Modeling the behavior by receiving the vaccine and overtly signaling with a button or ribbon denoting it

- Using the word “response” rather than “reaction” or “side effect” to describe the symptoms experienced post-vaccine and sharing that the symptoms mean the immune system is responding

For those interested, links to:

- [Recording](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [V-Safe Print Resources](#)

Experts tout delaying 2nd COVID vaccine dose as US deaths mount

(CIDRAP) Following record COVID-19 deaths in January, several US experts extolled the benefits of vaccinating as many people as possible with one dose of COVID vaccine before ensuring people receive the recommended second dose.

Some public health experts are urging the federal government via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), to immediately review data from Pfizer and Moderna, which are approved for use as two doses given 3 to 4 weeks apart, and consider giving as many first doses to people 65 and older as quickly as possible, and not withhold vaccines for planned second doses.

Such a dosing strategy has already been used in the United Kingdom and Israel, two countries further ahead in vaccinating their populations than the United States.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/02/experts-tout-delaying-2nd-covid-vaccine-dose-us-deaths-mount>

Related -Report: Many US nursing home staff decline first COVID shots

(AP) A little more than a third of nursing home workers have been getting COVID-19 vaccines when the shots are first offered, U.S. health officials said Monday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention gave a [national accounting](#) of a problem that's been reported [anecdotally](#) — many nursing home workers are not getting the shots.

The CDC looked at more than 11,000 nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities that had at least one vaccination clinic between the middle of December and the middle of January. The researchers found that while 78% of residents got at least one shot, only 37.5% of staff members did.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/nursing-home-staff-decline-vaccine-6e9cecb350c7d4f77faa6327583e8c4>

U.S. Cuts \$231 Million Deal to Provide 15-Minute COVID-19 At-Home Tests

(NPR) The Food and Drug Administration gave emergency authorization to Ellume's rapid test in December, after it showed 96% accuracy in a U.S. clinical study.

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/02/01/962828149/u-s-cuts-231-million-deal-to-provide-15-minute-covid-19-at-home-tests>

ICE Promises No Arrests at Vaccination Sites

(Newser) No one going to a coronavirus vaccination site has to worry about Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the federal government announced Monday. All agencies "fully support equal access to the COVID-19 vaccines and vaccine distribution sites for undocumented immigrants," the Department of Homeland Security said. "It is a moral and public health imperative to ensure that all individuals residing in the United States have access to the vaccine."

Immigration advocates had raised the possibility that immigrants in the US illegally would not want to provide personal information that could be used against them or put them at risk of arrest, per [US News & World Report](#). DHS policy generally prohibits arrests at sensitive locations, a category that has included churches, hospitals, health clinics, and doctor's offices.

Read more: <https://www.newser.com/story/302021/ice-promises-no-arrests-at-vaccination-sites.html>

Doctors just found an even scarier new coronavirus infection

- Doctors from Brazil found an even more dangerous type of coronavirus infection, a dual infection with two separate strains.
- The researchers detailed two COVID-19 cases with people in their mid-30s who were infected with both the Brazilian mutation (P.2) and a different strain circulating in Brazil.
- These co-infections could lead to the creation of additional mutations, the researchers said.

Full story: <https://bgr.com/2021/02/01/coronavirus-infection-dual-strains-mutation/>

Major winter storm dumps snow across the Northeast

(CBS News, February 2, 2021) - A winter storm is impacting nearly 70 million Americans, pummeling major cities with snow, including New York City, Philadelphia and Boston. The storm warnings currently stretch from northern Georgia to Maine. So far, northern and central New Jersey have already been hit with nearly 2 feet of snow and another foot could fall by Tuesday evening. [<Read More >](#)

The Number of Hate Groups Declined Last Year — *But Hate Did Not*

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2021/02/01/962973774/the-number-of-hate-groups-declined-last-year-but-hate-did-not>

The Resilience Doctrine: How Disasters Can Encourage Social Change

(Counter Punch, February 2, 2021) - Disasters sometimes have a way of focusing public attention on basic human needs and long-term ecological survival. According to the Shareable network, survival is not even possible without a “sharing transformation,” or “a movement of movements emerging from the grassroots up to solve today’s biggest challenges, which old, top-down institutions are failing to address....Amid crisis, a new way forward is emerging...The sharing transformation is big, global, and impacts every part of society. [<Read More >](#)

NIST, FEMA Devise Earthquake Recovery Roadmap

(Executive Gov, February 1, 2021) - Congress directed the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to create approaches that may mitigate the potential effects of major earthquakes. The partnership formed a group of over 30 building owners, social scientists, building owners, architects and engineers to explore various options and address concerns in standards, practices and policies, NIST said Wednesday. [<Read More >](#)

Sea Levels Are Rising Faster Than Most Pessimistic Forecasts

(Bloomberg, February 2, 2021) - Climate change is causing oceans to rise quicker than scientists’ most pessimistic forecasts, resulting in earlier flood risks to coastal economies already struggling to adapt. The revised estimates published Tuesday in Ocean Science impact the two-fifths of the Earth’s population who live near coastlines. Insured property worth trillions of dollars could face even greater danger from floods, superstorms and tidal surges. The research suggests that countries will have to rein in their greenhouse gas emissions even more than expected to keep sea levels in check. [<Read More >](#)

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.