



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for February 3, 2021

Kentucky on Track to be First State to Vaccinate Educators

(Full [press release](#)) – On Wednesday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced Kentucky is on track to become the first state to vaccinate educators. The Governor said reopening schools is a top priority, but density control, masking, proper ventilation and community mitigation must be in place.

As of 4 PM today there were 2,582 new cases with a positivity of 8.53%. 51 new deaths were recorded. 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.

UofL students helping manufacture reusable N95-style masks

Story link: <https://wlky.com/article/uofl-students-helping-manufacture-reusable-n95-style-masks/35398356>

U.S. Covid-19 Deaths Are Starting to Drop In Every Part of the Country

Learn more: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-01/covid-deaths-are-starting-to-drop-in-every-part-of-the-u-s>

UK finalizing deal to manage Ashland's King's Daughters Medical Center

Story link: <https://www.kyforward.com/university-of-kentucky-finalizing-deal-to-manage-ashlands-kings-daughters-medical-center/>

Trauma Injury Prevention

Most College Football Concussions Aren't During Games

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s302011>

Alejandro Mayorkas Sworn in as Secretary of Homeland Security

Read more: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHS/bulletins/2be6fe5>

FBI's January Gun Background Check Figures Show Growing Pace of Firearms Purchases

Fox News (2/2, Pagonos) reports, "The FBI conducted more than 4.3 million gun background checks in January 2021 – the highest number of checks completed during a single month in the agency's recorded history – as one expert says the staggering figure indicates a 'growing' demand for firearms from the American public." Fox News adds, "The FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) completed 4,317,804 total background checks in January of this year, marking the start of 2021 with the highest number of checks conducted in a one-month period, according to agency data. Excluding federal-level checks, such as those conducted for federal law enforcement agents, the bureau conducted 4,288,240 state-level background checks, said Small Arms Analytics and Forecasting Chief Economist Jurgen Brauer." Gun background checks "are indicative of sales trends, though don't translate directly to the number of unit sales."

Related story -Prepare Now for Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices

(Domestic Preparedness Journal) - The recent bombing in Nashville, Tennessee on Christmas morning was the result of an explosion from a recreational vehicle parked in front of an AT&T building in downtown Nashville. Prompt action by local police to evacuate buildings prior to the explosion prevented fatalities. The high potential for loss of life and property in these types of incidents highlights the importance of first responders' preparedness.

The Joint Counter Terrorism Assessment Team developed the [First Responder's Toolbox on Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device \(VBIED\): Preparedness, Recognition and Response](#). Toolbox resources include:

- A historical overview of the 10 VBIED incidents occurring in the United States since 2010.
- Specific VBIED tactics, concerns and key safety considerations.
- Lists of pre-incident indicators observable on the vehicle itself, as well as other indicators and behaviors related to the vehicle.
- A 3D model of evacuation distances based on explosive capacity.
- Checklists for standard operating procedures for ongoing duties, facility protection, special events and on-scene response to an incident involving a VBIED.

- An incident planning tool sheet, including charted ranges of evacuation distances by explosive capacity and references for additional information.

The VBIED toolbox, along with other toolboxes for first responders, is available on the [Office of the Director of National Intelligence website](#). Release by the U.S. Fire Administration. Click [here](#) for source.

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [February 2, 2021](#) and [February 3, 2021](#)

[Demographic Characteristics of Persons Vaccinated During the First Month of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program — United States, December 14, 2020–January 14, 2021](#) (*MMWR*) During the first month of the U.S. COVID-19 vaccination program, approximately 13,000,000 persons received ≥1 dose of vaccine. Among persons with demographic data, 63.0% were women, 55.0% were aged ≥50 years, and 60.4% were non-Hispanic White.

See Also: [Race and Ethnicity Data Missing for Nearly Half of Coronavirus Vaccine Recipients, Federal Study Finds](#) (*Washington Post*)

[Vaccine Skeptics Join Forces With Antimask Advocates](#) (*WSJ*) Antivaccine activists have expanded their reach by joining forces with antimask advocates and others dedicated to what they call “health freedom,” a sign of mistrust in government that is complicating efforts to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Chinese Syringe Producers Under Pressure As Vaccination Programmes Drive Order Surge](#) (*Reuters*) Chinese syringe makers are warning that they may only be able to fulfil some orders as late as June, as global coronavirus vaccination programmes put unprecedented levels of pressure on their factory lines and snarl the country’s own vaccine efforts.

[Antibodies Periodically Wax and Wane in Survivors of Ebola](#) (*Nature*) For those fortunate enough to have survived a deadly disease, a vital question remains: how long does their hard-earned immunity last? Tracking of antibodies in Ebola survivors reveals a surprising pattern.

[COVID’s Mental-health Toll: How Scientists Are Tracking a Surge in Depression](#) (*Nature*) As the COVID-19 pandemic enters its second year, new fast-spreading variants have caused a surge in infections in many countries, and renewed lockdowns. The devastation of the pandemic — millions of deaths, economic strife and unprecedented curbs on social interaction — has already had a marked effect on people’s mental health. Researchers worldwide are investigating the causes and impacts of this stress, and some fear that the deterioration in mental health could linger long after the pandemic has subsided.

[Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation in Patients with Severe Respiratory Failure from COVID-19](#) (*Intensive Care Medicine*) In this multicenter cohort study of critically ill adults with COVID-19, 190 of 5122 patients (3.7%) received ECMO, 127 (66.8%) of whom survived to hospital discharge or 60 days. After accounting for differences between groups, patients with severe hypoxemia (PaO₂/FiO₂ < 100) who received ECMO in the first 7 days of ICU admission had lower in-hospital mortality than patients who did not (hazard ratio 0.55; 95% CI 0.41–0.74).

[New Variant COVID Findings Fuel More Worries About Vaccine Resistance](#) (*CIDRAP*) Scientists in the United Kingdom yesterday reported that a small number of B117 variants have developed the E484K mutation thought to help SARS-CoV-2 partly evade immunity, and today another UK group said their lab experiments suggest the mutation added to B117 may dampen the impact of vaccination after one dose.

[GSK Joins Forces With CureVac to Manufacture Its Covid-19 Vaccine — and to Develop Another](#) (*STAT News*) Vaccine production giant GlaxoSmithKline announced Wednesday that it would partner with German biotech CureVac to help manufacture its messenger RNA vaccine — and jointly develop a separate vaccine to target new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

[It’s Time for a National Pandemic Prediction Agency](#) (*Wired*) The big idea that might save the world from the next catastrophic pandemic isn’t totally buried in the Biden administration’s Covid-19 strategy, but it isn’t exactly above the fold, either. After a flick in the Executive Summary, you’ll have to scroll quite a ways down—to page 115 of the 200-page plan—to find it: “To improve the United States’ preparedness, the Administration will work to secure funding and Congressional support to establish an integrated, National Center for Epidemic Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics to modernize global early warning and trigger systems to prevent, detect, and respond to biological threats.”

[Are Private Messaging Apps the Next Misinformation Hot Spot?](#) (*New York Times*) Encrypted messaging apps, which protect the privacy of online conversations, were once special tools used primarily by people working in professions where confidentiality was prized, like law, journalism and politics. Now everyone is jumping on board. In the last month, tens of millions of people have downloaded the private messaging programs Telegram and Signal, making the two services the hottest apps in the world.

Extracts from IEM Emergency Management and Homeland Security News for February 3, 2021

Study Finds AstraZeneca Shots Drastically Cut Transmission

(*The New York Times*, February 3, 2021) The vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca not only protects people from serious illness and death but also substantially slows the transmission of the virus, according to a new study — a finding that underscores the importance of mass vaccination as a path out of the pandemic. The study by researchers at the University of Oxford is the first to document evidence that any coronavirus vaccine can reduce transmission of the virus. [<Read More >](#)

Comparing the Covid-19 vaccines developed by Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson

(*STAT News*, February 2, 2021) In an ideal world, a pandemic vaccine could be delivered in a single shot, so supplies could be stretched to cover a lot of people. It would trigger no side effect more significant than a sore arm. And it would be easy to ship and store. Soon, it seems, this ideal of a Covid-19 vaccine will be within reach. [<Read More >](#)

A Rocky Road on the Way to Herd Immunity for COVID-19

(*NPR*, February 3, 2021) Scientists estimate that somewhere between 70% and 85% of people need to be immune from the coronavirus before the disease will wane through a process known as herd immunity. Both natural immunity and vaccines can play a role in achieving that goal. But getting there won't be easy. "The idea of herd immunity is that after enough people have been infected or vaccinated the virus will start to subside on its own because there's just not enough susceptible people left to infect," says Lauren Ancel Meyers, a University of Texas professor who directs its COVID-19 Modeling Consortium. Herd immunity is not a magic moment after which the virus simply vanishes. But it does mark the point at which cases gradually diminish. [<Read More >](#)

Home Sales Need Better Disclosure of Flood Risk, Experts Say

(*Scientific American*, February 2, 2021) An expert federal panel has added its voice to the growing campaign for laws requiring homebuyers to be informed about a property's flood history, calling current disclosure practices "not adequate." A Federal Emergency Management Agency advisory panel says in a new report that prospective buyers cannot "make a fully informed decision" about whether to buy a property in states that do not require sellers to disclose flood history. The disclosure can help buyers determine whether a property has been previously damaged by flooding, is at risk of future flood damage and whether new owners should buy flood insurance. [<Read More >](#)

A "disasterologist" talks climate change

(*Salon*, February 3, 2021) 2020 was so bad that even disasters outdid themselves. Last year the United States alone experienced at least 16 weather and climate disasters with losses topping \$1 billion each. That's more than twice the long-term average. What's worse: Expensive disasters are on the rise. 2020 was the sixth year in a row that the United States saw 10 or more billion-dollar weather and climate disasters. And as climate change supercharges storms, wildfires and droughts, this trend will continue to climb. [<Read More >](#)

Disaster Planning For Your Parents

(*Forbes*, February 2, 2021) Do you get the sense that disasters like blizzards, hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, earthquakes and other catastrophes are increasingly common? Well, you're right. The number of billion-dollar-plus events has been on the rise, largely due to global climate change. And while disasters are traumatic events at any age, older adults are especially at risk — especially ones living isolated at home. [<Read More >](#)

DHS Seeks to Improve Communication Between Public Safety Agencies in Joint Emergency Response Scenarios

(*Homeland Security Today*, February 2, 2021) The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) jointly announced today that the Integrated Justice Information Systems (IJIS) Institute will spearhead a \$268,000 project to develop interoperability standards for Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems used by the Nation's public safety agencies. Managed by S&T's First Responders and Detection Program on behalf of CISA's Emergency Communications Division, the research project will seek to rectify the current inability of first responders (i.e., police, fire and emergency management services) to use their CAD systems to electronically exchange information with other CAD systems during a joint emergency response. [<Read More >](#)

The U.S. spent \$2.2 million on a cybersecurity system that wasn't implemented -and might have stopped a major hack

(*GCN*, February 2, 2021) As America struggles to assess the damage from the devastating SolarWinds cyberattack discovered in December, ProPublica has learned of a promising defense that could shore up the

vulnerability the hackers exploited: a system the federal government funded but has never required its vendors to use. The massive breach, which U.S. intelligence agencies say was “likely Russian in origin,” penetrated the computer systems of critical federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, the Treasury Department, the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Justice, as well as a number of Fortune 500 corporations. The hackers remained undetected, free to forage, for months. <[Read More](#) >

Here are the potential terrorist threats to the Super Bowl, according to the FBI and DHS

(*Yahoo! News*, February 3, 2021) Iran, Black separatists and the Islamic State group: These are just a few of the myriad potential threats to the Super Bowl this year, according to a government threat assessment obtained by Yahoo News. The Jan. 27 document, a product of federal agencies, including the FBI and Department of Homeland Security, and local law enforcement, notes that there is no information on a specific credible threat planned against the Super Bowl but outlines a variety of potential threats, from terrorists poisoning the food or water supply to an attack using commercial drones. <[Read More](#) >

Pentagon to field low-collateral, counter-drone interceptors in FY22

(*Defense News*, February 2, 2021) The Pentagon aims to field a low-collateral effects interceptor — part of its evolving and enduring solution to countering small drones — by fiscal 2022, according to the joint office in charge of the effort. The Defense Department established the Army-led Joint Counter-Small Unmanned Aircraft Office, or JCO, a little more than a year ago. The office laid out a path for how it will develop a system to counter small unmanned aerial systems, releasing a strategy earlier this month and approving a set of requirements last fall that guides industry to develop technology to plug into a single command-and-control system. <[Read More](#) >

NETEC COVID-19 Webinar

SARS-CoV-2: Mutations and Variants and Strains (Oh My!)

Friday, February 12, 2021 | Noon CT / 1:00 PM ET

[REGISTER HERE](#)

2021 Emergency Management Summit in Savannah Canceled

Was planned for April 2021; Potential reschedule date April 2022

**NIMS Alert 04-21: FEMA Seeks Public Feedback
for Two Resource Typing Documents**

The FEMA National Integration Center is seeking public feedback [on 2 Resource Typing Job Titles/Position Qualifications documents](#). The 30-day national engagement period will conclude at 5 p.m. ET on March 2.

The national engagement period provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the draft document to ensure that it is relevant for all implementing partners. The resource typing [documents](#) includes a Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Incident Support Team (IST) and a Fixed Wing Search/Disaster Reconnaissance Team.

These resource typing documents will facilitate the sharing of deployable resource types at all jurisdictional levels. To provide comments on the drafts, complete the feedback form provided in the links above and submit the form to fema-nims@fema.dhs.gov no later than 5 p.m. ET on March 2, 2021.

Save the Date – November 30 to December 2, 2021

National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference

Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate in Orlando, FL

[conference website](#)

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.