



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for February 5, 2021

## Announces Four New Regional COVID-19 Vaccination Sites

([Press release](#)) On Thursday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced four new regional COVID-19 vaccination sites, in Bowling Green, Covington, Glasgow and Murray. The new regional vaccine sites are:

### **Northern Kentucky Convention Center (Kroger Health site)**

1 W. Rivercenter Blvd., Covington, KY 41011

### **Greenwood Mall, former Sears location (Kroger Health site)**

Scottsville Road, Bowling Green, KY 42104

*Both Kroger Health sites are open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. local time on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Rolling, seven-day appointments went live tonight after the Governor's announcement. Visit [Kroger.com/covidvaccine](https://www.kroger.com/covidvaccine) or call 866-211-5320 to sign-up.*

### **Murray State University CFSB Center**

1401 State Route 121 North, Murray, KY 42701

Feb. 10, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Feb. 17, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Kentuckians in this region can visit [callowayhealth.org](https://www.callowayhealth.org) or call 270-753-3381 to sign up for appointments. Murray State University partners include: Calloway County Health Department; Murray-Calloway County Hospital; Dr. Bob Hughes, Chief Medical Officer of Murray State University/Chief Medical Officer of VillageMD Kentucky; The City of Murray; and Calloway County.

### **TJ Regional Health, T.J. Health Pavilion**

301 North L Rogers Blvd., Glasgow KY 42141

Dates and hours are still being determined at this time. Kentuckians in this region will be able to sign up at [tjregionalhealth.org](https://www.tjregionalhealth.org), or by calling 270-659-1010.

Public health Commissioner Dr. Steven Stack also said district and county health departments will receive more doses based on population served. For the next three weeks, every district health department and county health department will receive a vaccine allocation equivalent to 1% of the population of each county they serve, rounded to the nearest 100, with a minimum allocation of 100 doses per county. Doses will be provided on Feb. 8, Feb. 15 and Feb. 22, and second doses will arrive four weeks later. Ninety percent of doses must be administered within the week. Doses should be used to vaccinate the 70+ age group.

**Federal Pharmacy Program:** The federal government will ship out one million vaccine doses nationwide to Walgreens branches and independent, local pharmacies. Dr. Stack said Kentucky will receive approximately 13,000 doses for approximately 80 to 100 Walgreens stores and 40 to 50 local pharmacies. This new allotment is in addition to the state and long-term care allocations previously announced.

"As soon as next Thursday, these pharmacies may be able to start operating through this program," said Dr. Stack. "We think they'll have about 100 doses per pharmacy and these will be much closer in your community. The focus continues to be on people 70 and over."

## ----- **Gov. Beshear Provides COVID-19 Update**

([Press release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear announced the lowest positivity rate since Dec. 28 and reminded Kentuckians to keep gatherings small and safe this Super Bowl weekend.

"No matter who you're rooting for on Sunday, let's make sure we hold on to our progress against this virus as Team Kentucky," said Gov. Beshear. "We've already vaccinated 10% of our population and every day we get closer to the finish line we've all been waiting for. Hang in there and do what it takes to protect each other a little bit longer."

As of 4 PM, he reported 2,261 new cases, and a positivity rate of 8.16%. There were 50 deaths recorded today, for a total of 3,971. There are 1,318 COVID patients hospitalized, with 330 in the ICU and 167 on vents.

### **KDPH COVID-19 Healthcare and Public Health Update Webinar #13**

Tuesday, February 16 at 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/905613162489223694>

## **Biden to use Defense Production Act to increase supply of Covid-19 vaccines and tests**

(Politico) The Biden administration announced new initiatives Friday to speed up Covid-19 vaccinations and increase the availability of tests and protective gear — even as top health officials pleaded with Americans to double down on basic public health measures like wearing masks.

Biden's team plans to sign DPA contracts with six diagnostic companies in the coming weeks to boost the availability of tests Americans can use at home. The administration is also aiming to bolster the country's supply of critical personal protective gear such as surgical gloves, which are in short supply. The administration plans to expand the domestic manufacturing of the gloves in the U.S. by building plants to make raw materials and the gloves themselves. About 1 billion nitrile gloves could be manufactured per month by the end of the year, Manning estimated.

Full story: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/02/05/biden-defense-production-act-coronavirus-466130>

### ***Related* story - U.S. Customs has seized millions of counterfeit N95s**

(CBS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers have seized nearly 15 million counterfeit face masks since the beginning of the [coronavirus pandemic](#), the agency reported Thursday. Agents confiscated the unsafe personal protective equipment as part of an effort to prevent criminals from exploiting the public crisis for economic gain. Border patrol officers in December blocked another [100,000](#) falsely branded 3M N95 masks destined for hospital workers. Any mask that claims an N95 approval rating must have been rigorously tested by NIOSH. Respirators approved by the agency bear labels either on the respirator or within its packaging, and includes an abbreviated approval on the face piece itself. Approval numbers can be cross-checked against NIOSH's certified equipment [list](#).

The agency also seized roughly 180,000 prohibited COVID-19 test kits and more than 38,000 prohibited chloroquine tablets typically used to treat malaria. [Chloroquine](#) is considered safe for patients with malaria, but has [not been shown](#) to be an effective treatment for COVID-19.

Find out more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/n95-masks-fake-seized/>

### **NFL Offers All 30 Stadiums For Use As Coronavirus Vaccine Sites**

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/02/05/964548535/nfl-offers-all-30-stadiums-for-use-as-coronavirus-vaccine-sites>

### **Johnson & Johnson requests U.S. Emergency Use Authorization for its one-dose COVID vaccine**

(CIDRAP) Late yesterday [Johnson & Johnson](#) submitted a request for an emergency use authorization (EUA) for its COVID-19 candidate. If the EUA is granted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the vaccine will become the third COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in the United States, and the first that requires only one dose.

Last week Johnson & Johnson released results from a phase 3 trial of the drug that showed an [overall efficacy rate of 66%](#). The vaccine, however, was more than 85% effective in preventing severe illness from COVID-19 infections and 100% effective in preventing hospitalizations and deaths.

"Upon authorization of our investigational COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use, we are ready to begin shipping," said Paul Stoffels, MD, the chief scientific officer for Johnson & Johnson in a press statement.

If approved, the vaccine may be ready for use in the United States by the end of March. Through Operation Warp Speed, Johnson & Johnson has a contract to fulfill 100 million doses of vaccine in the coming year. Last year, the FDA said it would likely approve any vaccine that proved to be more than 50% effective against the novel coronavirus.

In light of the request, the FDA scheduled a meeting of its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee for Feb 26 to vote on the EUA.

Story link: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/02/jj-covid-vaccine-heads-fda-emergency-use-decision>

### ***Related* story - AstraZeneca approvals abroad fuel debate over speeding US process**

Learn more: <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/537462-astrazeneca-approvals-abroad-fuel-debate-over-speeding-us-process>

### ***The good and the (potentially) bad:***

### ***What scientists know about variants and Covid-19 vaccines***

STAT News: <https://www.statnews.com/2021/02/05/what-scientists-know-variants-covid-19-vaccines/>

## Florida health officials call for audit after over 1,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses spoiled

(NBC) Florida health officials are demanding an audit of the Health Care District of Palm Beach County after over 1,000 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine were recently spoiled.

On Wednesday, the Florida Department of Health asked the Health Care District to conduct a full accounting of all vaccine-related equipment and procedures since the district said the power to the refrigerator storing the vaccines was "unintentionally turned off."

A spokesperson for the district told NBC News in a statement that while the staff was conducting a standard quality assurance check on Jan. 22, they identified 232 refrigerated vials containing 1,160 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine outside of the required temperature control range. Staff then verified the doses were not usable and, as a result, the vials were destroyed.

Full story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/florida-health-officials-call-audit-after-over-1-000-covid-n1256789>

## UK to test mixed COVID-19 vaccine dosing strategy

(CIDRAP) In the latest global COVID-19 developments, the United Kingdom today announced the launch of the first study to explore giving different COVID-19 vaccines in a two-dose regimen, and a new study added more evidence that the B117 variant is deadlier than the standard version of the virus.

The trial of a mixed-vaccine strategy comes as governments look for ways to protect as many people as possible as quickly as possible with vaccines, amid short supply and the threat of more contagious and lethal coronavirus variants.

In a [statement](#), the UK government said it has provided \$9.6 million to back a study that will look at the effects of mixing vaccine types for the two doses, such as the one from AstraZeneca-Oxford first, followed by the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine second.

**More findings that B117 is more lethal:** A team from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in a [preprint study](#) yesterday estimated that the B117 variant is 35% more deadly than the standard virus. Their findings were similar to a Jan 22 [report](#) from the UK government, which said that alongside being more transmissible, the variant may be 30% more deadly, based on a preliminary analysis. At the time, officials warned that the findings were based on a limited group and that stronger data were needed.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/02/uk-test-mixed-covid-19-vaccine-dosing-strategy>

## COVID-19 Pandemic: What We Know About Coronavirus Reinfections

(*Healthline*, February 4) Most people who recover from COVID-19 have some protection against the new coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, that causes this disease due to antibodies and other immune responses. Some research suggests this protection lasts for at least 8 months. < [Read More](#) >

## CIDRAP story: [Dialysis patients at nearly 4 times the risk for COVID death](#)

## Will COVID-19 Be Seasonal Like the Flu?

(Medicine Net) Like [influenza](#), could [COVID-19](#) evolve to wax and wane with the seasons? New research suggests it might. Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=251663>

## Leading baby food manufacturers knowingly sold products with high levels of toxic metals

(CNN) Four leading baby food manufacturers knowingly sold baby food that contained high levels of toxic heavy metals, according to internal company documents included in a [congressional investigation released Thursday](#).

"Dangerous levels of toxic metals like arsenic, lead, cadmium and mercury exist in baby foods at levels that exceed what experts and governing bodies say are permissible," said Democratic Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi of Illinois, chair of the House Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, which conducted the investigation, [signed by the Democratic members](#).

Arsenic, lead, cadmium and mercury are in the [World Health Organization's top 10 chemicals of concern](#) for infants and children. As natural elements, they are in the soil in which crops are grown and thus can't be avoided. Some crop fields and regions, however, contain more [toxic levels than others](#), partly due to the overuse of metal-containing pesticides and ongoing industrial pollution.

The US Food and Drug Administration has not yet set minimum levels for heavy metals in most infant food. The agency [did set a standard](#) of 100 parts per billion inorganic arsenic for infant rice cereal, but even that level is considered much too high for baby's safety, [critics say](#), especially since the FDA has already set a much lower standard of 10 parts per billion of inorganic arsenic for bottled water.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/04/health/baby-food-heavy-metal-toxins-wellness/index.html>

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**Trauma Injury Prevention – *Anchor It!***  
**Toppling TVs, Furniture Can Injure and Kill Kids**

(Medicine Net) ***It only takes a second.***



Experts are warning that unsecured televisions, bedroom dressers and other heavy furniture can crush, maim and even kill curious children, and the issue may only worsen during stay-at-home lockdowns.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), between 2000 and 2019, 451 kids aged 17 years and younger died in tip-over accidents, the CPSC said. And an average 11,100 per year were treated in hospital emergency rooms for tip-over-related injuries from 2017 through 2019.

About eight in 10 tip-over deaths involved kids under age 6, and

75% of fatalities for children involved a TV, according to the new report.

Watch the video and learn more from the full story:  
<https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=251753>

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**Henry Ford docs spot potentially fatal iPhone 12 problem with pacemakers, defibrillators**

(USA Today) The problem was identified by cardiologists at the Henry Ford Heart and Vascular Institute, who discovered that the batteries inside iPhone 12 devices and MagSafe chargers emit electromagnetic fields that can disable or interfere with implanted defibrillators and pacemakers, the health system announced late Wednesday. They prompted Apple to issue a warning.

Full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2021/02/04/apple-iphone-12-pacemakers-defibrillators/4389285001/>

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**Report highlights lack of progress against antimicrobial resistance**

(CIDRAP) A new report indicates global antibiotic consumption and resistance levels continue to rise, with many countries in the developing world facing worrisome drug resistance rates.

Among the findings from the [State of the World's Antibiotics in 2021](#) report is that, while per capita antibiotic consumption in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) remains lower than in wealthier nations, consumption rates are converging.

That trend reflects both greater antibiotic stewardship efforts in higher-income countries, which historically have had higher antibiotic use rates, and greater access to antibiotics in LMICs. But it also reflects higher burden of disease in LMICs, and a rise in inappropriate antibiotic use in some of those countries.

Learn more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/02/report-highlights-lack-progress-against-antimicrobial-resistance>

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**February is American Heart Month, a time to promote heart health for firefighters**

(EMR-ISAC) This February, the United States commemorates its 57<sup>th</sup> consecutive American Heart Month. This month is an opportunity for the nation to promote awareness about heart disease and ways to adopt healthier lifestyles. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the leading cause of death across the nation is [cardiovascular disease \(CVD\)](#).

The concern for heart health is especially relevant to the fire and emergency medical services. According to the United States Fire Administration's annual report on [Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2019](#), the leading cause of fatal injury was stress or overexertion, a general category that includes all firefighter deaths that are cardiac or cerebrovascular in nature, such as heart attacks and strokes. Over half of firefighter fatalities in 2019 were cardiac or cerebrovascular in nature.

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**Family Sues After Vet Dies Covered in Ant Bites**  
***(Inside a VA facility!)***

Ouch! Read more: <https://www.newser.com/story/302139/lawsuit-vet-died-after-more-than-100-fire-ant-bites.html>

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](mailto: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.