



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for February 10, 2021

KY COVID-19 Update

(Full [press release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear announced the state's positivity rate has decreased again to 7.5%. "We are still seeing far too many deaths, but this decreased positivity rate is a really hopeful leading indicator," said Gov. Beshear. "We have come so far in our fight against this virus – now, we need to hang on until we reach the finish line."

As of 4 PM the Governor said there were 1,914 new cases, with 1,191 currently hospitalized, 336 in the ICU, and 169 on vents. There were 49 new deaths recorded, for a total of 4,175.

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 story - Hundreds Of Kentucky COVID-19 Deaths Left Out Of State Data

Learn more: <https://wfp.org/hundreds-of-kentucky-covid-19-deaths-left-out-of-state-data/>

Gov. Beshear, State Officials Provide Update on Winter Storm

(Full [press release](#)) The Governor was joined by Transportation Secretary and Vaccine Distribution Project Director Jim Gray and Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KYEM) Director Michael Dossett, updated Kentuckians on a hazardous winter storm system that will impact communities across the state starting today.

"Protecting our Kentucky families is the main mission of my administration. So earlier today, KYEM activated its State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 7 a.m. EST at Level 4 operations," said Gov. Beshear. As road conditions worsened the Governor closed state offices beginning at 2:30 PM ET today. State employees able to telecommute and essential employees designated for mandatory operations should continue to report to work as directed by agency management.

Ahead of the statewide snow event, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) crews have been monitoring the weather conditions, preparing equipment, restocking supplies and treating roads. Currently, crews are out across most of the state treating routes with salt mixed with calcium chloride and paying particular attention to areas prone to freezing, like bridges and overpasses.

The Governor also reminded Kentuckians that vaccination appointments for Thursday, Feb. 11, at Kroger regional vaccine sites will be rescheduled for the following Thursday, Feb. 18, for the same time to ensure the safety of all staff, volunteers and those being vaccinated. The Kroger Health sites are the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington and the Greenwood Mall in Bowling Green.

[NOTE: ***This does NOT include the UK vaccination site at Kroger Field, which will stay open despite the weather.*** For more info: <https://www.kyforward.com/uk-vaccination-clinic-at-kroger-field-plans-to-remain-open-despite-weather-please-keep-your-appointment/>]

Related story - Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has 'snowfighters' out, ready for snow, ice, bitter cold; *BUT - stay home if you can*

(KyForward News) Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) highway snowfighters prepared for a major winter storm packing damaging ice ahead of snow and possibly bitter cold that will impact road conditions across the state. The KYTC's 12 highway district crews will pretreat routes, where appropriate, and monitor evolving weather and road conditions. Once a storm has begun, the focus is on keeping high-priority state routes, such as interstates and parkways, passable. Crews then concentrate on heavily traveled state routes before turning to lower-volume routes. Kentuckians should expect delays in road clearing efforts.

The Cabinet has established a snow emergency plan to deploy resources within each county, as needed, to cover highest priority routes. Route designations are based on factors such as traffic volume and connectivity to hospitals and other critical services. Snow priority maps for each county [can be viewed here](#).

Full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/kentucky-transportation-cabinet-has-snowfighters-out-ready-for-snow-ice-bitter-cold-stay-home-if-you-can/>

CDC recommends double masks to help protect against COVID-19

(CBS) After months of demands for federal health officials to update [mask recommendations](#), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced new guidelines Wednesday that include wearing well-fitting face masks or two masks at a time to help curb the [COVID-19](#) pandemic.

The updated guidance follows the release of [new research](#) from the CDC which tested various masks in a lab setting and found evidence that combining a cloth mask over a surgical mask could dramatically reduce both the spread of the virus to others and exposure to the virus oneself.

The [CDC's new recommendations](#) advise Americans to select masks with a nose wire that can be adjusted for a snug fit, and to use a mask fitter or brace to better seal their masks. The CDC also recommends wearing a mask with multiple layers for greater protection, or layering a cloth mask over a disposable medical mask.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/covid-19-double-face-mask-cdc/>

CDC Data Shows Most Are Getting COVID Second Shot On-time

(CBS) New data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which was obtained by CBS News, shows that 96% of Americans are receiving their second shot of the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) within four days of their scheduled dose. The data, set to be released Wednesday, points to success following the two-dose schedule outlined by Pfizer and Moderna, the makers of the two available COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S. One reason for this success has been reliability in shipments of second doses.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/covid-vaccine-most-people-are-getting-their-second-shots-on-time-new-cdc-data-shows/>

Plans to Reopen Schools May Not Include Vaccinating Teachers

The administration's guidance how schools can "safely open" will come from multiple federal agencies and departments, according to several people familiar with the plan. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is expected to release an "operational strategy" advising that it would be safe for K-12 schools to reopen if they apply recommended "mitigation" practices, according to an email sent by an Education Department official soliciting feedback from education groups and obtained by CBS News.

The CDC guidance, which is expected to be released this week, builds on guidelines already released by the agency, a federal official told CBS News. It's expected to focus on five areas of COVID-19 mitigation in schools, rather than relying on vaccinating teachers as a precondition for reopening. The mitigation practices include ensuring teachers and students wear masks, maintain proper social distancing and institute a good "hand hygiene" program with proper coughing and sneezing etiquette.

Advice on cleaning and ventilating facilities, implementing a strong contact tracing program and isolating and quarantining will also be included in the guidance, according to the official.

The Biden administration will be advising that teacher vaccinations are supplementary, suggesting that if school districts adhere to the recommended mitigation practices, mandatory vaccination of all teachers isn't a precondition for reopening schools.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/school-reopening-guidelines-biden-cdc/>

CIDRAP: [COVID deaths 3 times higher in nursing homes with more non-white residents](#)

Now Available:

ASPR TRACIE Healthcare System Cybersecurity: Readiness & Response Considerations

The ASPR TRACIE Team is pleased to announce the release of a new and important cyber resource titled [Healthcare System Cybersecurity: Readiness & Response Considerations](#). This document was developed in close collaboration with MedStar Health, Nebraska Medicine, and Hennepin Healthcare.

The ASPR TRACIE [Healthcare System Cybersecurity: Readiness & Response Considerations](#) resource can help healthcare facilities, particularly hospitals, and the systems they may be a part of, understand the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders before, during, and after a cyber incident. Information within this document is specifically related to the effects of a cyber incident on the healthcare operational environment, specifically the ability to effectively care for patients and maintain business practices and readiness during such an event. While the focus of this document is on disruptions associated with a large-scale cyberattack, many strategies and principles outlined are relevant to a range of cybersecurity incidents and healthcare facilities.

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.