



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for February 12, 2021

KY COVID Update

([Press release](#)) On Friday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced the state's positivity rate declined again to 6.95%, the lowest rate since Nov. 6.

"It looks like we're going to have fewer cases than last week which would give us five straight weeks of declining cases. The positivity rate also continues to decline," said Gov. Beshear. "This says you're doing the right things and we're headed in the right direction. But even if you've been vaccinated, we have to continue to wear masks and social distance until we can defeat this thing once and for all."

There were 1,440 new cases reported today, with 1,063 hospitalized, 277 in the ICU, and 154 on vents. There were 42 new deaths. (Look at the [full press release](#) to read more, and find more links.)

New COVID variant with 5 mutations identified in California

(CIDRAP) A new SARS-CoV-2 variant, CAL.20C, has been detected in southern California amid a surge in local infections and is spreading through and beyond the United States, according to a [research letter](#) published yesterday in *JAMA*.

Researchers at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (CSMC) in Los Angeles analyzed COVID-19 strains before and after the surge in cases in southern California in October 2020. Before October, most coronavirus strains there originated from the 20C clade (group of viruses evolved from the same ancestor), which emerged in New York via Europe in the early stages of the pandemic.

CAL.20C, or 20C/S:452R;/B1429, was first seen in 1 of 1,247 COVID-19 samples in Los Angeles County in July, but was not observed again in the region until October, when four cases were detected. While CAL.20C had been found only in southern California in October, by November, 30 cases had been identified in the northern part of the state, and five other states had reported the variant.

By Jan 22, the variant had grown to account for 35% of all coronavirus strains in California and 44% of all samples in southern part of the state and had been detected in 26 states as well as other countries.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/02/new-covid-variant-5-mutations-identified-california>



CDC - Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation

(CDC) As communities plan safe delivery of in-person instruction in K-12 schools, it is essential to decide when and under what conditions to help protect students, teachers, and staff and slow the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. It is critical for schools to open as safely and as soon as possible, and remain open, to achieve the benefits of in-person learning and key support services.

To enable schools to open safely and remain open, it is important to adopt and consistently implement actions to slow the spread of SARS-CoV-2 both in schools and in the community. This means that all community members, students, families, teachers, and school staff should take actions to [protect themselves and others](#) where they live, work, learn, and play. In short, success in preventing the introduction and subsequent transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in schools is connected to and facilitated by preventing transmission in the broader community.

- This operational strategy presents recommendations based on the best-available evidence at the time of release.

Table 1. CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19¹

Indicator	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days ²	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days ³	<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

- This document is intended to complement the U.S. Department of Education’s Handbook on Strategies for Safely Reopening Elementary and Secondary Schools.
- This operational strategy presents a pathway to reopen schools through consistent use of mitigation strategies, especially universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing.

Full guidance document issued 2-12-21: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/schools-childcare/K-12-Operational-Strategy-2021-2-12.pdf?CDC_AA_refVal=https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [February 12, 2021](#)

[Biden Announces Deal For 200 Million More COVID-19 Vaccines](#) (NPR) President Biden has finalized deals to buy 200 million more COVID-19 vaccine doses from Pfizer and Moderna by the end of July, increasing the likelihood of delivering on his promise to have all Americans inoculated by mid-summer. Biden announced the latest deals, which are part of a plan he unveiled two weeks ago, during remarks made at the National Institutes of Health on Thursday.

[Half of U.S. Coronavirus Deaths Have Come Since Nov. 1](#) (New York Times) New coronavirus cases in the United States have been trending down for weeks, with the daily rolling average falling 50 percent from its peak in early January. Coronavirus deaths, which typically lag cases, are declining as well.

[Maximizing Fit for Cloth and Medical Procedure Masks to Improve Performance and Reduce SARS-CoV-2 Transmission and Exposure, 2021](#) (MMWR) CDC conducted experiments to assess two ways of improving the fit of medical procedure masks: fitting a cloth mask over a medical procedure mask, and knotting the ear loops of a medical procedure mask and then tucking in and flattening the extra material close to the face. Each modification substantially improved source control and reduced wearer exposure.

[As Millions Get Shots, F.D.A. Struggles to Get Safety Monitoring System Running](#) (New York Times) More than 34 million Americans have received Covid vaccines, but the much-touted system the government designed to monitor any dangerous reactions won’t be capable of analyzing safety data for weeks or months, according to numerous federal health officials. For now, federal regulators are counting on a patchwork of existing programs that they acknowledge are inadequate because of their small sample size, missing critical data or other problems.

[CDC Alters COVID-19 Quarantine Guidance for Vaccine Recipients](#) (CIDRAP) If you have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and are exposed to someone with the virus, you no longer have to quarantine for 14 days as long as you remain free of symptoms, according to new recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

[CDC Health Alert Network \(HAN\) Health Advisory 00439: Extensively Drug-Resistant Salmonella Typhi Infections Among U.S. Residents Without International Travel](#)

Typhoid fever is a systemic illness caused by the bacterium *Salmonella enterica* serotype Typhi (Typhi). Most people in the United States diagnosed with typhoid fever acquired it during international travel, but some acquired it in the United States. The disease is treated with antibiotics; without appropriate antibiotic treatment, 12–30% of people with typhoid fever will die.

Typhi is transmitted through contaminated food and water and person-to-person contact. CDC recommends [vaccination](#) for people traveling to places where typhoid fever is common. Because typhoid fever vaccines are not 100% effective, travelers should always practice [safe eating and drinking habits](#) to help prevent infection.

CDC HAN 00439: https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00439.asp?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_511-DM49473&ACSTrackingLabel=HAN%20439%20-%20General%20Public&deliveryName=USCDC_511-DM49473

IEM Emergency Management and Homeland Security News
[Extracts from February 12, 2021](#)

Companies Are Rushing to Pinpoint Climate Risks, But It's Often Impossible

(*Bloomberg*, February 12, 2021) - To meet this demand, new firms have emerged offering to analyze "financial climate risk." The idea is to show where climate-related hazards might hurt a company's bottom line, or a fund's returns, often using exact coordinates to pinpoint which assets are exposed. Sometimes, these companies use the climate models that academics have spent years developing to understand how we are heating our planet. [<Read More >](#)

Taxing Our Lungs: What Wildfire Smoke Is Doing to Our Bod(es)

(*NBC Bay Area*, February 11, 2021) - A researcher from Stanford University said climate change may be the single greatest health threat of this century. "Those who have respiratory problems, such as asthma or [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease], are going to be more at risk and more disproportionately impacted," Dr. Mary Prunicki from the Sean N. Parker Center for Allergy and Asthma Research at Stanford said. [<Read More >](#)

NWS Issues Winter Storm Watch
Impactful Winter Storm Possible Sunday Night through Tuesday



([NWS Louisville](#)) There is also a chance for some light freezing drizzle to produce a thin glaze of ice later tonight in parts of south-central and east-central Kentucky, roughly along and SE of a line from near Lexington to Campbellsville to Scottsville.

A winter storm will bring two waves of wintry precipitation to the region Sunday night through Tuesday. There could be significant accumulations of snow, sleet and possibly freezing rain. The heaviest precipitation is expected to occur Monday afternoon into Monday night.

([NWS Jackson](#)) WINTER STORM WATCH IN EFFECT FROM SUNDAY EVENING THROUGH TUESDAY AFTERNOON. Heavy mixed winter precipitation is possible. Total snow and sleet

accumulations of 3 to 5 inches may occur. In addition, ice accumulations of up to one half of an inch are possible.

([NWS Paducah](#)) WINTER STORM WATCH IN EFFECT FROM SUNDAY NIGHT THROUGH LATE MONDAY NIGHT. Moderate to locally heavy snow possible. Total snow accumulations of 4 or more inches possible. Very cold wind chill temperatures are also forecast. Northeast winds 10 to 15 or 20 mph could cause snow to drift.

([NWS Wilmington](#)) WINTER STORM WATCH IN EFFECT FROM SUNDAY EVENING THROUGH TUESDAY AFTERNOON. Heavy snow possible. Total snow accumulations of 4 to 8 inches. Some sleet and freezing rain may mix in with the snow across South Central Ohio and Northeast Kentucky.

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.