



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for February 20, 2021

Power outages continue across Appalachia after winter storms

(AP) Thousands of residents across West Virginia and eastern Kentucky remained without power on Saturday due to severe winter weather.

In West Virginia, Appalachian Power said that approximately 44,000 customers were without electricity after experiencing back-to-back ice storms hit the state Feb. 11 and Feb. 15. More than 3,200 workers were spread across the six hardest hit counties on Saturday attempting to get power back online. The company has identified roughly 1,500 separate locations that need repairs.

Over in eastern Kentucky, approximately 41,100 residents were without power, according to poweroutage.com, a website that tracks outages. Utility officials said some of their customers are still recovering from the recent paralyzing winter weather, particularly in Boyd, Carter and Lawrence counties. More than 2,000 Kentucky Power employees, foresters and assessors are working to get power restored.

Story link: <https://apnews.com/article/ice-storms-storms-power-outages-kentucky-weather-950d6bda738b4a3fc37166dcba3c530c>

Related - Suspected hypothermia deaths in homes mount in Texas

Read more: <https://apnews.com/article/houston-hypothermia-weather-conroe-texas-8323ab5f5c1612e632f7f2e6c2c20358>

Related - Power comes back for most in Texas, but other problems pile up

Story link: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/power-comes-back-most-texas-other-problems-pile-n1258311>

Related – Texas Hospitals are Struggling

CNN story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/19/us/texas-houston-hospitals-water-shortages/index.html>

----- KY COVID-19 Update

(From [KDPH Daily Report](#)) There are 1,333 new cases today, with 193 18 and under. The positivity rate is 6.77%. 921 are hospitalized with COVID, with 245 in the ICU and 125 on vents. The highest ICU use is in region 8 (83.82%) and 10 (86.67%). The lowest is Region 6 (47.43%). There were 25 new deaths recorded today.

----- **Beshear says vaccines for Phase 1C could start soon; UK site already there, CJ says**

(From [KY Health News](#)) At this time, most sites are offering a vaccine only to people who are in the Phase 1A or 1B categories, which includes residents and staff in long-term-care and assisted-living facilities, health-care personnel, anyone 70 and older, first responders, K-12 school personnel, and as of this week, child-care workers.

The next group, 1C, includes anyone 60 and older, anyone 16 and older with certain health conditions and all essential workers.

Sarah Ladd of the [Courier-Journal reports](#) that during a visit to Louisville's mass-vaccination site at Broadbent Arena, Mayor Greg Fisher said on Friday that the site may be able to vaccinate those in the 1C group in "late March or April."

But Beshear was more optimistic Friday during a vaccination-site visit in Northern Kentucky, [saying](#) he believes the state will move to the 1C category the "first of March, if not a little bit before" and that some regional sites may be able to do so sooner. Ladd reports that the **University of Kentucky** site at Kroger Field in Lexington has already moved on to the 1C category.

"When we open it up to 1C, we're going to need patience out there," Beshear said. "We're gonna have more and more appointments as we go, but when we open that up at large, it's going to feel like it's really hard to get one, but we're going to get to everybody."

Beshear said the state has the capacity to vaccinate about 300,000 people per week, but is only getting about 100,000 doses, Louisville's [WDRB reports](#). Beshear added that the federal government has said that a big supply boost will come in March.

Related - Reuters - U.S. administers 59.6 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines

----- **COVID-19 heart problems may persist for months; Smartphone pulse oximeter may prove helpful**

(Reuters) Signs of heart injury in hospitalized COVID-19 patients could be precursors to longer-lasting heart problems, researchers have found. They studied 148 survivors of severe COVID-19 who had high levels of

troponin - a protein released when the heart has been injured - while they were hospitalized. An average of two months after they left the hospital, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) still showed some sort of heart issue in 48% of the patients, including heart attacks, heart muscle inflammation, inadequate blood flow, or some combination of those problems, the researchers reported on Thursday in the European Heart Journal. Among patients with heart attacks or inadequate cardiac blood flow, two-thirds had no past history of coronary disease. A device in Samsung S9 and S10 smartphones that measures oxygen levels in the blood meets U.S. Food and Drug Administration standards and could be used to monitor COVID-19 patients, researchers said. Oxygen saturation levels are usually monitored with devices called pulse oximeters that clip onto a finger. The phones they studied have built-in pulse oximetry sensors, and the proprietary Samsung algorithms that interpret the signals "are very good," said coauthor Sara Browne of the University of California, San Diego. "

PTSD often follows serious COVID-19 - Italian doctors who interviewed COVID-19 survivors up to four months after their diagnosis found nearly one in three had post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-science/covid-19-heart-problems-may-persist-for-months-smartphone-oxygen-meters-prove-helpful-idUSKBN2AJ2BT>

FEMA okayed export of N95 masks as workers cried for more

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/19/health/masks-n95-fema-export/index.html>

Doctors Warn Of Rise in Children With Inflammatory Syndrome Related To Coronavirus

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/549156316>

As coronavirus pandemic drags on, it's taking a significant toll on the mental health of children, teens

(KY Forward News/KY Today) COVID infection rates begin to slowly decline, a recent study reveals the number of mental health-related medical visits for children is rising. A CDC report released in late November shows that emergency department visits for children aged 5-11 were up by 24%, and for children 12-17 were up by 31% from the previous year.

"I am not surprised at all by these statistics. Many school-aged children were already mentally and emotionally 'limping in' to the pandemic," said Deana Caldwell, a school psychologist and behavioral specialist with the Estill County school system. "The latest data from the CDC says that 1 in 6 American school-aged children have a mental health disorder that severely impacts their ability to function. That doesn't count the young people who have anxiety or depression who don't have access to see a physician."

Matt Flanagan, children and student ministry consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, says the study confirms what was already suspected. "The statistics from the CDC give evidence of what many church leaders see anecdotally – more children and students are experiencing increased levels of stress and anxiety during the pandemic," he said.

Caldwell says parents and guardians can utilize these practical helps as they care for their children with the following tips:

- ✓ Establish and maintain routines as much as possible.
- ✓ Model coping skills for children.
- ✓ Show extra patience.
- ✓ Be mindful of stress and anxiety that is directed toward children.
- ✓ Be aware of social interaction. Online interaction is helpful, but safe in-person interaction with peers and loved ones is important when possible.
- ✓ Ask them if they would like to talk about how they are feeling or dealing with the current situation.
- ✓ Be intentional to get outdoors and exercise regularly.

Full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/as-coronavirus-pandemic-drags-on-its-taking-a-significant-toll-of-the-mental-health-of-children-teens/>

FEMA EMI Training

1639 - Training Opportunity - E0418 Mass Care Emergency Assistance Planning and Operations

Course dates: April 6-8, 2021; July 26-28, 2021

E0289 State Volunteer and Donations Management; E0489 Management of Spontaneous Volunteers in Disasters

Course dates: E0289 – September 13-16; E0489 – September 17, 2021

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.