



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for February 22, 2021

Gov. Beshear Orders Flags Lowered to Half Staff in Remembrance of 500,000 Americans Lost to COVID-19

([Press Release](#)) In accordance with a [proclamation](#) from the White House, Gov. Andy Beshear has directed that flags at all state office buildings be lowered to half-staff until sunset on Friday, Feb. 26, 2021, to commemorate the milestone of more than [500,000 American lives lost to COVID-19](#). The Governor and First Lady will join President and Mrs. Biden and Vice President Harris and Mr. Emhoff in observing a moment of silence tonight at sundown in remembrance of those who have died from the virus.

Gov. Beshear encourages individuals, businesses and organizations throughout the commonwealth to join in this tribute. Flag status information is available at <https://governor.ky.gov/flag-status>.

Related story - Gov. Beshear Announces Sixth Straight Week of Declining COVID-19 Cases Regional vaccination sites will open Phase 1C appointments March 1

On Monday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced COVID-19 cases have declined for six straight weeks in the commonwealth. He also reported the lowest number of new COVID-19 cases since Oct. 5.

The Governor announced that regional vaccination sites will open to Kentuckians in Phase 1C beginning March 1, and he expects other vaccination sites to move into Phase 1C around the same time. Gov. Beshear encouraged all vaccine sites to continue prioritizing Phase 1A and 1B individuals, even as 1C appointments are made as well. He asked all providers to continue outreach to vulnerable Kentuckians who may have a harder time navigating the vaccine sign-up system. More than 583,000 Kentuckians have received at least their first dose of the vaccine

As of 4 PM today, there were 530 new cases announced, with a positivity rate of 6.6%. There are 870 currently hospitalized, with 243 in the ICU and 119 on vents.

There was also an announcement of a \$4,645,070 grant awarded to 12 nonprofit organizations to expand treatment and recovery services for opioid use disorders. To learn more, see the [full release](#).

Learn more in full press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prld=625>

Delaying 2nd AstraZeneca COVID shot may boost efficacy

(CIDRAP) A single dose of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine offered 76% protection against COVID-19 for 3 months, at which time administering the second dose resulted in up to 47% greater protection than giving it at 6 weeks, according to a [study](#) published late last week in the *Lancet*.

The pooled post-hoc exploratory analysis of four randomized, controlled trials led by researchers from Oxford University involved 17,178 adults in the United Kingdom, Brazil, and South Africa from Apr 23 to Dec 6, 2020.

The study also examined the effect of one versus two doses of the vaccine in reducing community spread of COVID-19 and the protection conferred by a low dose followed by a standard dose versus two standard doses.

Read more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/02/delaying-2nd-astrazeneca-covid-shot-may-boost-efficacy>

CIDRAP: [Drug supply chain issues aren't going away, report says](#)

This COVID Transmission Is First of Its Kind

(Newser) A woman received two new lungs in a double transplant last year, but it turns out the lungs were unknowingly infected with COVID-19, reports [Kaiser Health News](#). The unidentified woman died last fall, two months after the operation in Michigan. It's the first confirmed case of the virus being transmitted via transplant, and it's leading to calls for more thorough screening of donors. In this case, staff at University Hospital in Ann Arbor conducted the usual tests on nose and throat samples from the donor, who died in a car accident, and both were negative. What they didn't realize was that the virus was present deep within the donor's lungs—something that was confirmed in saved samples only after the transplant recipient started having breathing and heart troubles, spiked a fever, and went into septic shock. In their report in the [American Journal of Transplantation](#), researchers say that level of testing should become part of transplant protocol.

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/302832/she-received-2-new-lungs-and-a-hidden-covid-infection.html>

**NETEC to Host the ASPR-supported Webinar
“Saliva Testing for SARS-CoV-2: Novel Strategies for Screening Programs”**

[Join the Webinar Feb 24](#)

NY Times: [Scientists Are Trying to Spot New Viruses Before They Cause Pandemics](#)

ASHE releases ventilation system resource for health care facilities

[\(AHA Today\)](#) A [new resource](#) from the American Society for Health Care Engineering and Naval Medicine Readiness and Training Command summarizes recommended ventilation system controls for health care facilities treating COVID-19 patients. “With the numerous recommendations being offered by a variety of experts, several ASHE members requested a summary of the ventilation recommendations which prompted the task force to develop this document,” [said](#) Jonathan Flannery, senior associate director of advocacy for ASHE. “Bringing all of these recommendations together into a single document provides a ‘one stop shop’ for health care facility managers.” ASHE is an AHA professional membership group for people who design, build, maintain, and operate hospitals and other health care facilities.

Related story - [The C.D.C. Needs to Set Air Guidelines Now for Workplaces, Scientists Say.](#)
NY Times and CIDRAP

Johns Hopkins: Health security Headlines
Extracts from February 22, 2021

[Exhaled SARS-CoV-2 Quantified by Face-mask Sampling in Hospitalised Patients with Covid-19](#)

(MedRxiv) We demonstrate a simple and effective method for detecting and quantifying exhaled SARS-CoV-2 in hospitalised patients with covid-19. Higher FMS viral loads were more likely to be associated with developing severe disease compared to NPS viral loads. Similar to NPS, FMS viral load was highest in early disease and in those with active respiratory symptoms, highlighting the potential role of FMS in understanding infectivity.

[Pfizer Seeks to Store Vaccine at Higher Temperatures, Easing Logistics](#) *(Reuters)* Pfizer Inc and BioNTech SE have asked the U.S. health regulator to relax requirements for their COVID-19 vaccine to be stored at ultra-low temperatures, potentially allowing it to be kept in pharmacy freezers.

[Smiths Detection’s BioFlesh System Capable of Detecting SARS-CoV-2 In the Air](#) *(Homeland Preparedness News)* In tests conducted by the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID), a new screening technology from Smiths Detection broke new ground in efforts to find and contain COVID-19: the capability to detect the virus SARS-CoV-2 in the air. The BioFlesh Biological Identifier is a cell-based biosensor powered device paired with aerosol-collection techniques. Through their union, it’s capable of rapidly, specifically identifying biological threats such as viruses, toxins, and bacteria.

[The F.D.A. Tells Companies That Vaccines Adapted for New Variants Won’t Need Lengthy Clinical Trials](#) *(New York Times)* The Food and Drug Administration said on Monday that vaccine developers would not need to conduct lengthy randomized controlled trials to evaluate vaccines that have been adapted to target concerning coronavirus variants

COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody (mAb) Therapeutics Webinar

Friday, February 26, 2021 @ 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET

Free to TCAA members and non-members

Presenter: Dr. Meredith Chuk, Lead, COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Therapeutics Team, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), US Department of Health and Human Services

[Click Here to Register](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email from Zoom containing your join link and information about joining the webinar.

For those not able to attend, the webinar video will be posted on the TCAA public COVID page of our website within 7 days post-event

The KHFREF 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 KHFREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.