

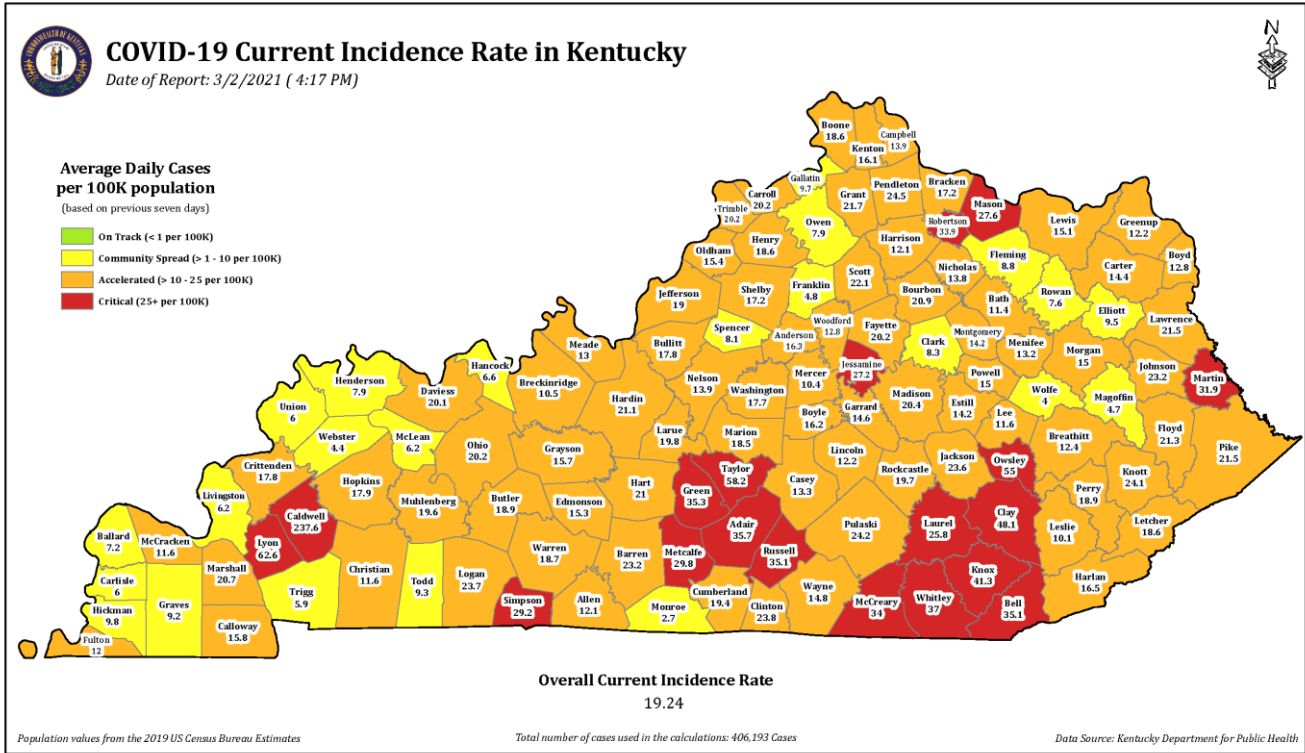


Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 3, 2021

KY COVID Updates

(Based on [press releases](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear discussed a continued decline in most of the numbers dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, and that the number of Kentuckians who have received their first vaccination is over 731,000. During his press briefing yesterday the Governor reported 1,080 new cases of the coronavirus, and there were 1,175 today. There were 19 deaths reported on Tuesday and 33 today.

The state's positivity rate, based on a seven-day rolling average, continued its decline. On Tuesday it was 4.76%, and today it was reported at 4.6%.



The number of “Red” counties, those with a COVID incidence rate of more than 25 per 100,000 population is now down to 19. One month ago, on Feb. 2, there were 109 of Kentucky’s 120 counties in the red zone.

Today’s press release for more: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=643>

Tuesday’s briefing: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=641>

Historic Manufacturing Collaboration Announced Between Merck and Johnson & Johnson to Expand Production of COVID-19 Vaccines

(HHS) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will collaborate with Merck to repurpose some of its existing Merck facilities for rapid large-scale manufacturing of vaccines and therapeutics for use in public health emergencies including the current pandemic. The facilities will be available to private sector partners working with the federal government on the COVID-19 response or to produce Merck products against COVID-19. Janssen Pharmaceuticals, part of Johnson & Johnson, will be the first federal partner to use repurposed Merck facilities to manufacture COVID-19 vaccine. Merck will use two of its facilities to produce drug substance, formulate and fill vials of J&J’s vaccine.

The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), part of the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), will leverage the Defense Production Act to provide an initial investment of \$105 million in funding for Merck, at the Administration’s request, to convert, upgrade and equip Merck facilities to the standards necessary to safely manufacture the vaccine. The company will address all the necessary qualification and validation activities needed for the facilities to be used for large-scale manufacturing.

To further accelerate production of the J&J vaccine, President Biden also announced he has invoked the Defense Production Act to expedite materials in vaccine production, such as equipment, machinery and supplies like single use bags, and he has directed the Department of Defense (DOD) to provide daily logistical

support to strengthen J&J's efforts. With the urging and assistance of the Administration, J&J also will begin operating its manufacturing facilities 24/7 to maximize production output.

Full press release: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/03/02/biden-administration-announces-historic-manufacturing-collaboration-between-merck-johnson-johnson-expand-production-covid-19-vaccines.html>

Related story - SNS, McKesson Collaborate to Ensure Critical Vaccination Supplies are Available for Every FDA-authorized COVID-19 Vaccine

Producing and Distributing COVID-19 Vaccine Ancillary Supply and Mixing Kits

Read more: <https://www.phe.gov/about/sns/COVID/Pages/covid19-ancillary-supplies-mixing-kits.aspx>

NIH halts trial of COVID-19 convalescent plasma in emergency department patients with mild symptoms
Study shows the treatment is safe, but provides no significant benefit in this group.

Learn more: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-halts-trial-covid-19-convalescent-plasma-emergency-department-patients-mild-symptoms>

FDA: Some respirators, other devices displaying misleading certificates

(From [AHA Today](#)) The Food and Drug Administration has [called on](#) 25 firms to stop producing and issuing so-called "FDA registration certificates" to mask, respirator, face shield and other medical device makers and distributors that create the impression that FDA has approved or authorized their products. FDA does not issue registration certificates to device makers that [register or list their products](#) with the agency. Health care providers can check FDA's [emergency use authorizations](#) and [medical device databases](#) for authorized or approved devices, and [report](#) suspected misuse of registration certificates.

KY Pediatric Emergency Care Coalition Recognizes Ped's Ready Facility and Services
Urges Participation in Upcoming National Survey Update

The Kentucky Pediatric Emergency Care Coalition (KPECC) annual conference was held virtually today, and during the program they recognized Ephraim McDowell Fort Logan and James B. Haggin Hospitals as the latest facilities to be surveyed and recognized as Pediatric Ready, based on national standards. There is also a companion Pediatric Readiness program for Emergency Medical Services that was discussed. More information can be found below.



There is a new national EMSC logo coming. In an effort to standardize, and make the program more recognizable across the nation since the EMSC bear is a little different in some states and programs, a version will be made for each state that includes the new EMSC teddy bear. The change will likely come over the next year.

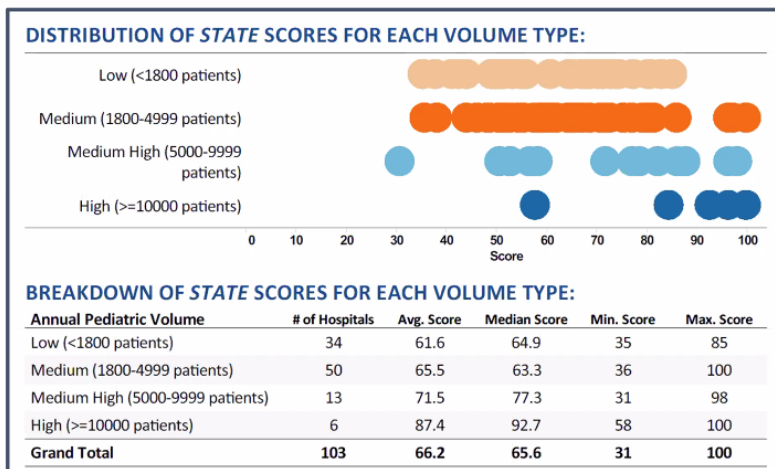
Lisa Gray, representing the National Pediatric Readiness Program (NPRP) outlined the efforts to create a national movement to enhance preparedness in the nation's hospital to treat pediatric patients, based on

standards from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA), and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). The organizations released an updated Joint Policy Statement on "[Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department](#)" in 2018.

There was a survey of pediatric readiness that was done in 2013, and will be repeated beginning in May, 2021, to see what progress has been made towards meeting the national standards.

Morgan Scaggs, the KY EMS for Children state coordinator, reviewed the general results of the 2013 survey. There was a 98.1% Response Rate (103 out of 108 hospitals), with an average score of 66. The National average score was 69. A

KY and the 2013 NPRP



breakdown is in the graphic.

To give hospitals a look at the survey tool, it has already been made [available for download](#). There is also a [National Pediatric Readiness Project Toolkit](#) available, along with a [2020 ED Checklist](#) available.

Resources:

Assessment form download: <https://www.pedsready.org/docs/PedsReadyAssessment.pdf>

2018 Joint Policy Statement: [https://www.annemergmed.com/article/S0196-0644\(18\)31167-3/pdf](https://www.annemergmed.com/article/S0196-0644(18)31167-3/pdf)

Toolkit: <https://emscimprovement.center/domains/hospital-based-care/pediatric-readiness-project/readiness-toolkit/>

2020 ED Checklist: https://emscimprovement.center/documents/743/NPRP_Checklist_FINAL.pdf

Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project info: <https://emscimprovement.center/domains/prehospital-care/>

OCR Resolves Three Discrimination Complaints after Medstar Health System Ensures Patients with Disabilities Can Have Support Persons in Health Care Settings During Covid-19 Pandemic

(HHS) The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services announced the resolution of three disability discrimination complaints to ensure that patients with disabilities are allowed access to support persons in MedStar Health hospitals and care locations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read full news release: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/02/25/ocr-resolves-three-discrimination-complaints-after-medstar-health-system.html>

Capitol Hill security increased and House session canceled amid warnings about March 4 QAnon conspiracies

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/03/politics/capitol-hill-security-latest/index.html>

Domestic Terrorism Threat Is ‘Metastasizing’ in U.S., F.B.I. Director Says

(NY Times) The F.B.I. director warned senators on Tuesday that domestic terrorism was “metastasizing across the country,” reaffirming the threat from racially motivated extremists while largely escaping any tough questions about the bureau’s actions before the siege of the Capitol. The director, Christopher A. Wray, who had largely remained out of public view since the riot on Jan. 6, condemned the supporters of former President Donald J. Trump who ransacked the Capitol, resulting in five deaths and scores of injuries to police officers. [<Read More >](#)

CDC Clinical Alert on Possible Ebola Cases

Outbreaks of Ebola virus disease (EVD) are ongoing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Guinea. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is providing this communication as a reminder to U.S. healthcare personnel about CDC infection prevention and control guidance for identifying and managing patients with possible and confirmed EVD.

CDC Updated Ebola info – Update Feb 23rd: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

CDC Ebola Resources: https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/index.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_425-DM51147&ACSTrackingLabel=Ebola%20Clinical%20Alert%20for%20U.S.%20Healthcare%20Personnel&deliveryName=USCDC_425-DM51147

**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [March 2, 2021](#), and [March 3, 2021](#)**

[SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies Detected in Human Breast Milk Post-vaccination](#) (*MedRxiv*) The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has infected over a hundred million people worldwide, with almost 2.5 million deaths at the date of this publication. In the United States, Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines were first administered to the public starting in December 2020, and no lactating women were included in the initial trials of safety/efficacy. Research on SARS-CoV-2 vaccination in lactating women and the potential transmission of passive immunity to the infant through breast milk is needed to guide patients, clinicians and policy makers during the worldwide effort to curb the spread of this virus.

[Assessment of a Hotel-Based COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Strategy for Persons Experiencing Homelessness](#) (*JAMA Network Open*) Several jurisdictions in the United States have secured hotels to temporarily house people experiencing homelessness who require isolation or quarantine for confirmed or suspected coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). To our knowledge, little is known about how these programs serve this vulnerable population outside the hospital setting.

[Some States Drop CDC Guidelines And Vaccinate People By Age Group](#) (*NPR*) A number of states are breaking with federal guidelines and starting to vaccinate people by age group, drawing criticism from essential workers and people with underlying conditions who are getting bumped back in line.

[CDC's Draft Guidelines for Vaccinated Americans Call for Small Steps Toward Normal Life](#) (*Politico*) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is set to release guidance this week on safe activities for people who have received both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine amid growing questions about when, and how, shots will enable a return to normal life. The recommendations will mark the first time the federal government has signaled

to Americans that they can start taking steps back to the old rhythms of work, school and play, according to two senior administration officials involved in the drafting of the guidelines.

[Texas Drops Its Virus Restrictions as a Wave of Reopenings Takes Hold](#) (*New York Times*) As coronavirus cases fall, states are rescinding mask mandates and reopening businesses and schools, prompting people to emerge after months of isolation despite uncertainty about the pandemic's future.

[Much of the World is Seeing Coronavirus Cases Fall. But Brazil's Outbreak is Worse Than Ever.](#) (*Washington Post*) Deaths have hit a new high, averaging 1,208 per day over the past week. Public hospital occupancy is peaking. Health systems in more than half the country's 26 states are at or near capacity. And a highly transmissible and potentially more dangerous variant is spreading nationwide.

[Recovering from the SolarWinds Hack Could Take 18 Months](#) (*MIT Technology Review*) Fully recovering from the SolarWinds hack will take the US government from a year to as long as 18 months, according to the head of the agency that is leading Washington's recovery.

["It's After the Storm That's The Hardest Part": 390,000 Texans Still Don't Have Clean Water](#) (*Vox*) The past year has further revealed the vulnerability of our water systems to extreme weather and climate change.

Global Resilience Commission Webinar
"Water Infrastructure Resilience: What if there isn't a second chance?"
Wednesday, March 24, 11 AM ET

[Register for this Webinar!](#)

DHS Priority Telecommunications Services ([GETS](#) & [WPS](#)) - WPS is now free

(DHS) Effective February 27th, 2021, all major carriers have agreed to waive all fees for WPS. If you were reluctant in the past to enroll in WPS, you can now take advantage of this critical companion service to GETS. If you have not added WPS Service for your users, or would like to expand it, now is the time.

GETS/WPS Documents: <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/getswps-documents>

Hackers target on-premises Microsoft Exchange server vulnerabilities

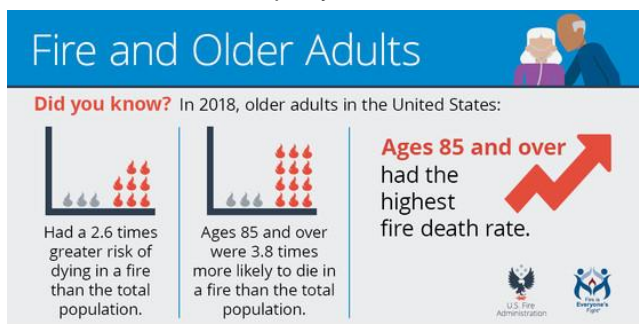
(From [AHA Today](#)) Cyber attackers are using Microsoft Exchange Server vulnerabilities to access Exchange server email accounts on an organization's premises and install malware to facilitate long-term access to victim environments, the Microsoft Threat Intelligence Center [announced](#) yesterday. It suspects a potentially state-sponsored group out of China called HAFNIUM is behind the campaign. According to Microsoft, Exchange Online is not affected.

"We are sharing this information with our customers and the security community to emphasize the critical nature of these vulnerabilities and the importance of patching all affected systems immediately to protect against these exploits and prevent future abuse across the ecosystem," the center said.

John Riggi, AHA senior advisor for cybersecurity and risk, said, "This is another example, like the SolarWinds breach, of what is believed to be a sophisticated nation-state-supported actor seeking to compromise ubiquitous and fundamental third-party software services as a means for widespread penetration of entire sectors of the

U.S. economy. It is also important to note for the health care sector that the HAFNIUM cyber adversary is specifically targeting infectious disease research, among other data. This is consistent with documented criminal cases of the Chinese government's aggressive pursuit of U.S. medical research and innovation."

< Older adults have an increased risk of dying in a fire. Help prevent older adult fire deaths in your community with USFA's [safety tips](#), [social media messages](#), public service announcements and handouts.



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.