



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 5, 2021

Governor's COVID-19 Update for Friday

On Friday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced Kentucky's positivity rate has decreased to 4.25%. As of 4 PM Friday, there were 920 new cases, with 22 new deaths recorded. There are 606 currently hospitalized, with 179 in the IUC and 76 on a vent.

Free or reduced-cost transportation to and from vaccine appointments is offered by public transit agencies across the commonwealth. These services are already operating in over 90 counties, covering 75% of all counties across Kentucky. Kentuckians can find transportation services near them by heading to kycovid19.ky.gov for a full list of participating public transit agencies and their phone numbers, or by calling the Kentucky COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline.

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.

Full press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=647>

More than 200 inmates positive for COVID-19 in Western Kentucky Correctional Complex

Learn more: https://www.wpsdlocal6.com/coronavirus_news/more-than-200-inmates-positive-for-covid-19-in-western-kentucky-correctional-complex/article_f214ce4c-7ad0-11eb-a461-eb8a4f1ba58.html

CDC Counts Nearly 1,400 More Kentucky COVID-19 Deaths than State

(WFPL) Kentucky has underreported the true toll of the pandemic by at least 1,389 deaths, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A review of Kentucky death certificates has found at least 6,121 Kentuckians have died of COVID-19 as of March 4, [according to the CDC](#). At the same time, Kentucky has reported only 4,732 deaths.

Governor Beshear acknowledged earlier this week the state has likely undercounted deaths because at least one staffer stopped monitoring death certificates in November. Without the backstop, the state overlooked death certificates that listed COVID-19 as the official cause of death but went unreported to local health departments during the worst death surge of the pandemic so far.

Learn more: <https://wfpl.org/cdc-counts-nearly-1400-more-kentucky-covid-19-deaths-than-state/>

Study finds One-third of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 need ICU care

(UPI) - Nearly one-third of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 in the United States require treatment in the intensive care unit and 14% die from the disease, an analysis published Thursday by [JAMA Network Open](#) found. Among patients admitted to the hospital intensive care unit, or ICU, 28% died, the data showed. In some cases, costs per patient for those treated in hospital ICUs were as high as \$60,000, and most spent roughly a week in the specialized unit, the researchers said.

Full story: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/03/04/coronavirus-hospitalization-icu-death-study/1771614869103/

Gov. Beshear signs bill requiring all Kentucky schools return to in-person learning

Learn more: <https://www.wlky.com/article/gov-beshear-signs-bill-requiring-all-kentucky-schools-return-to-in-person-learning/35732871>

Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Could Be a 'Game Changer' For Homeless People

(Huff Post) As the Johnson & Johnson single-dose vaccine against the coronavirus arrives in California, some homeless advocates are urging the state to prioritize getting it to unhoused residents, who can be harder to reach for second doses.

"This population often lacks access to transportation and cellular devices to schedule appointments and can be very hard-to-reach," said Joel John Roberts, head of People Assisting The Homeless, one of the largest homeless services providers in the state. "This provides an opportunity to prioritize specialized distribution to those most in need who have been heavily impacted by the pandemic due to job loss, eviction and economic inequities."

The single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine only [requires normal refrigeration](#), which makes it easier to transport and distribute than the Moderna vaccine, for instance, which needs to be stored at super-cold temperatures. The one-dose shot could be critical to get to populations who can't easily make appointments to get vaccinated.

[People experiencing homelessness are particularly at risk](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic, since living in congregate settings like shelters or encampments can make it difficult to socially distance. They also have more barriers to health care and report higher rates of health conditions like asthma or chronic bronchitis, which can place them at greater risk for severe COVID-19.

Full story: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/johnson-johnson-vaccine-homeless-single-dose-california_n_60414ee7c5b613cec15c5756

Related - Louisville will be deploying the J&J vaccine “initially on those transitory folks who are at high-risk, like our homeless population and others,” Dr. SarahBeth Hartlage, Louisville Metro Public Health Department & Wellness’s (LMPHDW) Interim Medical Director, [said Tuesday](#).

Full story: <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/lexington/news/2021/03/02/louisville-plans-for-johnson---johnson-vaccine-and-california-covid-19-variant-found-in-city>

Related #2 - Church Leaders Say Johnson & Johnson Shot Should Be Avoided If Alternatives Available

(NPR) The new Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine may offer the best prospect for protecting as many Americans as possible, as quickly as possible, but some U.S. faith leaders say they have moral concerns about its development.

Unlike the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was produced in part through the use of cell lines derived from an aborted human fetus. In [a statement](#) released this week, leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said that this feature of the vaccine raises questions about its permissibility.

The bishops stop well short of telling U.S. Catholics to avoid the Johnson & Johnson vaccine altogether, a position also taken by other faith leaders known for their strong opposition to abortion.

NPR Podcast and full story: <https://www.npr.org/2021/03/03/973486060/church-leaders-say-johnson-johnson-vaccine-should-be-avoided-if-possible>

‘Falling through cracks’: Vaccine bypasses some older adults

(AP) Older adults have top priority in COVID-19 immunization drives the world over right now, and hundreds of thousands of them are spending hours online, enlisting their children’s help and traveling hours to far-flung pharmacies in a desperate bid to secure a COVID-19 vaccine. But an untold number like Andrade are getting left behind, unseen, because they are too overwhelmed, too frail or too poor to fend for themselves.

The urgency of reaching this vulnerable population before the nation’s focus turns elsewhere is growing as more Americans in other age and priority groups become eligible for vaccines. With the clock ticking and many states extending shots to people as young as 55, nonprofits, churches and advocacy groups are scrambling to find isolated elders and get them inoculated before they have to compete with an even bigger pool — and are potentially forgotten about as vaccination campaigns move on.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-vaccine-bypass-some-older-adults-374da36856dd9428643db2c3e85564da>

Fauci: Military members who opt out of Covid vaccine are 'part of the problem'

(CNBC) White House Chief Medical Advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci said Thursday that U.S. service members who are eligible to get the [Covid-19](#) vaccine but opt out are inadvertently “part of the problem” of lengthening the pandemic.

“You’re part of the solution to this outbreak,” explained Fauci to a virtual audience during a town hall with Blue Star Families, a non-profit dedicated to issues facing military families.

“Because by getting infected, even though you may not know it, you may be inadvertently transmitting the infection to someone else, even though you have no symptoms,” Fauci said. “In reality, like it or not, you’re propagating this outbreak. So instead of being part of the solution, you are innocently and inadvertently being part of the problem by not getting vaccinated.”

Full story: <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/03/04/fauci-troops-who-opt-out-of-covid-vaccine-are-part-of-the-problem.html>

What Is 'COVID Arm' After Getting The Covid-19 Coronavirus Vaccine?



(Forbes) [As the Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website describes](https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucelee/2021/03/05/what-is-covid-arm-after-getting-the-covid-19-coronavirus-vaccine/?sh=3ea8fac7adf), a "Covid arm" is an arm with rash that may appear after receiving the Covid-19 vaccine. It's the rash that appears after vaccination and not the arm. Growing an entirely new arm is not a known side effect of the vaccine. The rash is a type of cutaneous reaction. Even though it begins with a "cute" sound, "cutaneous" means "relating to or affecting the skin." So calling your significant other "cutaneous" rather than "cute" simply means that he or she has skin, which may not be enough of a compliment. This "Covid arm" rash can be red, itchy, swollen, or painful. It also can be potentially quite large and thus a bit unsettling.

Now, a "Covid arm" is different from a skin reaction that occurs immediately after vaccination. Instead, the "Covid arm" rash is a delayed reaction, taking anywhere from a few days to over a week to appear after the shot. The rash results from hypersensitivity. In this case, hypersensitivity doesn't mean being oversensitive like someone who cries

at the end of the movie *Happy Gilmore* or yells at you when you claim that a hot dog is a sandwich. Rather, it is cutaneous hypersensitivity, resulting when the immune system in your skin over-reacts to something.

There are actually different types of cutaneous hypersensitivity. (See the picture for examples.)

Full story: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucelee/2021/03/05/what-is-covid-arm-after-getting-the-covid-19-coronavirus-vaccine/?sh=3ea8fac7adf>

91 year old Ohio man sent to hospital after mistakenly receiving two COVID-19 vaccines in one day

Video and full story: <https://wkcy.com/article/man-sent-to-hospital-after-mistakenly-receiving-two-covid-19-vaccines-in-one-day/35717670>

Novavax COVID vaccine could get FDA authorized as early as May

(Business Insider) A trial suggests it is 89% effective, though slightly less so against contagious variant that has spread to at least [10 US states including New York](#)..

Learn more: <https://www.businessinsider.com/novavax-covid-vaccine-authorization-fda-approval-may-coronavirus-shot-erck-2021-3>

New Initiative by Health Insurers Aims to Help Vaccinate 2 Million Vulnerable Seniors

(NPR) The country's rollout of COVID-19 vaccines is picking up speed, with a third new vaccine ramping up production and an [accelerated timeline](#) promising enough supply for every American adult by the end of May. Still, the process of finding and booking appointments [remains difficult](#) for many eligible individuals. A new pilot program involving more than a dozen insurance companies aims to [vaccinate 2 million of the nation's most vulnerable seniors](#) by assisting them with transportation and registration and addressing vaccine hesitancy.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/03/03/973362619/new-initiative-by-health-insurers-aims-to-help-vaccinate-2-million-vulnerable-se>

Several vehicles (including an ambulance) involved in embankment collapse in Paintsville

(WYMT/WSAZ) - Officials with Johnson County 911 tell WYMT recent flooding has caused a section of the embankment near the Paintsville City Garage to collapse into the river. It happened Thursday morning on River Road. A Facebook post from Johnson County Emergency Management states the slip is estimated to be between 100 feet wide and 400 feet long. The Paintsville Police Department posted this video below of an ambulance during the slide completely disappearing. The city has already lost two dump trucks, two pickup trucks, a Chevy Tahoe, and that ambulance from the massive slide that is still growing.

Watch a video and read more: <https://www.wytm.com/2021/03/04/several-vehicles-involved-in-embankment-collapse-in-paintsville/>

Lexington company delivering water to areas hit hard by flooding

Full story & video report: <https://www.wkcy.com/app/2021/03/05/lexington-company-delivering-water-to-areas-hit-hard-by-flooding/>

Paducah police warn of scam call spoofing police department's non-emergency phone number

(WPSD) The Paducah Police Department says a scam caller has been spoofing the department's non-emergency phone number. The police department says a local man received a call Wednesday afternoon, and his caller ID showed 270-444-8550. When the man answered the phone, he was connected to a scammer — not an emergency dispatcher. The scammer told the man there was a warrant for his arrest, and he would be arrested if he didn't transfer nearly \$2,000 via pre-paid American Express cards.

Learn more: https://www.wpsdlocal6.com/news/paducah-police-warn-of-scam-call-spoofing-departments-non-emergency-phone-number/article_e91a6de6-7ca2-11eb-bccd-43aae509dbe1.html

Georgetown officer stabbed in the chest; Police say brand-new trauma plate saved his life

Story: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/03/05/georgetown-officer-stabbed-in-the-chest-police-say-new-trauma-plate-saved-his-life/>

'Operation Volunteer Strong' identifies, locates dozens of missing Tennessee children

Read more: https://www.wpsdlocal6.com/news/operation-volunteer-strong-identifies-locates-dozens-of-missing-tennessee-children/article_a00a1044-7c47-11eb-9033-eff1eaedd292.html

Voluntary EMS Pediatric Recognition Program



As noted in yesterday's KHFREF Emergency Preparedness Update, there is a companion Pediatric Readiness program for pre-hospital providers. Many EMS Agencies in Kentucky are willing to go above and beyond the minimum requirements so that they are ready to provide high quality pediatric emergency care. Because pediatric patients are different in many ways from out adult patients, and we see a smaller number of critically ill and injured children, it is even more important to put extra effort into being prepared to care for them when it matters most.

The KY EMSC Voluntary EMS Pediatric Recognition Program honors EMS Agencies who meet established criteria, beyond regulatory requirements, which are designed to improve the agency's capabilities to deliver care to pediatric patients. The 2020 Program Awardees were:

AMR Owensboro-Daviess County	Kings Daughters Medical Transport
Ballard County EMS	Louisville Metro EMS
Baptist Health Louisville EMS	Madison County EMS
Bath County EMS	Marshall County EMS
Buechel Fire Protection District	Mayfield Graves Fire Department
Burlington Fire Protection District	Montgomery County EMS
City of Pikeville Fire and EMS	Murray Calloway Co. Hospital Ambulance Service
Georgetown Scott County EMS	Oldham County EMS
Hebron Fire Protection District	Somerset Pulaski County EMS
Henry County EMS	St. Matthews Fire Department
Hopkinsville Christian County EMS	The Medical Center EMS
Jessamine County EMS	Woodford County EMS

To learn more about the EMS Recognition Program Information: <https://kbems.kctcs.edu/emsc/untitled.aspx>

CDC's Zombie Preparedness (It's a real thing!)

Learn more: <https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/zombie/index.htm>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [March 4](#) & [March 5, 2021](#)

[Outcomes and Mortality Among Adults Hospitalized With COVID-19 at US Medical Centers](#) (*JAMA Network Open*) The objectives of our study were to examine the characteristics and outcomes among adults hospitalized with COVID-19 at US medical centers and analyze changes in mortality over the initial 6-month period of the pandemic. Among 192,550 adults hospitalized with COVID-19 who were discharged from 555 US medical centers, 101,089 (52.5%) were men, 83,567 (43.3%) were White, and 125,543 (65.2%) had Medicare or Medicaid insurance. The most common comorbidities included hypertension (118,418 [61.5%]), diabetes (73,939 [38.4%]), and obesity (52,759 [27.4%]). Of patients in this cohort, 55,593 (28.9%) were admitted to the ICU, 26,221 (13.6%) died during the index hospitalization, and 5839 (3.0%) were transferred to hospice care. In-hospital mortality increased in association with increasing age; 179 of 12,644 patients (1.4%) aged 18 to 29

years died, and 8277 of 31,135 patients (26.6%) 80 years or older died. Of the patients admitted to the ICU, 15,431 of 55,593 (27.8%) died.

[FDA Alerts Public about Improper Use of Thermal Imaging Devices; Warns Firms for Illegally Offering Thermal Imaging Systems for Sale](#) (FDA) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration alerted consumers, health care providers and other users of thermal imaging systems intended to measure human body temperature—also known as telethermographic systems, infrared thermographs, thermal cameras, and “fever cameras”—that improper use of the systems may provide inaccurate temperature readings due to a variety of factors. Additionally, the FDA issued several Warning Letters to certain firms offering unapproved, uncleared, and unauthorized thermal imaging systems for sale.

[Study Finds Wildfire Smoke More Harmful To Humans Than Pollution From Cars](#) (NPR) Tens of millions of Americans experienced at least a day last year shrouded in wildfire smoke. Entire cities were blanketed, in some cases for weeks, as unprecedented wildfires tore across the Western U.S., causing increases in hospitalizations for respiratory emergencies and concerns about people's longer-term health. Researchers with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego say that the tiny particles released in wildfire smoke are up to 10 times more harmful to humans than particles released from other sources, such as car exhaust.

[Accidentally Trashed, Thawed Or Expired: Reports Of COVID Vaccine 'Spoilage' Grow](#) (NPR) As the speed of COVID vaccinations picks up, so do the reports of doses going to waste. And it's more than just a handful at the end of the day because of a few appointment cancellations. Health officials are trying to address the problems that lead to waste, but without slowing down the roll out of the lifesaving vaccinations. The incidents include the 335 discarded doses in Lee County, North Carolina that were damaged in shipping, and recent problems in Tennessee, where nearly 5,000 doses went to waste in the month of February, prompting additional federal oversight.

TSA confiscated items: Airport items include baby shark, possible IED

Learn more; <https://www.usatoday.com/picture-gallery/travel/news/2021/03/03/tsa-confiscated-items-airport-items-include-baby-shark-possible-ied/6839171002/>

Greyhound CEO tells Biden's DHS chief that migrants must be COVID-free before boarding buses: report

(Fox) The president CEO of [Greyhound](#) has written to the head of the Department of Homeland Security, calling for the agency to provide proof that any undocumented asylum-seekers boarding its buses after release from DHS be [COVID-free](#).

Read more; <https://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/greyhound-ceo-tells-bidens-dhs-chief-that-migrants-must-be-covid-free-before-boarding-buses-report>

CDC Clinician's Call:
What Every Clinician Should Know about COVID-19 Vaccine Safety and Effectiveness and How to Address Patient Questions and Concerns

Tuesday, March 9 at 2 PM ET

Zoom link below to join:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600016316?pwd=V05Ncm1oc1gySU5OTVQwQmIORXZ1UT09>

CDC Webinar Info: https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2021/callinfo_030921.asp

KY COVID-19 Healthcare and Public Health Update Webinar #14

Tuesday, March 16 at 11:30 am - 1:00 pm.

Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/905613162489223694>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

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.