



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 6, 2021

Governor's COVID-19 Update for Saturday Kentucky to create memorial for state's COVID-19 victims

(WDRB) Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear on Saturday announced the creation of a fund to develop a permanent monument for the state's COVID-19 victims. Beshear made the announcement during a memorial service commemorating the one-year anniversary of Kentucky's first COVID-19 case. It was held in front of the Capitol, where the lawn was covered in small American flags, one for each of the Kentuckians who have died from the virus.

Beshear said this anniversary is also one of hope, with the state now vaccinating tens of thousands of people each day. According to [the state's vaccination dashboard](#), 813,675 Kentuckians as of Saturday had received the first dose of the two-shot coronavirus immunization.

Health officials confirmed 840 new COVID-19 cases in Kentucky on Saturday alongside 52 more deaths in which the virus was a contributing factor, [Beshear said in a tweet](#). The state's positivity rate, which measures the proportion of COVID-19 tests returning positive, dropped from 4.25% on Friday to 4% on Saturday, according to [a report from Kentucky Public Health](#). As of Saturday, 591 Kentuckians were hospitalized with COVID-19, according to health officials, while 171 were being treated in intensive care units. More than 70 patients were on ventilators.

Full story: https://www.wdrb.com/news/coronavirus/kentucky-to-create-memorial-for-state-s-covid-19-victims/article_ae2e7fbe-7eb5-11eb-96dd-5fc2b1559bb0.html

Shortage of Syringes for COVID-19 Shots

(MedicineNet) Countries worldwide are struggling to find enough syringes to administer [COVID-19 vaccines](#). Experts say between 8 billion and 10 billion syringes are needed for [COVID-19 vaccinations](#) alone. But in previous years, only 5% to 10% of the estimated 16 billion syringes used worldwide were earmarked for vaccination and immunization, health care supply chain expert Prashant Yadav, a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development, told *The New York Times*.

U.S. and European officials say they need more syringes for [COVID-19 vaccinations](#), and other countries are also struggling with syringe shortages. Becton, Dickinson and Co., which is the world's largest manufacturer of syringes and is based in New Jersey, said it was producing 2,000 each minute to meet orders of more than a billion, the *Times* reported. Full story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=253045>

Nearly a quarter of kids with COVID or MIS-C had neurologic involvement

([CIDRAP News Scan](#)) Among US children and teens hospitalized with COVID-19 or its related multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), 22% had neurologic conditions, most of them transient but 12% of them life-threatening or fatal, according to a study today in *JAMA Neurology*.

A team led by researchers at Boston Children's Hospital studied 1,695 patients with COVID-19 younger than 21 years admitted to 61 hospitals, 616 (36%) of whom also had MIS-C, from Mar 15 to Dec 15, 2020. Neurologic involvement was identified in 365 (22%) of patients from 52 hospitals.

Patients with neurologic symptoms were more likely than their peers to have underlying neurologic conditions (81 of 365 [22%] vs 113 of 1,330 [8%]). But 53% had been healthy, compared with 54% of those without neurologic symptoms. Also, patients with neurologic symptoms had similar rates of MIS-C as those who didn't have neurologic symptoms (126 [35%] vs 490 [37%]).

Patients with life-threatening neurologic conditions had higher neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratios (indicating inflammation) (median, 12.2 vs 4.4) and D-dimer concentrations (indicating blood clots) (49% vs 22%). Median patient age was 9.1 years, and 54% were male. Roughly one in four children with neurologic involvement had altered awareness or confusion. From Mar 5 *JAMA Neurol* [study](#)

UK trial finds azithromycin doesn't reduce time to recovery from COVID

Treatment with azithromycin had little effect on reducing the time to recovery or risk of hospitalization in patients with suspected COVID-19, according to a randomized clinical trial published yesterday in *The Lancet*. Mar 4 *Lancet* [study](#)

US Motor Vehicle Fatalities Increased By 3,000 Despite Less Driving

(From [IACP The Lead](#)) The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/4, Kamp, Subscription Publication) reports the National Safety Council released preliminary data on Thursday showing that up to 42,060 people died in automotive crashes last year, an eight percent increase from 2019. Safety experts believe the increase in fatalities despite a 13% drop in miles driven by US motorists may be attributable to “riskier driving, including speeding on less-packed roadways.” The Journal reports the NSC statistics differ from those provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration because the NCS’s statistics count deaths up to a year after the incident, compared to 30-days for NHTSA.

The [AP](#) (3/4) reports NSC Manager of Statistics Ken Kolosh said speed was the leading factor in the increased deaths, as well as “increased use of alcohol, marijuana and opioids, he said.” The NSC “is calling for equitable enforcement of traffic laws, infrastructure improvements, mandatory ignition switch locks for convicted drunken drivers, reducing speed limits to match roadway designs, and laws banning cellphone use while driving, among other recommendations to stem the deaths.”

[The Hill](#) (3/4, Castronuovo) reports Kolosh said, “The pandemic appears to be taking our eyes off the ball when it comes to traffic safety.”

More than 20,000 U.S. organizations compromised through Microsoft flaw

(Reuters) More than 20,000 U.S. organizations have been compromised through a back door installed via recently patched flaws in Microsoft Corp’s email software, a person familiar with the U.S. government’s response said on Friday. The hacking has already reached more places than all of the tainted code downloaded from SolarWinds Corp, the company at the heart of another massive hacking spree uncovered in December.

The latest hack has left channels for remote access spread among credit unions, town governments and small businesses, according to records from the U.S. investigation. Tens of thousands of organizations in Asia and Europe are also affected, the records show.

The hacks are continuing despite emergency patches issued by Microsoft on Tuesday.

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cyber-microsoft/more-than-20000-u-s-organizations-compromised-through-microsoft-flaw-idUSKBN2AX23U>

FEMA Educational Opportunity

1642 - Training Opportunity - E0105 Public Info Basic- April 2021

Located at Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, MD

April 6–8, 2021

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=V05Ncm10c1gySU50TVQwQmlORXZ1UT09>

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.

7-Day Average Daily Incidence Rate By County

