



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 7, 2021

### Sunday COVID-19 update: 526 new cases, 13 more deaths

(WLEX 18) On Sunday, Governor Andy Beshear's office reported 526 more cases of COVID-19 in Kentucky. There have been a total of 410,709 cases of COVID-19 in the state since the pandemic hit in early March 2020. 13 more Kentuckians have died after contracting the virus. The death toll during the pandemic is now 4,819. The state's positivity rate is 4.12%, which is slightly higher than Saturday's report.

There are currently 558 COVID-positive patients at Kentucky hospitals. 156 of those patients are in the ICU and 82 are using a ventilator.

Source: <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/sunday-covid-19-update-526-new-cases-13-more-deaths>

### Percentage of people hesitant to get COVID vaccine drops rapidly

(CNN) The release of Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine and its partnership with Merck means that President Joe Biden expects the US to [have enough](#) Covid-19 vaccines delivered to [cover every adult](#) by the end of May.

If Johnson & Johnson and fellow vaccine makers Moderna and Pfizer meet their vaccine pledges, the bigger question we may soon be facing isn't whether we have enough doses of Covid-19 vaccines, but whether people will actually take them.

Recent polling suggests a continued drop in the vaccine hesitant population as more and more people get vaccinated in the US.

The past two weeks alone, there were two polls that show just how much vaccine hesitancy has declined. The [Kaiser Family Foundation poll](#) found that 55% of adults say they now want a Covid-19 vaccine as soon as possible or have already received their first dose. That's up from 47% in January and 34% in December.

Full story and video report: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/06/politics/covid-vaccine-analysis/index.html>

### U.S. government scientists skeptical of one-shot regimen for Pfizer, Moderna vaccines

(WSJ) U.S. government scientists are pushing back against calls for one-dose regimens for two [Covid-19](#) vaccines designed to be administered with two shots, saying there isn't enough evidence that a single dose provides long-term protection.

The FDA late last year approved a two-dose regimen for vaccines from Moderna Inc. and from a partnership of Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE. More recently it [approved use of a one-dose regimen](#) for a vaccine from Johnson & Johnson .

Some scientists and lawmakers have [called for shifting to a one-dose regimen for all the vaccines](#), citing preliminary studies showing one shot can be effective. They contend shifting to one shot will allow the U.S. to accelerate the pace of vaccinations.

(Read more (may require a subscription): <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-scientists-skeptical-of-one-shot-regimen-for-pfizer-moderna-covid-vaccines-11615064919>

### Fever Scanners Might Miss Coronavirus Cases

(Newser) People infected with the coronavirus might be sailing through checkpoints because of problems with temperature scanners. Thermal cameras and "temperature tablet" kiosks have been installed around the country since the pandemic began, in an effort to keep anyone with the virus from entering workplaces, schools, arenas and other public places. New research indicates the devices aren't effective, the [Washington Post](#) reports, so infected people are unknowingly allowed in settings where they can spread the virus. The readings are especially unreliable when several people are scanned at the same time. In issuing a public alert, the Food and Drug Administration this week warned that the devices could provide inaccurate readings if not used properly, causing "potentially serious public health risks." The FDA said it would send warning letters to companies selling unapproved thermal imaging systems.

Read more: <https://www.newser.com/story/303315/temperature-scanners-can-miss-infected-people.html>

### Vaccine Shipments Present a Security Challenge Worthy of a James Bond Film

*Shipping companies are using kill switches, panic buttons, plainclothes guards, and tons of monitoring to ensure delivery.*

(Bloomberg) In the coming months, billions of doses of coronavirus vaccines will be dispatched via truck, plane, ship, and rail to hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies around the world. With that cargo worth tens of billions of dollars—and some individual shipments valued as high as \$70 million—one thing is certain: Crooks will try to

steal some of it. For freight haulers, the vaccine rollout poses “the biggest security challenge in a generation,” says Thorsten Neumann, chief executive officer of the European arm of the Transported Asset Protection Association, an industry group representing companies that carry precious goods.

Read more: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-03-02/covid-vaccine-delivery-gets-extreme-secrecy-and-security>

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**‘A Whole Other Reality’**

**Inside the First Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in Kentucky**

WFPL reporter visits Harrison Memorial, and recounts the story of Kentucky’s first case of COVID-19  
<https://wfpl.org/a-whole-other-reality-inside-the-first-confirmed-case-of-covid-19-in-kentucky/>

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**Mask Burning Protesters Swarm Idaho Capitol**

<http://newser.com/s303380>

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**[Spring Weather Safety Campaign](#) has sprung!**

This season's theme is **"Know your safe place."**

All Weather Ready Nation (WRN) infographics are freely available  
You are encouraged to use them in emails and social media posts.

[Safety Campaign also available in Spanish](#)

**Heads up...#SafePlaceSelfie Day is April 7**

Participate in **#SafePlaceSelfie Day** by posting where your safe place is from various types of hazards.

Challenge your employees to participate as well and get their families at home involved.

Knowing your safe place is one of the most essential preparedness actions everyone can take

**Organizations stepping up to meet the growing need for substance abuse treatment**

(WLEX) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recognizes Kentucky as ground zero of the opioid overdose epidemic. Over the years, federal and state governments have invested millions of dollars into solving the crisis. It was working.

Overdose death dropped from 2017 to 2019 nationwide. By the end of 2019, health experts were wary as data trends displayed an increase in overdoses. However, the spike in overdose deaths the country experienced when the pandemic began was more than bargained for.

“2020 is going to prove to be one of the worst, if not the worst, year for overdoses probably since we’ve been keeping track of it as a society,” said Matt Brown who is the Senior Vice President of Administration at Addiction Recovery Care (ARC). “We’ve lost more people this year than probably the other nine years I’ve been working combined.”

Learn more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/organizations-stepping-up-to-meet-the-growing-need-for-substance-abuse-treatment>

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**Be on lookout for police impersonator pulling cars off Kentucky highways**

(News Break) Louisville police are warning residents to be alert for a suspected impersonator posing as a police officer and attempting to stop drivers on area highways. Louisville Metro Police investigators say the impersonator drives a black Chevy Tahoe that has red and white interior lights, along with lights and sirens.

He may wear clothes and equipment that make him look like an officer. Investigators also said he may identify himself as an officer or someone on a human trafficking task force. Anyone who has encountered this individual is asked to call Louisville police at 574-LMPD.

Source: <https://www.newsbreak.com/kentucky/louisville/news/2176742851274/authorities-be-on-lookout-for-police-impersonator-pulling-cars-off-kentucky-highways?s=i3>

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**21 Dangerous TikTok Trends Every Parent Should Be Aware of**

(Newsweek) Some people will do anything to go viral, from silly pranks to extreme stunts—nothing is off-limits. [TikTok](#) trends generally involve fun dance routines or funny filters, but every now and then a dangerous challenge or trend will emerge. From users swerving their cars as they follow instructions from "Cha Cha Slide" to purposely overdosing on medication in the hopes of experiencing a high, some of the trends that have circulated on the app are not only dangerous but potentially deadly.

In the story link is a list of 21 of the most dangerous TikTok trends to go viral on the social media platform in recent years that people should avoid and parents should be aware of. <https://www.newsweek.com/21-dangerous-tiktok-trends-that-have-gone-viral-1573734>

## Will we ever be able to recycle all our plastic?

(Popular Science) We're losing the war against waste. Although many Americans reflexively use recycling bins, [less than one-third of plastics are reworkable](#). Even that figure is misleading, since particles like food residue can get materials rerouted to the trash. In 2017, just 8.4 percent of all plastics found new life, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. The unfortunate truth is that recycling can't keep us from drowning in polymer-based refuse.

For more than 20 years, Chinese companies helped hide the problem by buying about 700,000 tons of paper and plastic from the US every year. Cheap labor there meant people could sort objects, which made it simple to separate trash from treasure. In the case of tricky combos like bags full of mixed materials, for instance, workers could pull bottles from heaps of greasy takeout boxes. But in 2018, worried about the amount of sheer junk like cling wrap coming in, China banned all rubbish imports save for 99.5 percent pure plastic.

Learn more: <https://www.popsoci.com/story/environment/how-to-reduce-plastic-waste/>

## National Weather Service "Hazard Messaging" Announcement

The National Weather Service (NWS) will be making changes to its hazard messaging headlines no earlier than calendar year 2024. At the heart of the change will be the removal of all "Advisory" headlines from the Watch, Warning, and Advisory system in favor of clear, plain language headlines focused on impact. These same plain language headlines will also replace current "Special Weather Statements" and be equipped with Valid Time Event Code (VTEC).

This major change will not take place prior to 2024 in consideration of the time needed for public outreach, partner preparation and NWS policy and software development.

This decision is based on years of social science research. This research confirmed a large majority of the public, and even some partners, confuses the term "Advisory" with "Watch". Removing such confusion is critical to maximize the benefit of our Impact-based Decision Support Services and best serve those who use our headline products.

The exact language to be used in the plain language headlines to replace current Advisories for each affected hazard is still to be determined. NWS will host partner webinars and collect public feedback via on-line surveys to support this decision. Additional Public Information Statements will be issued in the coming weeks to announce these feedback opportunities.

For more information, please review the [Public Notification Statement](#). Additional details can also be found at the [project website](#) and the team can be contacted at [hazsimp@noaa.gov](mailto:hazsimp@noaa.gov).



The KHEREF 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](mailto:Preparedness@kyha.com) (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.