



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 9, 2021

### Record 127,110 Kentuckians Vaccinated in One Week

(From [press release](#)) On Tuesday, Gov. Andy Beshear said a record 127,110 Kentuckians were vaccinated during the past week, breaking the previous record of 112,428 vaccinations set the week before. The Governor also said the state's positivity rate has dropped to 3.94%, the lowest rate since Sept. 21.

As of 4 PM the Governor reported 880 new cases, with 551 hospitalized, 147 in the ICU, and 81 on vents. There were 21 new deaths recorded.

First Lady Brittainy Beshear announced Ford Motor Co. has donated 1 million masks to Kentucky schools, with a commitment to donate an additional 500,000 masks in the coming weeks. Kentucky's Department for Public Health and Department of Education will distribute these 1.5 million masks to school districts.

*Kentucky's COVID-19 Vaccine Website*, [vaccine.ky.gov](http://vaccine.ky.gov), shows Kentuckians which phase they are in specifically. Individuals can sign up for notifications so state officials can communicate with them when doses become available at new and existing sites. [Vaccine.ky.gov](http://vaccine.ky.gov) also lists regional vaccination partners statewide, so Kentuckians can search their county or region and see how to schedule an appointment.

*Kentucky's COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline*, [855-598-2246](tel:855-598-2246), has the same features as the website. Kentuckians can get assistance completing the vaccine eligibility questionnaire and scheduling an appointment when doses are available.

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](http://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.

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### Fauci warns U.S. Covid cases may 'plateau again at an unacceptably high level'

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/09/covid-fauci-warns-us-cases-may-plateau-again-at-an-unacceptably-high-level.html>

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### U.S. government to ship 18.5 million doses of COVID vaccine this week

(Reuters) The White House said on Tuesday that the government will distribute around 18.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines this week, fewer than last week because no new doses of Johnson & Johnson's vaccine are ready to be sent out. The U.S. government plans to distribute 15.8 million doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccine to states, tribes and territories, along with 2.7 million doses going to pharmacies.

Last week, the U.S. government distributed over 21 million doses of all three vaccines. That included over 3.5 million doses of the newly authorized J&J vaccine.

J&J's manufacturing has been slower than expected, and the company was not expected to be able to deliver any doses of its vaccine this week. It is expected to resume shipments of the vaccine later in March.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-vaccines-idUSKBN2B12MQ>

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### Louisville to allocate 1,500 COVID-19 vaccine doses to Louisville's homeless population

(WDRB) Louisville leaders are working on getting the city's homeless population vaccinated against COVID-19.

"We're happy that Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness is going to set aside 1,500 of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine," said Erin Rutherford, with Louisville's Coalition for the Homeless, during a virtual press briefing Tuesday.

City leaders and health officials said having Johnson & Johnson's one-dose vaccine available is a big part of making this possible. Rutherford said there was a homeless count done in January, but it's not complete yet. She said allocating 1,500 doses toward the city's homeless population should be able to meet the demand.

Full story: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/city-to-allocate-1-500-covid-19-vaccine-doses-to-louisvilles-homeless-population/article\\_e2ee601e-8123-11eb-a5cf-7f4b2430c830.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/city-to-allocate-1-500-covid-19-vaccine-doses-to-louisvilles-homeless-population/article_e2ee601e-8123-11eb-a5cf-7f4b2430c830.html)

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### Pfizer vaccine neutralizes Brazilian virus variant in new study

(The Hill) The Pfizer vaccine was able to neutralize a coronavirus variant first identified in Brazil in a new lab study, a positive sign for the vaccine's effectiveness.

Neutralization of the Brazilian variant, known as P.1, was "roughly equivalent" to the original strain of the virus, which the Pfizer vaccine has been shown to be highly effective against, researchers wrote in [a letter to](#) The New England Journal of Medicine. The P.1 variant has provoked some concern given the surge in cases it is fueling in Brazil.

Read more: <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/542258-pfizer-vaccine-neutralizes-brazilian-virus-variant-in-new-study>

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**Women reported worse side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine**

(Business Insider) Women made up a majority of those reporting adverse effects from the COVID-19 vaccine, a [study](#) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed.

Nearly 7,000 people reported to the CDC that they were experiencing side effects after receiving the vaccine, including symptoms of headaches, fatigue, and dizziness. Women made up nearly 80% of those who reported side effects.

The survey conducted last month by researchers at the CDC analyzed safety data on the more than 13 million recipients of the coronavirus vaccine as of January 13.

Full story: <https://www.businessinsider.com/women-worse-side-effects-from-covid-19-vaccine-cdc-study-2021-3>

CDC MMWR: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7008e3.htm>

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**Appalachia Rises Raises \$1-million for eastern KY flood relief**

(WKYT) Powered by major donors and hundreds of smaller contributions, the "[Appalachia Rises](#)" telethon on WKYT raised more than \$1.1 million Monday evening to help those impacted by recent flooding.

"Eastern Kentucky is defined by faith and grit. Our region is home to the hardest working people who have long powered America, and they consistently rise to meet every challenge and move every obstacle created. Seeing how quickly people have banded together to help is a constant reminder why Appalachia is a region unlike any other," said AppHarvest Founder & CEO Jonathan Webb who announced he would donate \$500,000.

Other major donations included \$200,000 from Toyota Kentucky and \$100,000 from Joe and Kelly Craft. Each of the following made \$10,000 contributions: The Hinkle Family Foundation, Blue Grass Community Foundation, The Jenna and Matthew Mitchell Foundation, Kiran Bhatraju and Sara Adland, Keeneland Association, and Appalachian Wireless.

Launched by Morehead-based AgTech-leader AppHarvest, the "[Appalachia Rises](#)" initiative brought together more than a half-dozen organizations, including the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, Appalachian Impact Fund, Appalachians for Appalachia, Blue Grass Community Foundation, WKYT, WYMT and New Frontier Outfitters.

Read more: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/03/09/appalachia-rises-raises-1-million-for-eastern-kentucky-flood-relief/>

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**Chance of wildfires increases in Central Kentucky despite recent flooding**

(WKYT) A 50-acre grass fire burned in Anderson County over the weekend. Fire Chief Patrick Krogman said the conditions are right for fires to get out of control, even with the rain the state has recently seen.

Officials with the Kentucky Division of Forestry said [this is the third day in a row where the risk of wildfires is extremely high](#). They have asked people to avoid burning outside for now.

Learn more: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/03/09/50-acre-grass-fire-burns-in-anderson-county/>

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**8 Tennessee doctors charged in Kentucky drug conspiracy case**

(News Break/AP) A federal grand jury has indicted eight Tennessee doctors, a nurse and two Kentucky residents in a drug conspiracy case. One Tennessee doctor faces charges include conspiracy to illegally distribute buprenorphine and anti-anxiety drugs; conspiracy to falsify medical records, to launder money and to commit wire fraud and health fraud; money laundering; and taking part in transactions involving property derived from criminal activity. Seven other doctors, a nurse and two men from Kentucky were also charged in the case.

The conspiracy involved alleged illegal drug sales in Laurel, Knox and Whitley counties from 2013 to November 2018 that came from prescriptions "not issued for a legitimate medical purpose" by doctors not acting within the usual course of professional practice, the indictment said.

Full story: <https://www.newsbreak.com/kentucky/lexington/news/2178532505287/8-tennessee-doctors-charged-in-kentucky-drug-conspiracy-case?s=i3>

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](mailto: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.