



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 10, 2021

KY COVID Update

([Press Release](#)) On Wednesday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced the state's positivity rate decreased again, to 3.93%, as more Kentuckians receive one of three highly effective COVID-19 vaccines and continue to follow guidance from public health officials. "We still have far too many deaths reported today – 34 – but I'm happy to see our positivity rate continue to decrease," said Gov. Beshear.

As of 4 PM today, the Governor reported 1,010 new cases, with 524 hospitalized, 138 in an ICU, and 75 on a vent.

Yesterday, the Governor also extended an [executive order](#) prohibiting price-gouging in the commonwealth.

----- **Governor Visits Hazard to View Flood Damage; Update Disaster Response**

Learn more: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&priId=653>

----- **Death rate 64% higher with B117 COVID variant, study finds**

(CIDRAP) The 28-day risk of death for the B117 COVID-19 variant was 64% higher than for previously circulating strains in people older than 30 years, a UK [study](#) finds. Of the 109,812 total participants, 367 (0.3%) died. Of the 54,906 participants infected with B117, 227 (0.4%) died, compared with 141 (0.3%) infected with other strains. Full report: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/03/death-rate-64-higher-b117-covid-variant-study-finds>

Learn more: [Study adds more evidence of antibiotic overuse in COVID-19 patients](#)

----- **USDA Extends Free Meals to Children through Summer 2021 Due to Pandemic**

USDA Press Release: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/03/09/usda-extends-free-meals-children-through-summer-2021-due-pandemic>

----- **Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [March 9, 2021](#) & [March 10, 2021](#)**

[Pregnancy and COVID: What the Data Say](#) (*Nature*) Now, more than a year into the pandemic, research from groups around the world has shown that pregnant women with COVID-19 are at higher risk of hospitalization and severe disease than are women of the same age who are not pregnant. The rates of severe illness and death are also higher in pregnant women from certain minority racial and ethnic groups than in those in non-minority groups, mirroring the situation in the wider population.

[The Devastating Impact of Covid-19 on Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities in the United States](#) (*NEJM Catalyst*) A study across 547 U.S. health care organizations finds that individuals with intellectual disabilities are at substantially increased risk of dying from Covid-19.

[Convalescent Plasma Strikes Out As COVID-19 Treatment](#) (*NPR*) More than half a million Americans have received an experimental treatment for COVID-19 called convalescent plasma. But a year into the pandemic, it's not clear who, if anyone, benefits from it. That uncertainty highlights the challenges scientists have faced in their attempts to evaluate COVID-19 drugs.

[Acute Allergic Reactions to mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines](#) (*JAMA*) Anaphylaxis to the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines is currently estimated to occur in 2.5 to 11.1 cases per million doses, largely in individuals with a history of allergy. Allergic concerns contribute to vaccine hesitancy; we investigated acute allergic reaction incidence after more than 60 000 mRNA COVID-19 vaccine administrations.

[U.S. Administers 93.7 Million Doses of COVID-19 Vaccines: CDC](#) (*Reuters*) The United States has administered 93,692,598 doses of COVID-19 vaccines in the country as of Tuesday morning and distributed 123,232,775 doses, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Tuesday. The tally is for Moderna, Pfizer/BioNTech, and Johnson & Johnson's vaccines as of 6:00 a.m. ET on Tuesday, the agency said.

[Biden Ordering 100 Million More Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 Vaccine Doses To Cover U.S. Population](#) (*Forbes*) President Joe Biden will announce Wednesday he's directing officials at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to purchase an additional 100 million doses of Johnson & Johnson's Covid vaccine, multiple outlets report, which would allow for manufacturing challenges or needed booster shots and provide the U.S. with more than enough doses to inoculate its population.

[Pandemic Forces F.D.A. to Sharply Curtail Drug Company Inspections](#) (New York Times) The steep decline in oversight has stalled a number of new drug applications. The agency says it is trying to protect its employees but critics say inspectors should be considered essential workers and do their jobs.

ASPR TRACIE Releases

**"The Storm After the Storm:
Healthcare in TX Recovers from Severe Winter Weather"**

Available here: <https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/managing-the-storm-after-the-storm-healthcare-in-tx-recovers-from-severe-winter-weather.pdf>.

ASPR TRACIE Webinar

Healthcare System Cybersecurity Response: Experiences and Considerations

March 18, 2021 from 1:30-2:45 PM ET

Register today!

This webinar builds upon the recently released [Healthcare System Cybersecurity: Readiness and Response Considerations document and accompanying overview presentation](#) that describes how to use the resource.

Thousands of Security Cameras Hacked, Exposing Tesla, US Jails, Hospitals

(NDTV) A group of hackers say they breached a massive trove of security-camera data collected by Silicon Valley startup Verkada Inc., gaining access to live feeds of 150,000 surveillance cameras inside hospitals, companies, police departments, prisons and schools.

Companies whose footage was exposed include carmaker Tesla Inc. and software provider Cloudflare Inc. In addition, hackers were able to view video from inside women's health clinics, psychiatric hospitals and the offices of Verkada itself. Some of the cameras, including in hospitals, use facial-recognition technology to identify and categorize people captured on the footage. The hackers say they also have access to the full video archive of all Verkada customers.

Full story: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/thousands-of-security-cameras-hacked-exposing-tesla-jails-hospitals-2387447>

Cybersecurity Agency Takes Over Management of .Gov Domain

(Next Gov) Management of the internet domain reserved for government agencies and services—the .gov domain—has officially shifted from the government's landlord to its cybersecurity agency. As the property manager and self-positioned technology leader for the entire government, the General Services Administration was a natural choice to manage federal agencies' virtual front office in the earlier stages of the internet. But the web has proven to be a dangerous place, and if security is not a chief concern, it's often last. [<Read More >](#)

[CDC Clinician Zoom Webinar](#)

**The Role of Telehealth in Expanding Access to Healthcare During the COVID-19 Pandemic:
Considerations for Vaccine Uptake and Monitoring for Adverse Events**

March 11 at 2 PM ET

Zoom link below to join:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600341756?pwd=N2JKc3pOcW1ISGdtWUJQVkrjREt0dz09>

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 added or deleted, 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.