



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 11, 2021

KY COVID Update

The Governor reported on today's briefing that 1,211 new cases of COVID reported today, with 37 new deaths. Positivity rate is 3.95%. Over 910,000 have received their first COVID vaccination. 523 hospitalized, with 136 in an ICU and 75 on vents. Watch the full briefing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3kPwpGJZ_4
More data details and info: <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

CMS Updates Nursing Home Guidance with Revised Visitation Recommendations

(CMS) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), issued updated guidance today for nursing homes to safely expand visitation options during the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency (PHE).

This latest guidance comes as more than three million doses of vaccines have been administered within nursing homes, thanks in part to the CDC's Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program, following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) authorization for emergency use of COVID-19 vaccines.

According to the updated guidance, facilities should allow responsible indoor visitation at all times and for all residents, regardless of vaccination status of the resident, or visitor, unless certain scenarios arise that would limit visitation for:

Unvaccinated residents, if the COVID-19 county positivity rate is greater than 10 percent and less than 70 percent of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated;

Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met the criteria to discontinue transmission-based precautions; or

Residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.

The updated guidance also emphasizes that "compassionate care" visits should be allowed at all times, regardless of a resident's vaccination status, the county's COVID-19 positivity rate, or an outbreak.

Full release: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-updates-nursing-home-guidance-revised-visitation-recommendations>

Resources for ensuring physical security at COVID-19 vaccine Points of Distribution

(EMR-ISAC) As COVID-19 vaccine rollout continues across the country, threats to physical security could occur at any stage in the vaccine distribution process - at manufacturing sites; during transportation; at clinics, pharmacies and healthcare facilities; and at Points of Distribution, or PODs.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has [just released two resources](#) to assist vaccine facility owners and operators and POD managers to prepare for these physical security threats:

- An infographic, [COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Physical Security Measures](#). This resource breaks down vaccine distribution into four stages and provides an at-a-glance overview of physical security threat vectors for each stage, with mitigation measures and links to more in-depth information for each threat vector.
- A [COVID-19 Vaccine Points of Distribution Physical Security Action Guide](#). This resource outlines pre-planning protective measures and mitigation options for threats to physical security at vaccination PODs specifically.

To maximize distribution efforts, many PODs will operate in publicly accessible areas such as pharmacies, community centers, stadiums, convention centers, and parking lots. For this reason, ensuring physical security at PODs will likely require additional planning, resources and coordination between POD managers and the Emergency Services Sector (ESS).

Depending on the jurisdiction, the roles of ESS organizations in supporting physical security at PODs will vary. To conserve resources, some facility operators may want to locate PODs at sites that already have some security, such as the parking lot of a hospital. However, law enforcement or private security agencies may dedicate some of their staff to PODs. EMS may provide an ambulance on site. Public works may provide traffic signs and barriers and coordinate traffic flow in and out of the sites.

These two resources from CISA can be used to facilitate pre-planning between ESS organizations and POD managers on their physical security requirements. They can also serve as reference for ESS organizations to set up and manage physical security at PODs. (Source: [CISA](#))

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from March 11, 2021

[Pfizer/BioNTech Say Data Suggests Vaccine 94% Effective in Preventing Asymptomatic Infection](#)

(Reuters) Pfizer Inc and BioNTech SE said on Thursday that real-world data from Israel suggests their COVID-19 vaccine is 94% effective in preventing asymptomatic infections, meaning it could significantly reduce transmission.

[The Fukushima Tsunami 10 Years Later: A Correspondent Recounts the Day That Changed Japan](#)

(Washington Post) The first sign that something terrible had happened came as a notification on a station platform: My train was running late. It was a bullet train from Hiroshima to Kyoto. I was traveling through western Japan with friends. I was The Washington Post's Tokyo bureau chief at the time, and I knew enough about my adopted country to realize the bullet trains ran late only when there was a very good reason. I took an escalator down from the train platform.

2 Die in Denmark of Blood Clots After Vaccine Dose

Both doses came from same batch of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine

Learn more: <https://www.newser.com/story/303562/denmark-pauses-use-of-astrazeneca-vaccine.html>

HHS BinaxNOW Test Exchange Overview: Assistance for BinaxNOW Requesting Facilities

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has created a new initiative to help facilities transfer/receive Abbott's BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Antigen Cards. The goal of the Test Exchange is to provide an easy way for organizations to either ask for additional tests from others or offer surplus tests to others. Some organizations have a surplus of COVID-19 testing supplies, and other organizations are in need of additional supplies. Because tests have an expiration date, it is critical to get these supplies in the hands of organizations that will use them.

Instructions:

1. Visit <https://forms.gle/fzV51zF9AadjYE3eA>
2. Complete the form, including the number and type of tests kits needed/have in surplus
3. Submit form

Once organizations have entered their preferences they will be matched to other organizations, if available, and introduced using the contact information that they provided in the form. Testing organizations will be responsible for shipping and other logistics related to the exchange.

If you have any questions, please email TestExchange@datarobot.com.

New Report Finds Gaps in States' Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies

(Insurance News Net) The COVID-19 pandemic has starkly demonstrated that underinvestment in preparedness to respond to public health emergencies can cost hundreds of thousands of lives and wreak havoc on the economy. A new report released today by Trust for America's Health (TFAH) measured states' performance on 10 key emergency preparedness indicators and found room for improvement in every jurisdiction. The report, Ready or Not 2021: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters and Bioterrorism measured states' readiness for health emergencies of any kind (not just the COVID-19 crisis). It placed 20 states and the District of Columbia in a high level of preparedness category, 15 states in a middle preparation tier and 15 states in a low degree of preparation tier. <[Read More](#)>

Two important CIDRAP stories:

[COVID-19 survivors may be able to skip 2nd vaccine dose](#)
[Health workers' greatest COVID-19 risk is from community, new data show](#)

Monster storm to bring several feet of snow and tornadoes this weekend

(CBS News) A slow-moving, blockbuster storm is likely to bring the biggest snowfall in decades to parts of the Front Range of the Rockies and western Plains states this weekend, possibly challenging all-time records for some cities. On the warm side of the storm, the first spring season severe weather outbreak threatens Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. The massive, whirling storm system was diving southward from the Pacific Ocean into California on Wednesday, providing some much-needed rain and snow after the fourth-driest 18-month stretch in state history. Heavy downpours will bring an inch or two of rain to many parts of the state and over a foot of snow in the higher elevations. <[Read More](#)>

Related - National Hurricane Center to start issuing tropical outlooks before the June 1st start of hurricane season

(KHOU 11) It's Severe Weather Awareness Week, and there are some important changes when it comes to one of the most severe types of weather we can get in Texas: hurricanes. If you have lived along the Gulf Coast long enough, you probably already know that Atlantic hurricane season starts June 1. But tropical weather can threaten us before that date. <[Read More](#)>

NETEC PPE Guide Web App is Live

[Guide My PPE](#) is designed to give care providers illustrated guidance for donning and doffing PPE.

Website: <https://ppeguide.org/>

NECP Webinar: Addressing Information Overload, Stress, and Trauma from Emergency Communications
March 17 at 2 PM ET <Info: <https://www.cisa.gov/necp-webinars#>>

2021 NATIONAL STOP THE BLEED® Day project

Mark the date: [May 20th](#)

STOP THE BLEED® Scholarship and Training Kit Grant programs

[Click for SCHOLARSHIP Applications](#)

[Click for a TRAINING KIT GRANT Application](#)

Learn more: <https://nationalstopthebleeday.org/2021-stop-the-bleed-day-launched/>

New POINTER location-tracking technology for emergency responders shows groundbreaking accuracy in field tests

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory recently completed [successful field testing of a new location tracking technology](#) to enhance situational awareness for first responders. The technology is called POINTER, which stands for [Precision Outdoor and Indoor Navigation and Tracking for Emergency Responders](#).

POINTER is a [precision positioning sensor that locates first responders via low frequency magnetic fields](#).

Unlike some existing location-tracking technologies that use electromagnetic waves, POINTER can penetrate most natural materials like dirt, earth, water and thin metals from a standoff distance of 70 meters, determining an individual's exact position within a structure within one meter of accuracy.

DHS S&T will continue field testing POINTER in the coming months, leading up to operational field testing with several fire response agencies throughout the country in the Spring and Summer of 2021. A commercial product is projected to be available in early 2022. (Source: [DHS S&T](#))

On-demand, virtual training for emergency response to exposure from radioactive materials and toxic chemicals

[Chemical & Radiological Agents of Opportunity for Terrorism](#) is a free, virtual course reviewing the medical and psychological consequences of exposures. The course includes practical information regarding scene safety for such agents as high potency fentanyl analogs, inhaled irritants, and proper decontamination of a victim contaminated with radiological material.

This two-day course is divided into two one-day segments, Radiological Emergency Medical Management and Chemical Agents of Opportunity for Terrorism.

Continuing education credit is available for each segment of the course individually. If you register **before** the dates for each course segment listed below, you will be granted access to the on-demand materials. The on-demand course materials will not be available until the dates listed below.

- [Radiological Emergency Medical Management](#) - March 23, 2021.
- [Chemical Agents of Opportunity for Terrorism](#) - March 30, 2021.

For additional information about this training opportunity, see the [American College of Medical Toxicology website](#) or the [Course Flyer](#). To register for either or both course segments, visit ACMT's [course event](#) page.

(Source: [American College of Medical Toxicology](#))

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.