



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 12, 2021

Kentucky COVID-19 Update

([Press release](#)) On Friday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced 963 new COVID-19 cases in Kentucky and a positivity rate of 3.88%. There were 29 new deaths recorded.

“The number of new cases, deaths and the positivity rate all continue to decline,” the Governor said. “While this is encouraging, we need to remain committed to the public health measures that have helped Kentucky curb the number of infections, hospitalizations and deaths that would have otherwise occurred.”

To view the [full daily report](#), [incidence rate map](#), information on [testing locations](#), [vaccines](#), [contact tracing](#), [school reports and guidance](#), [guidance for health care providers](#) and the White House Coronavirus Task Force reports for Kentucky and more, visit kycovid19.ky.gov.

U.S. reaches COVID vaccine milestone of 100 million shots

(CBS) The U.S. has now administered over 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine — 101.1 million, to be precise — according to [figures posted](#) Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

That equates to more than 35 million Americans fully vaccinated — 10.5% of the total U.S. population. Nearly 66 million, or almost 20% of the total population, have gotten at least one dose. Nearly one-third of Americans age 65 and older are fully vaccinated.

Learn more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/covid-vaccine-100-million-shots-americans/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

CVS expands COVID-19 vaccine to 12 more states including Kentucky

Read more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/shopping/2021/03/11/cvs-covid-vaccine-appointments-teachers-vaccination/6951091002/>

Moderna just started trialing a modified version of its coronavirus vaccine

(BGR) Just as the COVID-19 vaccination campaigns started in Europe and North America in late December, reports began detailing the scary new coronavirus mutations that had emerged around the world. The UK strain (B.1.1.7) fueled a massive surge in the country, reaching its peak in the first weeks of January. But current vaccines are still effective against the UK variant. Another strain (B.1.351) was dominant in regions of South Africa as well, and research that followed showed it could evade the action of neutralizing antibodies, threatening to reduce the efficacy of vaccines. [The Brazilian version](#) (P.1) also turned out to have similar “powers,” with health officials worrying that the mutant could reinfect survivors and reduce vaccine efficacy.

An increasing number of studies showed that the current vaccines provide protection against the circulating strains, especially [the B.1.1.7 strain that spread rapidly to other countries](#). But both B.1.351 and P.1 could evade antibodies. Vaccine makers, including Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna, have released their own research demonstrating continued vaccine effectiveness against mutants. But they also said they’re [working on vaccine versions](#) adapted for the mutations. Moderna announced a new vaccine trial on Thursday for two different versions of its mRNA vaccine that were created to neutralize the B.1.351 strain.

Read more: <https://bgr.com/2021/03/12/coronavirus-vaccine-moderna-trial-south-african-mutation/>

Pharma Giant Sanofi Launches Human Trial of mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine

(Forbes) French pharmaceutical heavyweight Sanofi [said](#) it has started human trials for the second Covid-19 vaccine it has in development after delaying the release of its other candidate following disappointing results from early stage clinical trials—the vaccine is built using the same game changing mRNA technology deployed in Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech’s successful Covid-19 vaccines.

Full story: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/roberthart/2021/03/12/pharma-giant-sanofi-launches-human-trial-of-mrna-covid-19-vaccine/?sh=13bf6f797c91>

Hospital Emergency Rooms Struggle With Overdose Spike During Pandemic

(NPR) The CDC says hospitals saw a lot more emergency cases involving drug overdoses, as well as mental health crises and suicide attempts. Many emergency departments weren’t ready.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2021/03/12/976092386/hospital-emergency-rooms-struggle-with-overdose-spike-during-pandemic>

US Has Unused Vaccine, and Europe Wants It

Discover more: <http://newser.com/s303610>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [March 12, 2021](#)

[Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from Asymptomatic and Presymptomatic Individuals in Healthcare Settings Despite Medical Masks and Eye Protection](#) (*Clinical Infectious Diseases*) We describe 3 instances of SARS-CoV-2 transmission despite medical masks and eye protection, including transmission despite the source person being masked, transmission despite the exposed person being masked, and transmission despite both parties being masked. Whole genome sequencing confirmed perfect homology between source and exposed persons' viruses in all cases.

[A Year Into The Pandemic, The Incarcerated Among The Most Vulnerable](#) (*NPR*) In the year since the pandemic began, the coronavirus has severely impacted those held in U.S. jails and prisons. According to The Marshall Project, over 380,000 prisoners tested positive for the coronavirus between March 2020 and March 2021. Of those, 2,400 died. The close quarters makes social distancing nearly impossible, leaving the incarcerated population vulnerable.

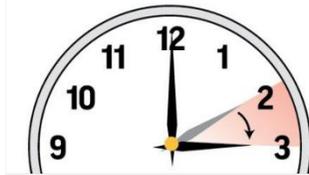
[The Uncounted: People who are Homeless are Invisible Victims of Covid-19](#) (*STAT News*) Despite the extraordinarily detailed statistics that parse the ages, races, and comorbidities of the nation's more than 500,000 Covid deaths, no one seems to have any idea how many homeless people have died. One attempt to track all U.S. Covid-19 homeless deaths through official records turned up just 373.

[Moderna And Pfizer On Track To Hit Vaccine Production Goals](#) (*NPR*) Before the pharmaceutical companies can hit their May goal, they'll need to reach an earlier target: Pfizer and Moderna agreed to supply 100 million doses a piece to the U.S. by the end of March. With just under three weeks left, both companies have their work cut out for them. So although around 80 percent of the time before the looming deadline has lapsed, the companies have only distributed 63 percent of the doses they're obligated to.

Spring ahead

AP

Daylight saving starts Sunday at 2 a.m. Set your clocks ahead one hour before bed Saturday.



No need to lose sleep over shift to daylight saving time

(AP) No need to lose sleep over the shift to [daylight saving time](#) this weekend. The sun will still come up, though the dawn's early light will break through later than it has during the months of standard time and the twilight's last gleaming will extend deeper into the evening.

The annual shift comes at 2 a.m. local time Sunday in most of the United States. Don't forget to set your clocks an hour ahead, usually before bed Saturday night, to avoid being late for Sunday morning activities. Standard time returns Nov. 7.

Story link: <https://apnews.com/article/daylight-savings-times-march-2021-af3e20faa4f955070bc4d75b99995db1>

Microsoft Exchange attacks increase

White House warns organizations have 'hours, not days' to fix vulnerabilities

(CNN) The Biden administration warned Friday that organizations face enormous risks from the recently disclosed [Microsoft Exchange vulnerabilities](#) that have affected thousands of private organizations. As attacks leveraging the vulnerabilities have escalated, the window for updating exposed servers is incredibly short -- "measured in hours, not days," a senior administration official told reporters.

For the first time, the US government has invited members of the private sector to participate in the multi-agency task force established in reaction to the server software flaws, the official said. Private entities will be given access to sensitive compartmented information facilities around the country in order to participate in classified discussions where necessary, the official added.

US intelligence agencies are not seeking any additional legal authorities to monitor for domestic cybersecurity incidents, the official added, as the Biden administration believes public-private partnership are the ideal model for detecting and mitigating cybersecurity threats.

The White House is not yet prepared to assign blame for the Microsoft Exchange attacks, national security adviser Jake Sullivan said earlier on Friday.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/12/politics/microsoft-solarwinds-biden-administration/index.html>

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 (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.