



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 14, 2021

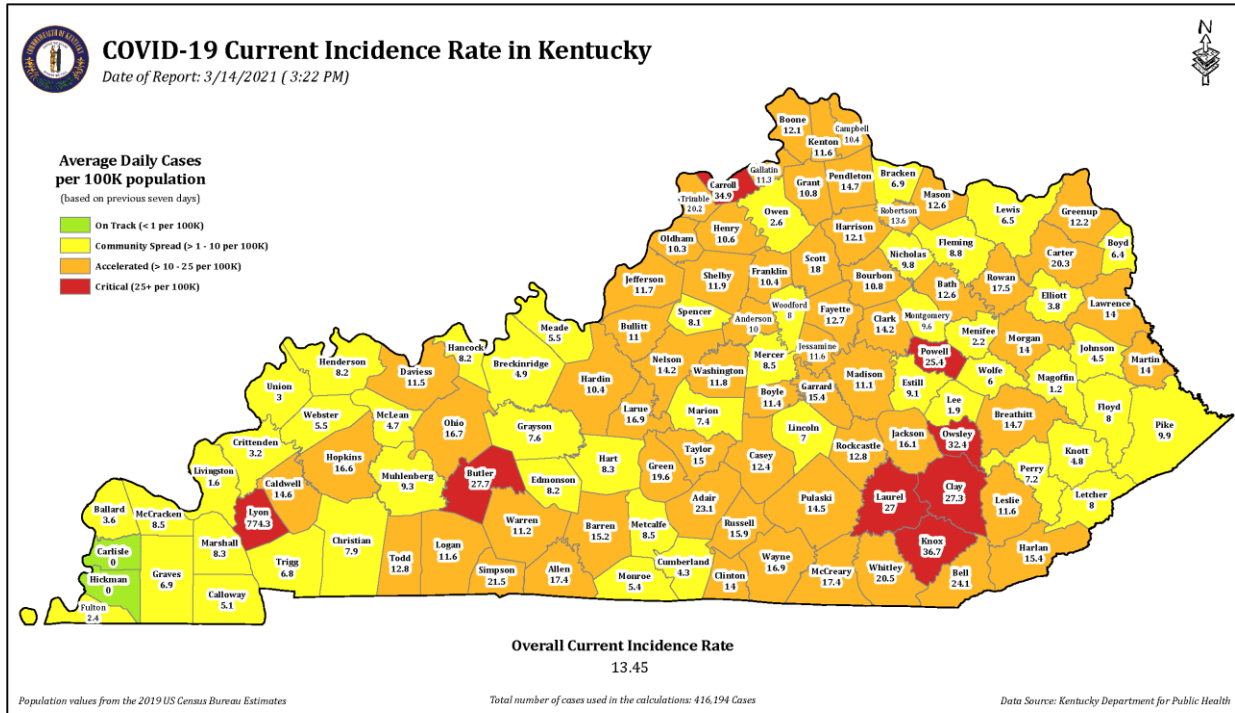
KY COVID Cases, deaths continue to decline, positivity rate still below 4%

(WYMT) - Governor Beshear did not hold a news conference Sunday, but did release updated information on the Commonwealth's battle with COVID-19. The Governor announced 445 new cases of COVID-19 Sunday, bringing the statewide total to 416,215 cases. 78 of Sunday's new cases were children 18 years or younger. 488 Kentuckians remain hospitalized, with 118 in the ICU. 69 patients remain on a ventilator. The state's positivity rate went up slightly, currently sitting at 3.99%.

Gov. Beshear also announced 16 new deaths on Sunday, bringing the state's death toll to 4,982.

4,680,023 tests have been administered in Kentucky so far, with at least 48,606 Kentuckians having recovered from the virus.

As of Sunday, 8 out of 120 counties are in the red zone on the state's COVID-19 incidence rate map.



You can see how your county is doing right now [here](#). You can also find more information, including how to protect your family, by visiting Kentucky's official COVID-19 website: <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

Source: <https://www.wyml.com/2021/03/14/governor-beshear-cases-deaths-continue-to-decline-positivity-rate-still-below-4/>

More than 850 COVID-19 cases across two state prisons in Lyon County

Learn more: https://www.wpsdlocal6.com/coronavirus_news/more-than-850-covid-19-cases-across-two-state-prisons-in-lyon-county/article_015f2370-83be-11eb-9d75-37ed04180cc2.html

U.S. administers milestone 100M vaccine doses

(UPI) The United States has administered a milestone 100 million COVID-19 vaccine doses, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data showed Saturday. More than 133 million vaccine doses have been distributed and more than 101 million have been administered, according to the agency's COVID Data Tracker. Nearly 20% of the US population has received a first dose of the vaccine, and more than 10% are fully vaccinated. Full story: https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2021/03/13/covid-19-vaccine-milestone/4701615655477/?ur3=1

UK's vaccine clinic moving quickly through Phase 1C

Learn more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/uks-vaccine-clinic-moving-quickly-through-phase-1c-as-kentucky-nears-1-million-vaccinated>

AstraZeneca finds no evidence of increased blood clot risk from vaccine

(Reuters) AstraZeneca Plc on Sunday said it had conducted a review of people vaccinated with its COVID-19 vaccine which has shown no evidence of an increased risk of blood clots.

“A careful review of all available safety data of more than 17 million people vaccinated in the European Union and UK with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca has shown no evidence of an increased risk of pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis or thrombocytopenia, in any defined age group, gender, batch or in any particular country,” the statement said.

Authorities in Denmark, Norway and Iceland have suspended the use of the vaccine over clotting issues, while Austria stopped using a batch of AstraZeneca shots last week while investigating a death from coagulation disorders. Ireland on Sunday temporarily suspended AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine “out of an abundance of caution”.

The drugmaker said additional testing has and is being conducted by the company and the European health authorities and none of the re-tests have shown cause for concern.

There are also no confirmed issues related to quality of any of its COVID-19 vaccine batches used across Europe and rest of the world, the company said.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-astrazeneca-vaccin/astrazeneca-finds-no-evidence-of-increased-blood-clot-risk-from-vaccine-idUSKBN2B60L6>

US health officials warn of false positives with a widely used lab test for COVID-19, flu

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/551040800>

Study: Half of COVID-19 patients have depression symptoms months later

(UPI) More than half of those with confirmed COVID-19 show symptoms of major depressive disorder up to four months after infection, a study published Friday by [JAMA Network Open](#) found. Those who suffered from serious illness due to the virus had a five-fold higher risk for major depressive disorder than people who had mild illness or no COVID-19 symptoms at all, the data showed.

In addition, COVID-19 patients still experiencing persistent headaches related to infection four months after diagnosis were 33% more likely to have symptoms of major depressive disorder.

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/03/12/coronavirus-COVID-depression-months-after-diagnosis-study/5201615558265/

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

States where you can expect to live the longest and shortest

KY, IN, OH, MS, TN and WV are near the bottom!

Story link: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/12/us/life-expectancy-state-rankings-wellness-trnd/index.html>

CDC Study link with data: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr70/nvsr70-1-508.pdf>

Americans bought guns in record numbers in 2020 during a year of unrest ...and the surge is continuing

(CNN) Gun sales in the United States reached a record level last year, with the biggest increases in background checks for firearms overlapping with months of social and political unrest, according to industry and government data.

Industry data and firearms background checks show nearly 23 million guns were purchased in 2020, according to [Small Arms Analytics](#), a consulting firm based in Greenville, South Carolina. That's a 65% increase compared with 2019, when 13.9 million guns were sold, according to Small Arms Analytics.

In March, the FBI conducted more than [3.7 million background checks](#) -- a month that overlapped with the start of the pandemic lockdowns. That's more than 1 million additional background checks than were conducted in March 2019.

Story link: https://www.wpsdlocal6.com/news/americans-bought-guns-in-record-numbers-in-2020-during-a-year-of-unrest--/article_fa7685cc-84fc-11eb-8998-ab5e23836fbd.html

Why daylight saving time doesn't have to ever end — and maybe shouldn't

We only spend a third of the year in standard time now anyway.

What's a few late sunrises compared to always having light in the evening?

Learn more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/daylight-saving-time-could-be-our-permanent-time-there-are-ncna1261032>

Alert: Cyber-attacker 'Hafnium' targeting businesses using onsite Microsoft Exchange servers

(KyForward News) Attorney General Daniel Cameron issued a consumer alert for organizations and businesses using onsite Microsoft Exchange Servers. Currently, a nation-state attacker, called "Hafnium," is exploiting organizations who use this system to gain access to sensitive information and data. Cyber-attackers who successfully gain access to this information may encrypt it for ransom, execute a destructive attack, or sell it on the dark web.

If your business or organization uses an onsite Microsoft Exchange Server, the U.S. Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), encourage you to take the following steps to protect your network.

- First, review a summary of the attack and technical mitigation tips in the Joint Cyber Security Advisory [provided by CISA and the FBI here.](#)
- Second, examine Remediating Microsoft Exchange Vulnerabilities created by CISA for tips on guarding against, detecting, and addressing issues related to these vulnerabilities. Companies and organizations [can access this information here.](#)

Taking action quickly is key to protecting your network from these vulnerabilities.

Read more: <https://www.kyforward.com/alert-cyber-attacker-hafnium-targeting-businesses-using-onsite-microsoft-exchange-servers/>

Bill to require Kentucky drivers to pass a vision screening exam at each driver's license renewal nears the legislative finish line

(KY Health News) Kentucky is close to becoming the 43rd state to require drivers to have a vision screening every time they renew their license. The rule is in a House bill that has passed the Senate is back in the House for consideration of changes made to it in the Senate.

"House Bill 439 is a commonsense piece of legislation that will save lives by ensuring drivers on Kentucky roadways have the necessary visual acuity to operate a vehicle," Senate Republican Caucus Chair Julie Raque Adams of Louisville told the Senate. "Kentucky only requires a screening when you get your license the first time, even though studies show that visual acuity declines with age."

If the bill becomes law, its effect would be delayed until July 2024 to allow circuit court clerks, who issue licenses, time to prepare for it. Kentuckians would continue to have the choice of renewing their license every four or eight years, and a vision screening test would be required at each renewal.

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The Express newsletter for March 2021

Read it here: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/The-Express--March-2021-Updates.html>

Behind the Forecast: Why the National Weather Service is eliminating 'Advisories'

Learn more: <https://www.wave3.com/2021/03/12/behind-forecast-why-national-weather-service-is-eliminating-advisories/>

-----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.