



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 15, 2021

**Statewide Tornado Drill** for both Kentucky AND Indiana  
**TUESDAY March 16 at 10:15 AM EDT (9:15 AM CDT)**

### **99.7% of Kentucky's First Vaccine Doses Administered** *Governor also celebrates 1 millionth Kentuckian vaccinated today*

(From [press release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear announced 99.7% of all first vaccine doses sent to Kentucky have been administered after another record-setting week. Over the past week, more than 142,000 Kentuckians have received a COVID-19 vaccine.

Today, Gov. Beshear, First Lady Brittainy Beshear and Kentucky Public Health Commissioner Dr. Steven Stack recognized the milestone of 1 million Kentuckians being vaccinated (photos [here](#)) during a ceremony at the state Capitol. To learn more, see the [full release](#).

As of 4 PM today, there were 396 new cases reported, with a positivity rate of 3.99%. 464 are hospitalized, with 114 in the ICU and 67 on a vent. 23 new deaths were recorded.

See full press release for more: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prld=662>

### **CDC Looks at 3-Foot Rule**

*Research finds no difference in infection rates in schools that don't maintain 6-foot distance*

(Newser) One restriction that complicates reopening schools could be eased soon. New research has found that schools might be able to safely welcome students back in person as long as they wear masks and follow other pandemic guidelines—even if they maintain only 3 feet of social distancing instead of the current 6. The study, published last week in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, compared coronavirus cases among employees and students in 242 Massachusetts school districts. It found no statistically significant differences in infection rates between districts that kept people 6 feet apart and those that mandate 3 feet of space, the [New York Times](#) reports. Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of the Brown University School of Public Health, [tweeted](#) that he'd welcome a policy change, "because 6 ft doesn't protect teachers. But it does keep kids out of school."

Dr. Anthony Fauci said over the weekend on [CNN](#) that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is looking at the study and conducting its own social distancing research. The official CDC guideline for schools is 6 feet in counties where coronavirus transmission rates are high, while the WHO suggests 1 meter, which is about 3.3 feet. Although many teachers unions support it, the 6-foot rule makes reopening difficult for some schools unless they add portable classrooms or move to a shorter school day, per [Yahoo News](#). Other mitigation measures are at least as important, health officials say; the study found that infection rates were lower in schools that required masks than they were in the schools' cities at large. "Want to open schools safely?" Jha wrote. "Masks. Ventilation. Testing. Vaccinating teachers/staff. That's the list."

Source: <https://www.newser.com/story/303685/cdc-looks-at-3-foot-rule.html>

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.