



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 18, 2021

National Poison Prevention Week is March 21-27

National Poison Prevention Week raises awareness of poison prevention nationwide during the third full week of March every year. Next week is an opportunity to highlight the dangers of poisons and promote community involvement in poisoning prevention. [Learn more and check out our resources to help you plan activities in your community.](#)

KY COVID-19 for Thursday, March 118th

(Reference Press Release) Today the Governor reported that there were 785 new COVID cases, with a positivity of 3.23%. This positivity rate is the lowest since July 3rd. There are 31 new deaths recorded today. There was also an audit off the deaths reported in the past, and the state will be adding about 604 more deaths to the COVID totals. 417 will be added today, and 187 over the next few days, Of the 417, 103 are from Jefferson alone.

The state will be opening three new mass vaccination sites next week, or in early April:

- Cardinal Stadium Purple parking lot, near the University of Louisville main campus. The state's largest site in the state with 24 lanes.
- Whitney Young Elementary School in the Shawnee neighborhood of west Louisville
- Kentucky Dam Village in Gilbertsville (March 24th)

The Governor also noted that (assuming a steady supply) as of Monday the state will open vaccinations to all Kentuckians 50 and older. As of April 12th, the state plans to open up vaccinations to all Kentuckians 16 and older.

Watch YouTube of Briefing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORrw4jmQQDQ>

KY Health Bills Sent to Governor for Signature

(From [KY Health News](#))

The General Assembly sent Beshear several health-related bills that were prompted by the pandemic.

Senate Bill 8, sponsored by Sen. Mike Wilson, R-Bowling Green, **would allow** adults, emancipated minors and parents making decisions for children to opt out of mandatory vaccines in an epidemic for medical reasons, religious grounds or a "conscientiously held belief."

The bill does not change any current school immunization requirements, which allow exemptions for medical or religious reasons only, nor does it impact any workplace requirements. The Beshear administration has said it has no plans to mandate vaccinations in the pandemic.

House Bill 140, sponsored by Rep. Deanna Frazier, R-Richmond, would permit **telehealth services** that were allowed to expand due to the pandemic to remain in place after it ends. A key part of the bill would continue to allow audio-only visits, which is important because the state has many places without high-speed internet and many patients who are not adept at using technology.

HB 276, sponsored by Rep. Kim Moser, R-Taylor Mill, would allow Kentuckians trained as temporary Covid-19 personal care attendants under an executive order to apply their supervised training toward their Registered Nurse Aide certification.

SB 154, by Sen. Tom Buford, R-Nicholasville, would allow advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to prescribe and supervise home-health services. During the pandemic, federal law has allowed APRNs and PAs that authority. An emergency clause ensures there would be no gap in care if the federal rule ended.

SB 148, by Sen. Danny Carroll, R-Benton, would prevent Beshear from reducing capacity at child-care centers below what was allowed before the pandemic. Carroll operates such a center. Beshear **said** Monday that the centers were allowed to return to normal class sizes. The facilities have been asked to follow a set of guidelines to ensure the safety of the children and staff.

Experts urge caution as 15 states see uptick in COVID-19 infections

(ABC) Even with the race to vaccinate as many Americans as possible accelerating, some experts are warning that if Americans do not also follow proper safety and mitigation measures, the U.S. could see a **COVID-19** resurgence.

Although the country's national daily case average continues to fall -- about 32.5% over the last month -- nearly a third of all states have seen their average number of cases rise at least 10%. Those 15 states are: Alaska,

Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon and West Virginia, according to an ABC News analysis of state data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Several states -- Delaware, Idaho, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon and **West Virginia** -- have seen their case averages increase by at least 25% in the last week. There also are 18 states -- Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, **Kentucky**, Louisiana, Montana, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, **Ohio**, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, **Tennessee**, Utah and Wyoming -- that are experiencing a plateau, not a decline, in daily case averages.

Read full story: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/experts-urge-caution-15-states-uptick-covid-19/story?id=76512738>

([MedPage Today](#)) As of Thursday at 8:00 a.m. ET, the [unofficial COVID-19 toll](#) in the U.S. stood at 29,608,162 cases and 538,093 deaths -- up 58,608 and 1,171, respectively, since the same time Wednesday.

CDC classifies SARS-CoV-2 variants, posts data on U.S. prevalence

(From [AHA Today](#)) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has created a [federal classification scheme](#) for SARS-CoV-2 variants and posted information on their [prevalence in the United States](#). The classification system, developed with the Department of Health and Human Services' SARS-CoV-2 Interagency Group, identifies variants of "interest," "concern" or "high consequence" based on their ability to increase transmission or disease severity and impact diagnostics, treatments or vaccines. CDC plans to update the pages as new variants emerge and add model-based estimates of their prevalence.

Walmart becomes largest U.S. vaccine provider to join push for digital vaccination credentials

(NY Times) People who get Covid-19 shots at thousands of Walmart and Sam's Club stores may soon be able to verify their vaccination status at airports, schools and other locations using a health passport app on their smartphones. The retail giant said on Wednesday that it had signed on to an international effort to provide standardized digital vaccination credentials to people. [<Read More >](#)

Stories from CIDRAP:

- ✓ [Older adults more apt to get COVID-19 reinfection, study finds](#)
- ✓ [Half of hospital COVID survivors note symptoms 4 months on](#)

U.S. Intelligence Agencies Warn Of Heightened Domestic Extremism Threat

(NPR) A new report from the U.S. Intelligence Community warns of future, unspecified, violence committed by domestic extremists, who have been emboldened by the siege on the U.S. Capitol and conspiracy theories about the 2020 election and coronavirus pandemic. President Biden commissioned a threat assessment shortly after taking office. An unclassified summary of the findings, issued by the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security, was released Wednesday. [<Read More >](#)

Related stories from [IACP "The :Lead":](#) [Axios](#) ; [Associated Press](#); The [New York Times](#); and [USA Today](#)

Link to The Report: https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_0301_odni_unclass-summary-of-dve-assessment-17_march-final_508.pdf

"Substance" In Letter Leads To Partial Evacuation Of Nashville, Tennessee Courthouse

The [Tennessean](#) (3/17, Tamburin, Jeong) reports the Metro Courthouse in Nashville, TN was partially evacuated Wednesday after a "suspicious" substance was found in an envelope delivered through the mail, along with "a message criticizing the city's decision to settle a police shooting lawsuit" involving the shooting of Daniel Hambrick in 2018. The substance in the letter turned out to be harmless. The FBI "has the letter and is conducting an investigation into its origin."

Tornadoes and heavy winds strike five states as storms continue into the Southeast

(CNN) Tornadoes struck the Deep South after a line of storms moved through the region Wednesday, part of a system that is expected to continue further into the Southeast and the Eastern Seaboard on Thursday, leaving millions at risk from severe weather conditions. At least 24 preliminary reports of tornadoes across five states were tracked Wednesday, according to the National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center, with the greatest storm damage apparent in Alabama and Mississippi. [<Read More >](#)

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [March 18, 2021](#)

[What Happens When a Person Is Simultaneously Infected With Two Different SARS-CoV-2 Variants?](#)

(*Global Biodefense*) Scientists in Brazil recently reported that two people were simultaneously infected with two different variants of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This co-infection seemed to have no effect on the severity of patients' illness, and both recovered without needing to be hospitalized. Although this is one of the few such cases recorded with SARS-CoV-2 – and the study is yet to be published in a scientific journal – scientists have observed infections with multiple strains with other respiratory viruses, such as influenza. This has raised questions about how these viruses may interact in an infected person, and what it could mean for generating new variants.

[AstraZeneca Reaches Agreement with U.S. Government to Supply Up To 500,000 Additional COVID-19 Antibody Treatment Doses](#)

(*Homeland Preparedness News*) AstraZeneca announced plans this week to supply up to 500,000 additional doses of AZD7442, an under-development, long-acting antibody combination meant for use against COVID-19, modifying an existing agreement with the U.S. government. Specifically, the agreement was reached with the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Defense (DoD). It builds on an agreement from October 2020, which called for 100,000 initial doses of the treatment and offered developmental support in return. AZD7442 is currently in late-stage development.

[UK Reports Five Cases of Rare Blood Clots in 11 Million AstraZeneca Shots, Continues with Vaccine](#)

(*Reuters*) Britain's medicines regulator said there had been five cases of a rare type of blood clot in the brain among 11 million given AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine but said that it found the benefits of the shot far outweighed any possible risks

[Moderna Begins Phase 1 Study Dosing for New, Refrigerator Stable COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine](#)

(*Homeland Preparedness News*) The first candidates were dosed this week as part of a phase one study of mRNA-1283, a new mRNA COVID-19 vaccine from Moderna, Inc. Unlike its predecessor, which has proved highly effective against the original strain of the virus, this new vaccine candidate is meant to solve a major hiccup to transportation and storage: temperature stability.

[Roche Releases Test for SARS-CoV-2 Variants](#)

(*Homeland Preparedness News*) Roche recently announced the launch of a new cobas SARS-CoV-2 Variant Set 1 Test to detect and differentiate between viral variants, recognizing the growing prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 variants, such as those first seen in the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Brazil. "Viruses naturally evolve over time," Thomas Schinecker, CEO of Roche Diagnostics, said. "While most mutations do not have a clinical impact, some variants need to be tracked carefully as they seem to spread more easily and quickly.

Researchers see need for warnings about long range wildfire smoke

Researchers at Colorado State University recently published a study on the health impacts of long-range wildfire smoke. The study, [Differential Cardiopulmonary Health Impacts of Local and Long-Range Transport of Wildfire Smoke](#), is published in *GeoHealth*, a journal from the American Geophysical Union. The research team believes that evacuation efforts and media coverage of local wildfires may have helped protect residents from adverse health effects of local smoke exposure as well as direct impacts of the fires. This messaging could be extended to reach people affected by long range smoke. (Sources: [American Geophysical Union](#), [ScienceDaily.com](#))

NETEC COVID-19 Webinar Series

Ebola in the Age of COVID

Wednesday, March 24th, 1 PM ET/Noon CT

CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER!

Webinar: *What the COVID-19 vaccine means for EMS operations*

(NHTSA) Millions of EMS clinicians and members of the public across the nation have now received a COVID-19 vaccine. But exactly what does that mean for EMS systems and organizations? The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), Office of EMS is hosting a webinar in its EMS Focus webinar series to provide the opportunity to learn what we know, and what we don't know yet, about how the vaccines are changing our approach to the coronavirus pandemic. You'll hear from experts helping to create and implement guidance for EMS services during these unprecedented times. They'll address topics such as:

- Testing and quarantine implications
- EMS clinicians who have not been vaccinated
- Vaccines and coronavirus variants

This webinar will be held on **Thursday, March 25, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 pm ET**. Attendees will be encouraged to submit questions during any point of the discussion. The webinar and question and answer period will last approximately one hour.

To register, visit NHTSA Office of EMS' [registration page](#) for this event. (Source: [NHTSA](#))

EIS/Global Resilience Commission Webinar

Water Infrastructure Resilience: What if there is no second chance?

Wednesday, 24 March 11:00 - 12:00 ET

[Advance Registration](#)

Upcoming COVID-19 ECHO Session

COVID-19 and the Vaccine for Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women

Thursday, March 25, 2021 @ 11am

Link to their website & registration: <https://med.emory.edu/departments/medicine/divisions/infectious-diseases/serious-communicable-diseases-program/covid-19-resources/echo-upcoming-session.html>

Questions can be directed to scdp.echo@emory.edu

Related story - [Vaccinated Mother Gives Birth To First Newborn With Covid-19 Antibodies](#)

ASPR TRACIE – Webinar recording from today now available

Healthcare System Cybersecurity Response: Experiences and Considerations

The PowerPoint presentation is now available on ASPR TRACIE at: <https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/cybersecurity-response-experiences-and-considerations-webinar-final.pdf>.

The title page of the PowerPoint presentation includes a link to the webinar recording. You can also directly access the recording at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/2999617667872996111>. You will be asked to enter your name and email address prior to accessing the recording.

This webinar builds upon the recently released Healthcare System Cybersecurity: Readiness and Response Considerations (<https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/aspr-tracie-healthcare-system-cybersecurity-readiness-response.pdf>) document and accompanying overview presentation (<https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/practical-cybersecurity-recommendations-planning-and-recovery-best-practices.pdf>) of how to use the resource.

Please keep a look out for future webinars from ASPR TRACIE. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for future webinars, please contact ASPR TRACIE at askasprtracie@hhs.gov or visit <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov>.

Microsoft releases one-click mitigation tool for Exchange Server hacks

Microsoft has released a one-click mitigation tool as a stop-gap for IT admins who still need to apply security patches to protect their Exchange servers.

Released [on Monday, March 15](#), the tool is designed to mitigate the threat posed by four actively-exploited vulnerabilities that have collectively [caused havoc](#) for organizations worldwide.

Microsoft released emergency fixes for the critical vulnerabilities on March 2. However, the company estimates that at least 82,000 internet-facing servers are still unpatched and vulnerable to attack.

The [Microsoft Exchange On-Premises Mitigation Tool](#) has been designed to help customers that might not have security or IT staff on hand to help and has been tested across Exchange Server 2013, 2016, and 2019.

(Source: [ZDNet](#))

KY Public Health is Recruiting Two Healthcare Regional Coordinators!

HPP Region 4 (HEART): <https://gohire.org/job/healthcare-coalition-readiness-and-response-coordinator-ky-region-4/>

HPP Region 7 (Appalachia HCC): <http://gohire.org/job/healthcare-coalition-readiness-and-response-coordinator-hccrc-for-region-7-kentucky-appalachian-healthcare-coalition-kdph/>

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.