



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 21, 2021

COVID-19 positivity rate below 3% as Kentucky sees 10th-straight week of declining cases

(WDRB) Cases of COVID-19 have continued to decline in Kentucky for 10-straight weeks, Gov. Andy Beshear said Sunday, reporting a positivity rate below 3% as the state exceeds 1 million vaccinations administered.

In a video update [posted to Twitter](#), Beshear reported 316 new cases of COVID-19 and 16 deaths in which the virus was a contributing factor. Two additional deaths were reported based on additional death certificate audits the state is conducting for deaths that occurred from November to the end of January.

With the addition of Sunday's numbers, Kentucky has seen 420,828 cases of COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, with 5,738 deaths related to the virus. At least 49,105 Kentuckians have recovered, [according to a report from Kentucky Public Health](#). There are currently 463 Kentucky residents in the hospital with COVID-19, 111 of which are in an ICU, with 71 on ventilators, [according to Kentucky Public Health](#).

The state's positivity rate, which measures the proportion of tests returning positive, sits at 2.97%, the lowest reported rate since July 3, Beshear said.

Link to this article: https://www.wdrb.com/news/covid-19-positivity-rate-below-3-as-kentucky-sees-10th-straight-week-of-declining-cases/article_d11dc80a-8a80-11eb-8c06-33996962e02d.html

European Scientists Zero In On AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine Blood Clot Link

(NPR) Two teams of European scientists, working independently, say they believe they've identified the cause of a rare blood clotting condition that has occurred in some people after receiving the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. If correct, their research could mean any blood clots that occur could be easily treated.

There were reports earlier this month of roughly 30 blood clots occurring after vaccination, a few of them fatal. This led more than a dozen European countries to suspend their use of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Most countries resumed using it, however, after the [European Medicines Agency](#) conducted an investigation and declared on Thursday that the AstraZeneca vaccine is safe and effective. The EMA said the benefits of the vaccine far outweigh the potential risks — and pointed out that the rate of post-vaccine blood clots was actually lower than the expected rate in the general population.

Now, a group of German researchers, led by professor Andreas Greinacher at the University of Greifswald, said on Friday in a [statement](#) that they believe the AstraZeneca vaccine, in some cases, prompts overactivation of platelets in the blood, which can then cause potentially deadly clots. They said it's similar to what happens with a condition called [heparin-induced thrombocytopenia](#).

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/03/21/979781065/european-scientists-zero-in-on-astrazeneca-blood-clot-link>

Dr. Fauci explains why social distancing changed for students and not teachers at school

(WAVE/NBC) - Dr. Anthony Fauci was on NBC's Today Show talking about updated CDC guidance that three feet of physical distancing is safe in schools.

Half the social distancing guidance may have children back in school across the country soon.

The CDC on Friday relaxed its physical distancing guidelines for children in schools to recommend most students maintain at least three feet of distance. It had previously said schools should try to maintain at least six feet of distance between children.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and Chief Presidential Medical Advisor, said if children wear masks consistently and you compare that at three feet versus children that are six feet, there was no difference in the infection rate among them.

Fauci said for that reason, based on the scientific data and evidence, the CDC has modified its recommendation.

Video report and read more: <https://www.wave3.com/2021/03/21/dr-fauci-explains-why-social-distancing-changed-students-not-teachers-school/>

NETEC COVID-19 Webinar Series
Ebola in the Age of COVID
Wednesday, March 24th, 1 PM ET/Noon CT
CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER!

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](#)

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.