



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 26, 2020

Gov. Beshear Provides Update on COVID-19

(From [Press Release](#)) On Friday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced the state's COVID-19 positivity rate has declined to 2.8% and he continued to encourage eligible Kentuckians to get vaccinated. On Monday, all Kentuckians 40 and older will become eligible for three highly effective COVID-19 vaccines, in addition to all individuals in Phase 1A, 1B and 1C. By April 12, all Kentuckians 16 and older will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

As of 4 PM the Governor reported 646 new cases, with 383 hospitalized, 88 in an ICU, and 46 on vents. Total COVID-19 deaths reached 6,008, with 27 new deaths and 11 new audit deaths.

More than 30 states expanding COVID-19 vaccine eligibility

(CIDRAP) With national vaccinations ramping up to more than 2.5 million people per day, [at least 34 states](#) have made all adults eligible to receive one of three approved COVID-19 vaccines—or plan to by mid-April—as the United States continues to race to vaccinate as many people as possible while variant cases continue to rise.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [COVID Data Tracker](#) shows 173,525,335 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been delivered in the United States, and 133,305,295 doses have been administered, with 47,419,832 Americans fully vaccinated.

States should expect 11 million more doses of the Johnson & Johnson one-dose vaccine next week, and supply of that vaccine should jump substantially in April. States are still most commonly administering either Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna, two-dose mRNA vaccines. Pfizer and Moderna are currently supplying roughly 24 million doses a week to the country.

Seven states reported increasing hospital admissions this week. In total, the United States reported 67,443 new COVID-19 cases yesterday, and 1,558 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins COVID-19 [tracker](#). The country has [confirmed](#) 30,129,858 cases of the novel virus, including 547,756 deaths.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/03/more-30-states-expanding-covid-19-vaccine-eligibility>

CDC - Symptoms of Anxiety or Depressive Disorder and Use of Mental Health Care Among Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic

(MMWR) During August 2020–February 2021, the percentage of adults with recent symptoms of an anxiety or a depressive disorder increased from 36.4% to 41.5%, and the percentage of those reporting an unmet mental health care need increased from 9.2% to 11.7%. Increases were largest among adults aged 18–29 years and those with less than a high school education.

Learn more: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7013e2.htm?s_cid=mm7013e2_w

[COVID vaccine in pregnancy triggers strong immune response in moms, babies](#)

(CIDRAP) COVID-19 vaccination can prompt a vigorous immune response in pregnant women, who then pass the resulting antibodies on to their newborns through the placenta and breast milk, according to a [study](#) published yesterday in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines From [March 26, 2021](#)

[Far-Right Extremists Move From 'Stop the Steal' to Stop the Vaccine](#) (*New York Times*) Adherents of far-right groups who cluster online have turned repeatedly to one particular website in recent weeks — the federal database showing deaths and adverse reactions nationwide among people who have received Covid-19 vaccinations. Although negative reactions have been relatively rare, the numbers are used by many extremist groups to try to bolster a rash of false and alarmist disinformation in articles and videos with titles like “Covid-19 Vaccines Are Weapons of Mass Destruction — and Could Wipe out the Human Race” or “Doctors and Nurses Giving the Covid-19 Vaccine Will be Tried as War Criminals.”

[Experts: 3-foot Rule in Schools Problematic in Light of COVID Variants](#) (CIDRAP) Late last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued updated guidance on school reopening, saying that 3 feet, not 6 feet, of physical distancing between students was sufficient in most elementary schools—regardless of the level of community spread of COVID-19. Now several experts are concerned that schools may be opening during an inflection point in the pandemic and are being misguided about how to do so.

[What it Will take to Vaccinate the World Against COVID-19](#) (*Nature*) A special report outlines the challenges — from unleashing the power of mRNA vaccines, to the battle for temporary intellectual-property relief. Within just a few months, pharmaceutical firms have produced hundreds of millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccine. But the world needs billions — and as fast as possible. Companies say they could make enough vaccines to immunize most of the world’s population by the end of 2021. But this doesn’t take into account political delays in distribution, such as countries imposing export controls — or that the overwhelming majority of doses are going to wealthier countries.

[Age Groups that Sustain Resurging COVID-19 Epidemics in the United States](#) (*Science*) We find that as of 29 October 2020, adults aged 20 to 34 and 35 to 49 are the only age groups that have sustained SARS-CoV-2 transmission with reproduction numbers (transmission rates) consistently above one. The high reproduction numbers from adults are linked both to rebounding mobility over the summer and elevated transmission risks per venue visit among adults aged 20 to 49. Before school reopening, we estimate that 75 of 100 COVID-19 infections originated from adults aged 20 to 49, and the share of young adults aged 20 to 34 among COVID-19 infections was highly variable geographically. After school reopening, we reconstruct relatively modest shifts in the age-specific sources of resurgent COVID-19 toward younger individuals, with less than 5% of SARS-CoV-2 transmissions attributable to children aged 0 to 9 and less than 10% attributable to early adolescents and teenagers aged 10 to 19.

Another toilet paper shortage may be coming

(Fortune) The world really doesn’t need more toilet paper problems. But unfortunately the biggest producer of wood pulp -- the raw material for products including bath tissue -- is warning that the [global crunch in shipping containers could start creating supply snags](#).

Suzano SA primarily ships its pulp in cargo vessels known as break bulk. With demand surging for ships that carry ribbed steel containers, the squeeze is starting to spill over to break bulk and threatens to delay the company’s shipments, Chief Executive Officer Walter Schalka said in an interview.

Of course that’s happening at a time when demand for residential toilet paper has gone way up and consumers have taken to stockpiling and panic buying. Schalka is concerned that the shipping problems are going to snowball and only get worse from here. Significant disruptions to the pulp trade could eventually impact supplies of toilet paper if [producers don’t have ample inventories](#).

Full story: <https://fortune.com/2021/03/25/brace-yourself-globe-faces-another-epic-toilet-paper-crisis/>

'Superbugs' kill more than 35K people in the US each year. Doctors may be partially to blame,

(USA Today) As the medical community develops treatments to combat the coronavirus, another deadly enemy continues to lurk in hospitals across the country: antibiotic-resistant infections.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calls antibiotic resistance [one of the “biggest public health challenges of our time.”](#) and a new study suggests doctors may be partially to blame for its prevalence.

The study, [published last week in the peer-reviewed journal JAMA Network Open](#), found more than half of antibiotics prescribed in hospitals were not consistent with recommendations, alarming health experts who say inappropriately prescribing medications contributes to antibiotic resistance.

Full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2021/03/25/superbugs-kill-more-than-35-k-americans-each-year-doctors-blame/4796184001/>

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.