



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 28, 2021

Reader's Note: Since the cyber security threat a few weeks ago to Microsoft software, and especially on-site Exchange servers, a number of facilities have ratcheted-up their security settings. This is causing problems with receipt of the Emergency Preparedness Update for some due to the nature of the security protocols on the older equipment we are using to distribute this newsletter. We are exploring options, and hope to make changes in the near future. We appreciate your patience.

Governor's Saturday COVID-19 Update

([KDPH Daily Report](#)) The governor's office announced 637 new COVID-19 cases in Kentucky on Saturday. The state total is now at least 424,666 cases to date. The state's positivity rate remains under three percent, at 2.80%. At least 400 Kentuckians are currently hospitalized, with 92 in the ICU and 46 on ventilators. Officials also reported 15 new deaths Saturday. That brings the total COVID-19 related deaths in Kentucky to 6,023. HPP Region 10 in southcentral Kentucky is the only area where ICU capacity in use is reported to be over 80% (88.89%).

More than 50 churches participating in one-day, 12-hour vaccination event in West Louisville

([Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear and faith leaders representing more than 50 churches kicked off a 12-hour vaccination event organized by UofL Health in West Louisville. On Saturday, UofL Health expected to administer about 2,500 vaccines in its largest single-day community vaccine event so far. The Kentucky Center for African American Heritage (KCAAH) provided an ideal location, to ease the barriers and increase access within a federally designated Medically Underserved Area.

The Beshear administration and UofL Health are collaborating to open the state's largest drive-through vaccine clinic at UofL Cardinal Stadium on April 12, when all Kentuckians ages 16 and older will be able to sign up for appointments. At the site, UofL Health will be vaccinating up to 4,000 people per day while vaccine supplies continue to be available. Starting March 31, Kentuckians can schedule appointments that begin April 12 by calling 502-681-1435 or visiting uoflhealth.org.

About 1.25 million Kentuckians, more than a third of adults, have received at least their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at the more than 570 vaccination sites throughout Kentucky.

The Governor continues to highlight [vaccination sites with available appointments](#) and encourages Kentuckians in Phase 1A, 1B or 1C, as well as any Kentuckians who are 50 and older, to sign up.

On March 29, all Kentuckians 40 and older will be eligible for all three highly effective COVID-19 vaccines, although vaccination sites will continue to prioritize older individuals.

Full story: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=687>

Lexington company developing COVID-19 vaccine nasal spray

(WLEX) A Lexington pharmaceutical company is partnering with a national biopharmaceutical company to develop a COVID-19 vaccine that will be administered as a nasal spray.

Altimmune is a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company that has developed products for liver disease, stimulants to boost the immune system against cancer, nasal vaccines for anthrax, the flu and now COVID-19.

Learn more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/lexington-pharmaceutical-company-developing-covid-19-vaccine-nasal-spray>

[Ky. missed over 700 Covid-19 deaths because one state worker stopped double-checking reports in an antiquated system](#)

(KY Health News) Kentucky missed more than 700 Covid-19 deaths from October to January for the same reason Ohio missed 4,000: One state employee stopped reconciling death certificates with reports from health departments using an antiquated system, [reports](#) Deborah Yetter of the Louisville **Courier Journal**.

Kentucky and Ohio officials said the problem arose late last year as coronavirus 19 cases and Covid-19 deaths "began to pile up and workers became overwhelmed," Yetter reports. "Some death reports lag behind simply because it takes time to compile, review and forward the information to public health officials in Frankfort."

<Click the headline above to read the full story and see a chart of the missing data by county.>

Even with vaccinations on the rise, epidemiologists urge caution as nation reopens

"There's a real danger in the United States of having yet another surge."

(ABC) Even with millions of vaccine shots pricking arms every day, epidemiologists are warning that it's too soon for states to ease up on public [COVID-19](#) measures without risking another surge.

Although more than 47 million people in the United States have been fully vaccinated -- 32 states, plus Washington, D.C., now are offering [vaccines](#) to anyone 16 or older -- experts agree we're nowhere near herd immunity. But several states -- Iowa, Mississippi, Texas and Wyoming among them -- have fully reopened, repealing all COVID-19-related mandates. Other states are continuing to loosen their own restrictions. Meanwhile, there are worrying signs the pandemic may be [accelerating in some parts of the country](#), with 20 states now reporting more than a 10% increase in the number of new cases. Epidemiologists interviewed by ABC News said there are myriad reasons it's too soon to ease mandates, including the new and more contagious COVID-19 variants, undetected cases and worries about long COVID.

See full story: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/vaccinations-rise-epidemiologists-urge-caution-nation-reopens/story?id=76612249>

Overdose deaths soar in Kentucky, Indiana during pandemic

(WDRB) -- While COVID-19 ravaged the country during most of 2020, so too did another killer, quietly decimating the lives of thousands.

Overdose deaths have long been a problem, but the year-over-year trends during the COVID-19 pandemic are causing experts and those who help people with substance abuse alarm. Fueled by a myriad of factors, [data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) shows a dramatic increase in overdose deaths across the country.

From August 2019 to August 2020, overdose deaths in the U.S. increased by 26.8%. Deaths from overdoses in Indiana and Kentucky increased even more than the national average. Indiana went up by 30.5%, and Kentucky was up 43.9%, according to the data.

Read more: https://www.wdrb.com/news/overdose-deaths-soar-in-kentucky-indiana-during-pandemic/article_03337ab8-8e6b-11eb-a7e2-d7135266885f.html

You Can Get Your COVID Vaccine Card Laminated for Free

<http://newser.com/s304148>

Related story - New York Is First State With Vaccination Proof App

<http://newser.com/s304184>

Did you know? NWS says EF-1 tornado, EF-0 touched down in LaRue Co & Grayson Co

Learn more: <https://www.whas11.com/article/news/kentucky/tornado-storm-damage-kentucky/417-9a4ce17e-026f-4aff-af26-b3631dea92e2>

Tennessee Valley Authority announces plans to build state's largest solar site in Logan County

(Kentucky Today) The Tennessee Valley Authority announced plans last week to build the largest solar-plus-storage project in its Kentucky service area, which will benefit two well-known companies. The new Logan County solar farm, part of the TVA's Green Invest program, will provide Facebook's regional data center operations with 145 megawatts of solar power and General Motors' Corvette Plant in Bowling Green with 28 megawatts of solar power...

Learn more: <https://www.kyforward.com/tennessee-valley-authority-announces-plans-to-build-states-largest-solar-site-in-logan-county/>

U.S. Postal Service Seeks Big Service Changes

(Wall Street Journal) The leaders of the U.S. Postal Service proposed [an overhaul of its operations](#) to address financial losses and adapt to a world where people are mailing fewer letters and shipping more boxes. Proposal calls for higher prices for first-class mail but no widespread Post Office closures

Here is what you need to know: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-postal-service-seeks-big-service-changes-heres-what-you-need-to-know-11616509814>

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.