



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 29, 2020

**Gov. Beshear reports 310 new COVID-19 cases; 2.89% positivity rate
1,319,323 Kentuckians have gotten at least their first vaccine dose.**

Full story: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/03/29/watch-live-gov-beshear-gives-update-on-covid-19/>

Governor's press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=690>

CDC Director Fears 'Impending Doom' If U.S. Opens Too Quickly

(NPR) Amid growing optimism about the rising pace of vaccinations in the U.S., the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has one request for the American people: Don't act as if the pandemic is over – it's not. In an emotional plea during the White House COVID-19 Response Team briefing on Monday, the CDC chief, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, described a feeling of "impending doom."

"We have so much to look forward to, so much promise and potential of where we are and so much reason for hope," Walensky said. "But right now, I'm scared."

The cause of her concern? A rising number of coronavirus cases in the United States. The most recent seven-day average is just below 60,000 cases per day – a 10% increase compared with the previous week.

Hospitalizations are up, too: about 4,800 admissions per day over the last week, up from an average 4,600 per day in the previous seven-day period. And deaths, which tend to lag cases and hospitalizations, have also begun to rise: increasing nearly 3%, to a seven-day average of about 1,000 per day.

See more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/03/29/982302294/cdc-director-fears-impending-doom-if-u-s-opens-too-quickly>

Two-dose COVID-19 vaccines reduce infection risk by up to 90%

(UPI) -- The two-dose [COVID-19](#) vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna lower the risk for infection in healthcare workers and first responders by up to 90%, according to [data](#) released Monday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Among healthcare workers, first responders and other essential workers who received both doses of the one of the vaccines, which were developed using similar technology, risk of infection was reduced by 90% two or more weeks after inoculation, the data showed.

Even two weeks after those studied received the first dose of a two-dose vaccine, the risk of infection dropped by 80%, the agency said.

Full story: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/03/29/coronavirus-vaccine-infection-risk-cdc/9241617026615/?ur3=1

Cancer causing chemical in some hand sanitizers

(CBS) Hand sanitizers have become trusted tools to keep people safe and healthy in the fight against the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) — but now, an independent study suggests some products may be having the opposite effect.

Learn more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hand-sanitizer-benzene-cancer-chemical/>

US to stop Eli Lilly Antibody distribution

(CNN) The US government in coordination with Eli Lilly said it will no longer distribute the Covid-19 monoclonal antibody therapy bamlanivimab for use on its own. The halt is due to the ["sustained increase"](#) in coronavirus variants in the United States. The government stopped distributing the treatment on Tuesday. Last week, the US Food and Drug Administration [updated guidance](#) to say the therapy on its own may not work as well against variants.

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/25/health/variants-eli-lilly-antibody-therapy-distribution-stops/index.html>

CIDRAP: [COVID-19 antibodies appear to ward off B117 better than B1351](#)

SE Kentucky hit hard by flooding again after heavy weekend rain

(WKYT) Southeastern Kentucky has once again been hit hard by flooding. After this weekend's storms brought flash flooding across much of southern and southeastern Kentucky, many areas along the Cumberland River are still dealing with residual flooding.

Heavy rain and storms dumped upwards of three to five inches of rain across the region. The Cumberland River quickly rose into its moderate flood stage and is currently leveling out just below 31 feet. Floodwaters have

completely cut off many low-lying areas and even the football field for the University of the Cumberlands sits under water. According to Emergency Management, all of this flooding led to several issues where rescue squads had to be involved.

Read more: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/03/29/southeastern-kentucky-hit-hard-by-flooding-again-after-heavy-weekend-rain/>

Flooding leaves at least 7 dead in Tennessee

(CBS) The deadly flash flooding that swept through Tennessee with little warning has killed at least seven people, authorities said Monday. Five weather-related fatalities were reported in Davidson County, one in Cheatham County and another in Hawkins County, according to the Tennessee Department of Health. Volunteers and emergency crews carried out more than 240 rescues in Nashville and neighboring counties over the weekend. "The teams responded bravely to rescue people not only from their homes and cars but also to make sure they go to known areas of residents that may live outdoors," said Nashville Fire Department Chief William Swann.

Learn more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/tennessee-nashville-flooding-death-toll/>

UK's Well@Work Podcast – Episode 17

Recognizing and Managing Burnout

<https://youtu.be/OngPWmNbJX0>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines, from [March 29, 2021](#)

[How COVID-19 Affects the Brain](#) (*JAMA Psychiatry*) COVID-19 has resulted in more than 120 million cases and 2.6 million deaths to date. Respiratory and gastrointestinal symptoms are accompanied by short- and long-term neuropsychiatric symptoms (NPs) and long-term brain sequelae. Some patients present with anosmia, cognitive and attention deficits (ie, brain fog), new-onset anxiety, depression, psychosis, seizures, and even suicidal behavior. These present before, during, and after respiratory symptoms and are unrelated to respiratory insufficiency, suggesting independent brain damage.

[Symptoms of Anxiety or Depressive Disorder and Use of Mental Health Care Among Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, August 2020–February 2021](#) (*CDC 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.

[Wastewater Monitoring Outperforms Case Numbers As a Tool to Track COVID-19 Incidence Dynamics When Test Positivity Rates Are High](#) (*MedRxiv*) Here we investigated how the dynamics of new COVID-19 infections estimated based on wastewater monitoring or confirmed cases compare to true COVID-19 incidence dynamics. Wastewater and case data were combined with a shedding load distribution and an infection-to-case confirmation delay distribution, respectively, to estimate incidence dynamics. Incidence dynamics estimated based on wastewater data were found to better track the timing and shape of the reference infection peak compared to estimates based on confirmed cases.

UPI News: Survey: 1 in 5 Colorado high school students has access to a handgun

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/03/29/children-firearms-access-colorado-study/4871616784129/?app_view=1&ur3=1

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.