



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 31, 2021

KY COVID-19 Update

All Kentuckians 16 and Older Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccines April 5th

(From [press release](#)) On Wednesday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced all Kentuckians 16 and older will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine April 5. Only the Pfizer vaccine is approved for 16 and 17-year-olds, so this is restricted to sires approved to administer the Pfizer vaccine.

The Governor also shared a new [video](#) encouraging all Kentuckians who are eligible to join the team and get vaccinated. Largest Vaccination Site in Kentucky to Open April 12 at Cardinal Stadium. UofL Health professionals will be able to vaccinate up to 4,000 Kentuckians per day at the Cardinal Stadium site. Over its seven-week run, the site will have the capacity to vaccinate nearly 200,000 Kentuckians from across the commonwealth. The Cardinal Stadium vaccination site will be open to all Kentuckians ages 16 and up. For more information or to make an appointment, visit [UofLHealth.org](#) or call [502-681-1435](tel:502-681-1435). To see a list of vaccination sites statewide that have openings this week, visit [vaccinemap.ky.gov](#).

As of 4 PM there were 815 new cases, with a positivity rate of 2.96%. 22 new deaths were recorded today, with 3 audit deaths, for a total of 6,090.

Pfizer Says COVID Vaccine Was 100% Effective in Trial of Children Ages 12 to 15

(KHA) Pfizer and BioNTech announced earlier today that their coronavirus vaccine was found to be 100% effective at protecting against COVID-19 in a trial of more than 2,200 children between the ages of 12 and 15.

"Across the globe, we are longing for a normal life. This is especially true for our children," said **Ugur Sahin**, CEO and co-founder of BioNTech.

"The initial results we have seen in the adolescent studies suggest that children are particularly well protected by vaccination, which is very encouraging given the trends we have seen in recent weeks regarding the spread of the B.1.1.7 UK variant," he added. [Full Article](#)

CIDRAP - [AstraZeneca COVID vaccine 70% effective vs B117 variant](#)

Axios: [66% of epidemiologists warn mutations could make COVID vaccines ineffective in year or less](#)

New Coronavirus Can Also Infect Cells in the Mouth

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/552431262>

Russia registers world's first COVID-19 vaccine for animals

(Reuters) Russia has registered the world's first vaccine against COVID-19 for animals, the country's agriculture safety watchdog Rosselkhoznadzor said on Wednesday, after tests showed it generated antibodies against the virus in dogs, cats, foxes and mink. The World Health Organization has expressed concern over the transmission of the virus between humans and animals. The regulator said the vaccine would be able to protect vulnerable species and thwart viral mutations.

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-russia-vaccine-ani-idUSKBN2BN0MY>

Personal protective equipment litter from the pandemic is killing wildlife

(CNN) Waste from lifesaving personal protective equipment is killing birds, fish and other wildlife across the globe, a study has found. Animals are fatally ingesting or becoming entangled in discarded latex gloves and disposable face masks, while others have started building their homes using the same material, researchers said.

Scientists found a fish trapped in a medical latex glove in a canal cleanup in the Dutch city of Leiden in August, which prompted researchers to explore whether there was a larger problem.

The biologists found hundreds of discarded face masks in Leiden's historical canals over the course of a few months and soon realized a worrying picture was emerging.

Full story: <https://www.wlky.com/article/personal-protective-equipment-litter-from-the-pandemic-is-killing-wildlife/35983446#>

'Baby box' advocates in Ky. celebrate after Beshear signs legislation

Safe Haven Baby Boxes could be installed in Kentucky fire stations and hospitals as early as this summer.

Story link: <https://www.wave3.com/2021/03/30/baby-box-advocates-ky-celebrate-after-beshear-signs-legislation/>

School plotters often are bullied, suffer from depression

(AP) The warning signs are all there.

Students who were making plans to attack schools showed the same types of troubled histories as those who carried them out. They were badly bullied, often suffered from depression with stress at home and exhibited behavior that worried others, according to [a U.S. Secret Service study](#) released Tuesday that examined 67 thwarted school plots nationwide. Those warning signs are also found in [many of the adults who commit mass shootings](#).

The study by the Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center is a twist on the study of school shootings. The group analyzed 100 students responsible for plotting 67 attacks nationwide from 2006-18 in K-12 schools. It's [a companion report to its study in 2019](#) on student attackers, the most comprehensive analysis of school shootings since [the 1999 Columbine High School killings](#).

Full story: <https://apnews.com/article/school-plotters-bullied-suffer-depression-9384152d8af45bd5da2c4060ecf2eae3>

**As U.S. Hurricane Season Approaches, Businesses Are Warned To
'Prepare For The Worst'**

(Forbes, March 30) Officials of AccuWeather, a commercial weather-forecasting service, today warned that businesses and people on or near the U.S. eastern and southern coasts should "prepare for the worst" in the upcoming hurricane season which begins June 1 and ends November 30. In a briefing for reporters, company officials discussed their outlook for the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season which they said, "...is expected to be another season featuring above normal numbers of tropical storms and hurricanes." AccuWeather will release its hurricane outlook to the public tomorrow. <[Read more](#)>

CDC Health Alert 0441:

**Acute Non-Viral Hepatitis of Unknown Etiology
Potentially Associated with an Alkaline Water Product**

Five cases of acute non-viral hepatitis of unknown etiology in children were reported to the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) between November and December 2020. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is assisting the SNHD in investigating a potential link between these illnesses and the consumption of an alkaline water product called "Real Water" and other possible etiologies. The purpose of this Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory is to advise clinicians and health departments to have a high index of suspicion for cases of acute non-viral hepatitis and to report any cases to their local health authority.

At least 10 hacking groups using Microsoft software flaw

(Reuters) At least 10 different hacking groups are using recently discovered flaws in Microsoft Corp's mail server software to break in to targets around the world, cybersecurity company ESET said in a blog post on Wednesday. The breadth of the exploitation adds to the urgency of the warnings being issued by authorities in the United States and Europe about the weaknesses found in Microsoft's Exchange software.

The security holes in the widely used mail and calendaring solution leave the door open to industrial-scale cyber espionage, allowing malicious actors to steal emails virtually at will from vulnerable servers or move elsewhere in the network. Tens of thousands of organizations have already been compromised, Reuters reported last week, and new victims are being made public daily.

In addition, some of the back doors left on compromised machines have passwords that are easily guessed, so that newcomers can take them over.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cyber-microsoft/at-least-10-hacking-groups-using-microsoft-software-flaw-researchers-idUSKBN2B224O>

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.