



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 5, 2021

## National Public Health Week

Today, Gov. Beshear recognized National Public Health Week, April 5-11, 2021.

“Thank you to everyone who works in this field. They have been our rocks in getting through this pandemic. You are heroes who are working so hard to make all our communities and families healthier,” said Gov. Beshear.

To learn more: <http://www.nphw.org/NPHW-2021>

### KY flood victims still begging for help

(WKYT) It's been one month since historic flooding damaged parts of Kentucky. While many volunteer groups brought relief for some areas, other Kentuckians are still begging for help.

Governor Andy Beshear has said he plans on asking for a Federal Disaster Declaration. [President Biden approved Beshear's request for the Kentucky ice storm this week.](#)

Full story w/video: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/04/03/kentucky-flood-victims-still-begging-for-help/>

### KY COVID Update

([Press Release](#)) On Monday, Gov. Andy Beshear said all Kentuckians 16 and older are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine is approved for individuals 16 and older; the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are approved for individuals 18 and older. The Governor said more than 1.438 million Kentuckians have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose so far.

The Governor and Dr. Steven Stack, commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health, shared new guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that fully vaccinated Americans can safely travel domestically. Updated travel guidance will be posted on [kycovid19.ky.gov](http://kycovid19.ky.gov) soon.

As of 4 PM today there were 110 new cases, with a positivity rate of 2.9%. There were 4 new deaths recorded, and 4 new audit deaths.

### HHS Launches Vaccine Public Education Campaign

(*Homeland Preparedness News*) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is launching a new public education campaign to encourage people to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and increase confidence in the vaccines. The department will create a nationwide network of trusted voices – local voices people know and trust – called the COVID-19 Community Corps. The group members will get regularly updated public health information and resources that they can then use within their communities to help get friends, family, and followers vaccinated.

### Smartphone camera can help doctors measure pulse, breathing rate

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/552725084>

### CIDRAP News Extracts

- ✓ [With quickened vaccination pace, US races against COVID variants](#)
- ✓ [Studies detail large COVID outbreaks at US prisons, jails](#)

### Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines

Extracts from [April 5, 2021](#)

[Can Technology Increase COVID-19 Vaccination Rates?](#) (*Lancet Digital Health*) The WHO Digital Health Flagship initiative has stated that digital technology could play a critical role during the COVID-19 pandemic by improving communications between people and health services, empowering individuals and patients, and strengthening critical public health functions including disease surveillance. Can technology also help build trust and promote vaccination within communities that are most at risk?

[Epidemics and Pandemics: Lessons from the Past, Coordinating for the Future](#) (*Physicians for Human Rights*) The COVID-19 pandemic is certainly not the first global health crisis we've encountered, nor will it be the last. As technology advances and the global community learns from epidemics and pandemics past, how can we build robust surveillance systems to track the emergence of diseases, especially among populations with less technological access, and ensure an equitable and cooperative global prevention and vaccination response? Join Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) on Thursday, April 8 at 12 p.m. EDT for a discussion that

includes using technology and data in tracking and monitoring global health crises and ensuring equity in vaccine distribution.

[The Biden Administration Puts Johnson & Johnson In Charge of a Baltimore Plant That Ruined Millions of Doses of its Vaccine](#) (*New York Times*) The Biden administration on Saturday put Johnson & Johnson in charge of a Baltimore contract plant that ruined 15 million doses of its Covid-19 vaccine, and moved to stop the facility from making another vaccine, developed by AstraZeneca, senior federal health officials said. The extraordinary move by the Department of Health and Human Services will leave the Emergent BioSolutions facility solely devoted to making the Johnson & Johnson single-dose vaccine and is meant to avoid future mix-ups, according to two senior federal health officials. Johnson & Johnson confirmed the changes, saying it was “assuming full responsibility” for the vaccine made by Emergent.

[Former Biden, Trump Advisers Renew Push to Delay Second Covid Vaccine](#) (*STAT News*) As Covid-19 cases spike and coronavirus variants continue to spread, the Biden administration is facing renewed calls to delay second vaccine doses and blanket more of the U.S. population with an initial shot. Advocates of a strategy focused on first doses include Democratic and Republican senators, Trump administration surgeon general Jerome Adams, and at least four physicians or epidemiologists who advised President Biden on pandemic response issues prior to his inauguration, including the prominent surgeon and author Atul Gawande. Despite the new advocacy, and its own warnings of “impending doom,” the Biden administration has given no indication it will budge. But the shift in opinion underscores the growing alarm at a possible fourth wave of U.S. Covid-19 cases — and frustration with the federal government’s lack of flexibility.

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**Congressional Briefing:  
Ready or Not 2021: Protecting the Public's Health  
from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism  
April 7, 2021 | 2:00 – 3:30 PM EDT**

Join Trust for America's Health for a virtual Congressional briefing on the new report [Ready or Not 2021: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters and Bioterrorism](#). A panel of subject matter experts will discuss the nation's readiness for public health emergencies, examine the findings of the report, and discuss key recommendations for policymakers. The briefing will include time for Q&A from the audience. [RSVP](#)

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](mailto: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.