



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 6, 2021

KY COVID Update

On Tuesday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced 344 new COVID-19 cases and a 2.89% positivity rate. There were 7 new deaths recorded today, with 7 audit deaths, for a total of 6,184.

To view the [full daily report](#), [incidence rate map](#), information on [testing locations](#), [vaccines](#), [contact tracing](#), [school reports and guidance](#), [guidance for health care providers](#) and the White House Coronavirus Task Force reports for Kentucky and more, visit kycovid19.ky.gov.

Press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&priId=701>

A dangerous Covid-19 variant has spread to all 50 US states. Experts worry it could send cases surging

(NY Post) The [highly contagious variant that first emerged in the United Kingdom](#) has now spread to all 50 states — as experts warn that there are not enough vaccines on hand to prevent it from causing another surge in cases.

More than 15,000 cases have already been detected across the US of the B117 variant, which is believed to be more transmissible and deadlier than previous versions, [CNN reported](#). “America appears to be done with the pandemic. The virus is not done with us,” Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, told the outlet.

Full story: <https://nypost.com/2021/04/06/dangerous-covid-19-variant-has-spread-to-all-50-us-states/>

Health industry grapples with COVID vaccine mandates

(Axios) As coronavirus vaccines become less scarce, employers such as nursing homes and hospitals are debating whether to require their employees to be vaccinated, [the Washington Post reports](#).

Health care workers often interact with the members of society most vulnerable to severe coronavirus infections, making a particularly strong case for vaccine mandates. At least a half-dozen long-term care companies have announced imminent vaccine mandates, per the Post.

Full story: <https://www.axios.com/covid-vaccine-mandates-health-industry-b72759cb-2059-417e-9dc1-bc0a03a49274.html>

CDC updates guidance for cleaning surfaces to protect against Covid-19

(CNN) The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated its guidance for cleaning and disinfecting facilities and homes to prevent the spread of Covid-19, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said Monday during the White House Covid-19 Response Team briefing.

The science has shown that people can get infected via contaminated surfaces, but the risk is low. Regular cleaning of these surfaces with soap or detergent works. Disinfection is not necessary, Walensky said. “Disinfection is only recommended in indoor settings, schools and homes where there has been a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19, within the last 24 hours,” Walensky said.

In most cases, fogging, fumigation and electrostatic spraying is not recommended as a primary method of disinfection, and actually carries several safety risks.

Learn more: https://www.cnn.com/webview/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-vaccine-updates-04-05-21/h_fa00c2ae9d4743d2db24e10feac86e88

CDC Briefing: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/science-and-research/surface-transmission.html>

CIDRAP News Extracts

- [Doctor group advises shorter antibiotic course for common infections](#)
- [New findings in COVID-related kids' syndrome, Kawasaki disease](#)
- [Global COVID-19 cases climb for 6th straight week](#)

FEMA announces additional funding for reopening, including eligible medical facilities

(From [AHA Today](#)) The Federal Emergency Management Agency yesterday announced additional assistance under its public assistance program for eligible costs to safely reopen and operate certain private nonprofits in response to the COVID-19 emergency, including private nonprofit medical facilities. Authorized by President Biden in January, the [interim policy](#) provides 100% federal funding for eligible costs and work conducted Jan. 21

through Sept. 30, 2021, including certain personal protective equipment, cleaning and disinfection, COVID-19 diagnostic testing, screening and temperature scanning, and temporary physical barriers for social distancing.

Moderna vaccine effective at six months

(From [AHA Today](#)) The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine continued to protect 33 healthy adults six months after receiving the second dose, according to an ongoing clinical trial examining the vaccine's durability, published today in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#). Last week, Pfizer also [announced](#) that its COVID-19 vaccine was effective up to six months after the second dose.

ASPR Cybersecurity Survey

(ASPR) The team as HHS's Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) is undertaking an academic research project that is aiming to understand the current state of preparedness with hospital emergency managers in regards to a cyber attack. Dr. Jordan Selzer, an Emergency Department physician and Disaster Fellow with a keen interest in cyberterrorism's impact on hospitals, is leading the effort.

The project hypothesize that much of the country has some level of awareness, but is currently underprepared. ASPR would like to survey as many healthcare organizations as possible in order to gain a robust, descriptive dataset. Once collected, they will analyze and publish the data in an academic journal with the hopes that it will inform future conversations about the current state of preparedness and how best to prioritize cybersecurity in the healthcare sector.

In regards to the survey, the information will be collected anonymously, however, they will be able to see general geotag data of the IP filling out the survey. This information would only be used to describe data at the FEMA regional level, and only if they have a robust enough dataset. No individual institutions will be identified or identifiable in the hopes that they will get honest responses to the survey questions.

Please find the [preview](#) link to the survey below. Feel free to click through and answer the questions as they will not be included in the final data collection: When the survey officially comes out please watch for, and complete it, to be included in the study's data set.

https://ucsd.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/SV_a5HS1jcgNqViomh?Q_CHL=preview&Q_SurveyVersionID=current

**US DHS [Feature Article:](#)
[Pointing to the Future of Lifesaving Firefighting Technology](#)**

Cities Bypass Police, Send Community Responders On Mental Health Calls

(From the IACP [The Lead](#)) [USA Today](#) (4/5) reports that in response to several high-profile deaths from police responding to mental health calls, "a growing numbers of localities are exploring mental health emergency response programs that do not involve police officers." There has been a growing consensus that armed police are not "best-suited for mental health emergency calls." There are three states "now operating civilian programs dispatched through 911, and many more are drafting or piloting programs" to respond to calls where there is a mental health emergency.

US Law Enforcement Concerned About Increase in Wrong-Way Crashes

From the IACP [The Lead](#)) The [Deseret News \(UT\)](#) (4/5, Reavy) reports, "On a recent conference call with the heads of other state highway patrol troopers, Utah Highway Patrol Lt. Nick Street said the conversation turned to a topic that had been on his mind. Crashes caused by drivers going the wrong way." The News adds, "While the head of the Utah Highway Patrol was talking about an increase in wrong-way crashes locally – including fatal crashes – other administration heads said they are seeing the same thing in their states, Street said," and "the group realized that an increase in wrong-way crashes is a problem nationwide. 'There were 2,008 deaths from wrong-way driving crashes on divided highways between 2015 and 2018, an average of approximately 500 deaths a year,' according to statistics from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, 'That is up 34% from the 375 deaths annually from 2010 to 2014.'"

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 (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.