



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 7, 2021

KY COVID Update

On Wednesday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced 1,028 new COVID-19 cases. Of those, 300 are from Monday and Tuesday, but could not be confirmed and announced until today due to a technical issue on the reporting platform. The positivity rate is 2.87%. four new deaths were recorded. 383 are currently hospitalized, with 112 in the ICU and 66 on a vent.

Press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prld=704>

Governor Requests Major Disaster Declaration from Federal Government for Historic Flooding

Declaration would assist individuals, communities impacted by flooding

([Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear submitted a request to President Joe Biden today asking that a Major Disaster Declaration be issued for some of the worst flooding in Kentucky history, after unprecedented rainfall led to flash flooding, mudslides and landslides across the commonwealth. From Feb. 26 to March 1, Kentucky experienced more than seven inches of rain in four Southcentral and Southeastern Kentucky counties. Flooding occurred on the Green, Kentucky, Licking, Ohio, Red and Mississippi rivers.

More than 44 counties have reported more than 1,200 instances of damage to infrastructure, debris removal and emergency measures totaling over \$49 million. Kentucky, to date, has requested FEMA joint assessments in 36 counties, including Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Cumberland, Elliott, Floyd, Franklin, Greenup, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Lincoln, Magoffin, Marion, Martin, Mason, McCreary, Morgan, Ohio, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Trigg, Union, Whitley and Wolfe. As of March 30, 2021, FEMA has verified in excess of \$30 million in Public Assistance damages. The state threshold for requesting a declaration is \$6.7 million.

The Governor issued a State of Emergency Order on Feb. 28, 2021. Forty-eight counties and 31 cities also declared local states of emergency. Of the 48 counties declaring a state of emergency for this flooding, 26 were severely impacted by a February 2021 ice storm for which President Biden issued a Major Disaster Declaration on March 31.

Five states account for 43% of the country's new Covid-19 cases in the past week

(CNN) Just five states have accounted for about 43% of new coronavirus cases over the last week, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. New York, Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania and New Jersey had more than 196,400 of the country's 453,360 cases reported in the last week, according to data available Wednesday morning. Those states are home to just 22% of the US population, according to estimates from the US Census Bureau.

Case rates have risen especially in [Michigan](#) lately, averaging more than 6,600 cases a day over a week now against 1,350 daily cases five weeks ago. And [elected officials](#) and health experts have said highly contagious variants such as B.1.1.7 [have helped spur increases there](#) and in other parts of the country.

And B.1.1.7, first identified in the UK, is now the most common strain of coronavirus in the United States, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky [said Wednesday](#).

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/07/health/us-coronavirus-wednesday/index.html>

[MedPage Today](#): AZ Vax Trial Halted in Kids

An official of the European Medicines Agency said [he believes there is a link](#) between the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and blood clots. (*Barron's*)

In a related development, Oxford University has [stopped a trial](#) of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine in teenagers and children due to concerns over blood clotting. (*Wall Street Journal*)

Oral COVID-19 vaccine being tested in L.A. area

(CBS) An oral vaccine being developed by one of the owners of the Los Angeles Lakers could offer protection from [COVID-19](#) without the need for an injection, [CBS Los Angeles reports](#). Researchers at the Chan Soon-Shiong Research Institute in El Segundo are testing whether a series of capsules might work as well as, or even better than, than existing COVID vaccines.

"To have a vaccine that's room temperature that could be a pill is life-changing," Dr. Tara Seery, a trial physician, said.

The oral vaccine is part of an experimental protocol being tested in healthy volunteers. But since scientists still don't know if pills alone can prevent transmission, the researchers are testing four different approaches.

Learn more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/covid-19-vaccine-oral-testing-los-angeles/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

Related #1 - [Pfizer Begins Human Trials of New Pill to Treat Coronavirus](#)

Related #2 - [NPR: Scientists Race To Develop Next Generation Of COVID Vaccines](#)

Related #3 - [Covid-19 Vaccine Developed by U.S. Army Begins Human Testing](#)

**Suicide New Leading Cause of Traumatic Death
for Young Patients at One North Texas Hospital**

Read more: <https://news360.com/article/552855122>

**Guillain-Barre After COVID-19 Vaccine: Case Report
Clinical trial participant recovered after IVIG treatment**

Learn more: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19vaccine/91969>

Congressional Research Service:

Read more: [State and Federal Authority to Mandate COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

Kids' illnesses trailed weeks behind COVID peaks

(Axios) Outbreaks of the respiratory infection known as MIS-C, which affects children who have contracted COVID-19, trailed a few weeks behind the coronavirus, ultimately following its path from cities out into more rural areas, according to a new study published in JAMA Pediatrics.

Learn more: <https://www.axios.com/kids-inflammatory-syndrome-mild-covid-symptoms-54f990c1-4f6a-4bfb-ba86-f8c4a03afaf1.html>

Administration to launch massive funeral assistance program for covid victims

The Biden administration next week will launch a funeral assistance program that will provide up to \$9,000 to cover the burial costs of each American who died of covid-19 — the largest program of its type ever offered by the federal government. The program is open to families regardless of their income, as long as they show documentation and have not already received similar benefits through another program.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has reimbursed for burial costs before, but it has never offered as large a payment — up to \$9,000 — to so many people.

Read more: https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/covid-funerals-assistance/2021/04/06/d7d1db20-9659-11eb-b28d-bfa7bb5cb2a5_story.html

NIMS Alert 09-21

FEMA Releases Updates to Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool

FEMA released updates to the Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool. The updates include the most current census tract demographic data, estimated annualized frequency of 15 hazards by county and new data layers on National Flood Insurance Program policy penetration rates.

This update also includes new symbology legends, revised navigation tabs and data display tools that simplify the analysis of community resilience indicators.

The Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool is a geographic information system webmap tool. The tool allows users to combine layers of community resilience indicators, infrastructure locations and hazard data to visualize, prioritize and implement strategies for planning in community outreach, resilience, response and recovery.

This update includes the latest census data from the [American Community Survey five-year data from 2015-2019](#), including tribal census data and a new data layer on broadband internet access data. In addition, FEMA added data on National Flood Insurance Program penetration rates for residential buildings in special flood hazard areas.

The resilience tool now includes county-level estimates of how often hazards are likely to occur per year for 15 natural hazards, which are drawn from [FEMA's National Risk Index analysis](#). Through FEMA's collaboration with the National Weather Service, the Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool maintains real-time weather, watches and warnings data. The tool also includes historic hazard data on tornadoes and hurricanes, which is drawn from the [Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data Open datasets](#).

The Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool is publicly available at [FEMA.gov](#). This website also includes supporting documents on the tool, including a [user guide](#), a [summary list of resilience analysis and planning data layers and sources](#), a [summary of community resilience indicators research](#) and [video how-to guides](#) to demonstrate functions and tools.

FEMA will host two 60-minute webinars on April 13 and April 15 to provide additional background on the Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool updates, demonstrate multiple capabilities and answer questions from users. Webinars are open to the public and real-time captioning will be available.

- Webinar 1: 5 p.m. ET on April 13 - [Register for the webinar through Eventbrite.](#)
- Webinar 2: 2 p.m. ET on April 15 - [Register for the webinar through Eventbrite.](#)

For questions and feedback, email FEMA-TArequest@fema.dhs.gov.

Antibiotics can be taken for shorter periods

(UPI) Millions of Americans have at some point in their lives gotten a long course of antibiotics to treat a bacterial infection.

But according to new recommendations from a major U.S. doctors' group, some of the most common bacterial infections can now be treated with shorter courses of the drugs.

The advice, from the American College of Physicians, says that for several types of infections, shorter courses of antibiotics do the job -- and even do it more safely.

The conditions include straightforward cases of pneumonia, skin infection and urinary tract infection, meaning they are not complicated by other medical conditions.

In general, the ACP says, they can be managed with five to seven days of antibiotics, or even three days in certain cases, instead of the traditional 10 days or more.

Full story: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/04/06/antibiotics-shorter-period-doctors-group/4031617722270/

Related story from CIDRAP:

[Hospitals worldwide display wide variation in antibiotic consumption](#)

'Baby box' advocates cheer with passage of KY legislation

Read more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/state/were-excited-baby-box-advocates-cheer-with-passage-of-kentucky-legislation>

New security measures coming to UK Chandler Hospital

(WLEX) There are big changes coming to UK Chandler Hospital. Starting April 6th, UK Police will use handheld metal detectors to wand every adult visitor and patient walking into the ER at UK Hospital and UK Good Samaritan Hospital. Less than two weeks ago, there was a huge police presence at the hospital after officers say Bryan Carroll brought guns, body armor & explosives to the hospital. LEX 18 first obtained security video from UK police showing them tackling Carroll as soon as he walked out of the ER. Guns are not allowed on hospital property.

No one was hurt and police say they don't think Carroll came here to harm anyone, but after the scare, officials decided they should beef up security. They say the plan was already in the works months ago.

Full story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/new-security-measures-coming-to-uk-chandler-hospital>

**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headline Extracts
from [April 7, 2021](#)**

[Covid-19 Reinfections Are Rare — But Without Better Data, We Don't How Rare](#) (STAT News) Reinfections from Covid-19 continue to seem rare, and are not responsible for the current, stubbornly high case counts in the United States, according to scientists and the latest findings. At least, that's what researchers are left to conclude. Experts say the country and individual states don't have strong systems to determine how frequently people are getting reinfected — another consequence of the nation's limited surveillance network. They're calling for better data collection and analysis around second cases of Covid-19.

[About 80 Percent of K-12 Educators and Staff Have Been Given At least One Vaccine Dose](#) (New York Times) Nearly 80 percent of school staff and child care workers in the United States have received at least one dose of the coronavirus vaccine, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Tuesday.

[Brazil Tops 4,000 Daily COVID-19 Deaths, Nears U.S. Peak](#) (NPR) A new surge of COVID-19 in Brazil is filling hospitals and morgues, as the country's record daily death toll from the disease is nearing even the grim U.S. peak in January. With less than two-thirds the population of the U.S., Brazil logged nearly 4,200 deaths on Tuesday. That is close to the peak U.S. daily death toll of 4,476 recorded on Jan. 12, according to data maintained by Johns Hopkins University.

[The World Must Learn from COVID Before Diving into a pandemic treaty](#) (Nature) Last week, 27 world leaders, including the president of the European Council and the director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO), called for the creation of a legally binding treaty so that the world is better prepared for the next pandemic. The European Union helped to initiate the idea, which is backed by countries in the African Union, Asia and South America. The United States and China are not in the founding group.

Nearly 90 small California earthquakes recorded in swarm that included 4.0 temblor

(KTLA) Dozens of earthquakes have struck far beneath the Inglewood area in the past two days, most of them following a 4.0 magnitude temblor that shook much of Southern California awake early Monday morning. The swarm of 87 quakes began at 4:15 a.m. Monday, with the biggest hitting about half an hour later and the most recent at about 1:05 p.m. Tuesday. [<Read more >](#)

Pressure Builds on Congress to Help People Afford Pricy Flood Insurance

(Scientific American) Congress is under pressure to subsidize flood insurance costs for low-income households after the federal government announced last week that it would increase flood insurance premiums for millions of homeowners. Of the 5 million properties insured by the National Flood Insurance Program, about 3.9 million soon will see a hike in premiums—and 200,000 substantially so. The new rates will go into effect in October for new policyholders and April 2022 for homeowners renewing policies. [<Read more >](#)

Top Homeland Security Senators Want Details on Agencies Hit in SolarWinds, Microsoft Intrusions

(Next Gov) The top two senators on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee are looking for documents showing which information systems, individuals, teams and programs at federal agencies were compromised or targeted in the recent SolarWinds and Microsoft Exchange intrusions “to the greatest level of detail possible.” [<Read more >](#)

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.