



reported tallies of monthly OCHAs among adults in their respective jurisdictions from January to June 2020 and compared them with numbers from the same periods in 2018 and 2019.

They authors of the study found that, among all 50 cities, OHCA cases rose, on average, 59% in April 2020, with cases climbing from a monthly mean of 144 cases in 2018 and 2019 to 231 in 2020. In 34 of 50 US states, OHCAs spiked over 20% that month compared with April 2018 and 2019, mirroring COVID-19 community prevalence. Another 13 states saw 1.5 times the number of OHCAs during that time, while three US coronavirus hot spots experienced greater than 100% OHCA spikes—including New York City, where OHCAs ballooned to 2.5 times the baseline.

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### **Are some COVID-19 vaccines more effective than others?**

(ABC) It's hard to tell since they weren't directly compared in studies. But experts say the vaccines are alike on what matters most: preventing hospitalizations and deaths. And real-world evidence as millions of people receive the vaccines show they're all working very well. Still, people might wonder if one is better than another since studies conducted before the vaccines were rolled out found varying levels of effectiveness. The problem is they don't offer apples-to-apples comparisons.

- Consider the two-dose vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna, found to be about 95% effective at preventing illness. Studies for those shots counted a COVID-19 case whether it was mild, moderate or severe — and were conducted before worrisome mutated versions of the virus began circulating.
- Then Johnson & Johnson tested a single-dose vaccine and didn't count mild illnesses. J&J's shot was 66% protective against moderate to severe illness in a large international study. In just the U.S., where there's less spread of variants, it was 72% effective. More importantly, once the vaccine's effect kicked in it prevented hospitalization and death.
- AstraZeneca's two-dose vaccine used in many countries has faced questions about the exact degree of its effectiveness indicated by studies. But experts agree those shots, too, protect against the worst outcomes.

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/wireStory/covid-19-vaccines-effective-76940271>

- **Related #1** - [Reuters: U.S. allotting 85% less J&J vaccines to states next week, data shows](#)
- **Related #2** - [Colorado clinic shuts down after 11 people suffer bad reactions to J&J shot](#)
- **Related #3** - [Second vaccine site paused after adverse reactions to Johnson & Johnson shots](#)

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### **Antifungal and antidepressant drugs may effectively inhibit COVID-19 virus**

(News-Medical) New research published in the *British Journal of Pharmacology* indicates that two currently available medications--an antifungal drug and an antidepressant--can effectively inhibit the virus that causes COVID-19 in laboratory cells.

Investigators found that the antifungal itraconazole and the antidepressant fluoxetine each blocked the production of infectious SARS-CoV-2 virus in cell culture lab tests. When either drug was used in combination with the antiviral drug remdesivir, the combination showed synergistic effects and inhibited the production of SARS-CoV-2 by more than 90%. Link: <https://www.news-medical.net/news/20210407/Antifungal-and-antidepressant-drugs-can-effectively-inhibit-COVID-19-virus.aspx>

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### **OSHA to increase COVID-19 protections for EMS and other workers**

(USFA Digest) On Jan. 21, President Biden signed an [Executive Order](#) directing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to develop additional programs to protect American workers from COVID-19. The [National Emphasis Program \(NEP\)](#) increases protections for EMS and other workers against contracting COVID-19 and will enhance COVID-19 related training and enforcement activities.

OSHA will update the [Interim Enforcement Response Plan](#) to prioritize on-site workplace inspections. The NEP includes plans to ensure that workers are protected from retaliation. States with an OSHA-approved state plan have 60 days to notify OSHA if they already have the equivalent to an NEP plan or will adopt the federal plan.

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### **Federal Grantees May Now Use Funds to Purchase Fentanyl Test Strips** ***New Guidance Aims to Reduce Drug Overdose Deaths***

([CDC Release](#)) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced today that federal funding may now be used to purchase rapid fentanyl test strips (FTS) in an effort to help curb the [dramatic spike in drug overdose deaths](#) largely driven by the use of strong synthetic opioids, including illicitly manufactured [fentanyl](#).

FTS can be used to determine if drugs have been mixed or cut with fentanyl, providing people who use drugs and communities with important information about fentanyl in the illicit drug supply so they can take steps to reduce their risk of overdose.

Approximately [88,000 drug overdose](#) deaths occurred in the United States in the 12 months ending in August 2020, the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded in a 12-month period, according to provisional data from CDC, and overdose deaths have continued to accelerate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Kentucky's Opioid Team has an Opening for You!**

Join Kentucky's opioid response team! Nspire (<https://nspirechange.org/>), a Park Community initiative, is launching a new initiative aimed at building outreach and awareness within Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. The program will partner with BIPOC community service organizations to reduce stigma related to opioid and stimulant use disorders and to connect more Kentuckians with evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery supports.

Click this link -- > <https://bit.ly/3wtnL87> to learn more about the Program Coordinator position that will help lead this exciting and important initiative!

### **National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week is April 11-17** **Honoring public safety telecommunicators**

*Click to>* [Learn about activities to honor telecommunicators](#)

### **DHS Makes \$20 Million in Funding Available for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grants**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is making \$20 million available through the Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) Grant Program to help communities across the country develop innovative capabilities to combat terrorism and targeted violence. The TVTP Grant Program application period will close on 25 May 2021. State, local, tribal, territorial governments; non-profit organizations; and institutions of higher education are eligible to apply for funds to establish capabilities or fill gaps in their prevention capabilities.

### **2021 KY Healthcare Coalition Conference**

[IAHSS, KSHE, & KSHPMM]

Save the Date: September 28 - 30, 2021

Owensboro Convention Center <[Learn More...](#)>

### **Solar Eclipse Planning Workshop**

Event Date(s): Fri, April 09, 2021 to Sat, April 10, 2021

Location: Online < Info: <https://eclipse.aas.org/workshops/2021>>

The American Astronomical Society (AAS) Solar Eclipse Task Force is running a workshop to prepare the nation for the **October 2023** and **April 2024** solar eclipses. This workshop will feature talks and panel discussions on issues related to eye safety, local community planning, and state, regional, and national planning.

### **2021 NACCHO Preparedness Summit**

Event Date(s): Tue, April 13, 2021 to Thu, April 15, 2021 Location: VIRTUAL

Due to the ongoing public health impacts of COVID-19, NACCHO has decided to transition the 2021 Preparedness Summit from an in-person meeting to a fully virtual experience from April 13 to 15, 2021. As it did in 2020, this year's Preparedness Summit will offer a much-needed opportunity to share your experiences, learn from others, and mobilize our fields as the enduring COVID-19 pandemic continues to intersect with other crises. [View Event Details](#)

### **2021 National VOAD Conference**

Event Date(s): Tue, May 18, 2021 to Thu, May 20, 2021 Location: Virtual

The National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) Conference is unique in that it brings together volunteers, practitioners, and experts across disaster relief sectors. Professionals and volunteers in the emergency management field come to share their experiences, consider new concepts, and develop whole community solutions to build more resilient communities. Information and details on the virtual format coming soon. [View Event Details](#)

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.