



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 11, 2021

Gov. Beshear: 366 new cases of COVID-19, 8 new deaths reported Sunday

(WKYT) - The governor's office announced 366 new COVID-19 cases in Kentucky on Sunday. The state total is now at least 433,085 cases to date. The state's positivity rate is at 3.08%.

Officials also reported 8 new deaths Sunday. There was also 1 new death reported from the state audit. That brings the total COVID-19 related deaths in Kentucky to 6,250.

The governor's office also reported that 1,556,419 Kentuckians have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

At least 379 Kentuckians are currently hospitalized, with 92 in the ICU and 51 on ventilators.

Source: <https://www.wkyt.com/2021/04/11/gov-beshear-366-new-cases-of-covid-19-8-new-deaths-reported-sunday/>

State detail: <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

Chinese COVID Vaccines have low efficacy rates

(Axios) The Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention's director said Saturday authorities are considering mixing COVID-19 vaccines because the country's domestically made doses "don't have very high protection rates," [per AP](#).

The remarks by the Gao Fu at a news conference in the southwestern city of Chengdumark mark the first time a Chinese health official has spoken publicly about the low efficacy of vaccines made in China. China has [sent millions of doses](#) of its coronavirus vaccine around the world.

Read more: <https://www.axios.com/chinese-covid-vaccines-low-efficacy-rates-official-f548e76b-d26b-4eab-be5c-cc1060d032f5.html>

Related story - Reuters: Chinese considering mixing vaccines to improve

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-vaccine-china/china-considering-mixing-covid-19-vaccines-to-boost-protection-rate-idUSKBN2BY0H1>

Fauci thanks HCW, admits PPE shortages cost lives

(KHN) Dr. Anthony Fauci thanked America's health care workers, who "every single day put themselves at risk" during the pandemic, even as he acknowledged that PPE shortages had contributed to the deaths of more than 3,600 of them.

"We rightfully refer to these people without hyperbole — that they are true heroes and heroines," he said in an exclusive interview with The Guardian. The deaths of so many health workers from covid-19 are "a reflection of what health care workers have done historically, but putting themselves in harm's way by living up to the oath they take when they become physicians and nurses," said Fauci.

Full story: <https://khn.org/news/article/anthony-fauci-interview-health-care-workers-covid-pandemic-death-toll/>

Negative test for COVID; Still have long-COVID symptoms

Learn more: <https://khn.org/news/article/they-tested-negative-for-covid-still-they-have-long-covid-symptoms/>

Florida COVID cases rise after Spring Break

(KHN) One week after the end of college spring break, Southwest Florida's hospitals are reporting big increases in covid patient numbers, as the state's overall daily case numbers hit a total not seen since mid-February.

[Includes a summary of reports.] <https://khn.org/morning-breakout/floridas-covid-hospitalizations-spike-after-spring-break/>

Youth Sports Is a Suspect as Infections Increase Some governors asking for time out

Newser) – With the rates of young people hospitalized for COVID-19 climbing, especially in Upper Midwest states, officials again are looking for ways to reverse the trend. Sports is one focus. Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer would like organized youth sports, games and practices, to take a two-week break. It's not so much an order as a plea, [CNN](#) reports. "We need everyone to step up and to take personal responsibility here," Whitmer said Friday. In Minnesota, too, Dr. Rochelle Walensky of the CDC said, "there is concern about transmission in youth sports—both club sports, as well as sports affiliated in schools." Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said last week that cases and admissions are increasing. "We're moving now in the wrong direction," he said.

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/304794/youth-sports-is-a-suspect-as-infections-increase.html>

Scammers selling fake COVID vaccination cards online

(CBS) Criminals are looking to cash in on the U.S. immunization push against [COVID-19](#) by selling forgeries of government-issued "[vaccination record cards](#)" that show people have been inoculated.

Hundreds of fraudsters are selling blank or forged versions of the cards over ecommerce sites including eBay, Etsy and Shopify, while also running advertisements for the fakes on Facebook, according to Saoud Khalifah, CEO of Fakespot, which uses artificial intelligence to detect online retail scams. And with names such as blankcovidcard.com, such sellers are hardly discreet.

Learn more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/covid-vaccination-cards-fake-scammers-fraud/>

Google is exploring a health record tool for patients

(Stat News) After 13 years, Google is coming back for patient health records. The tech giant has launched an early user feedback program aimed at exploring how patients might want to see, organize, and share their own medical record data.

The work could inform the creation of a consumer-facing medical records tool along the lines of [Apple's](#) Health Records app. It also follows an early attempt by Google — later panned by medical experts — at creating a new version of the electronic medical record in 2008. This time around, timing may be on the company's side: Its new effort, which is still in the early stages, came on the heels of the introduction of the federal information blocking rule, which lets patients access their medical records through health apps.

Google is currently recruiting about 300 patients for its health records study from community health facilities and academic medical centers in Northern California, Atlanta, and Chicago who use Epic as their medical record vendor. The study is only open to patients who use Android devices.

Learn more: <https://www.statnews.com/2021/04/09/google-health-records-app-care-studio/>

NPR: Freakonomics Story & Podcast

How to Fix the Hot Mess of U.S. Healthcare

Read, listen and learn: <https://freakonomics.com/podcast/healthcare-costs/>

National Safe Digging Month in April

Kentuckians encouraged to call 811 before starting any digging projects

Read more: <https://www.kyforward.com/kentuckians-encouraged-to-call-811-before-starting-projects-during-national-safe-digging-month-in-april/>

New Normal Means More Tropical Storms, NOAA Says

(NPR) There are officially more storms occurring during the Atlantic hurricane season, [according to updated storm records](#) from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

NOAA defines the average number of storms based on activity over a 30-year period. On Friday, the agency announced the new period runs from 1991-2020. Previously, NOAA used the period from 1981-2010.

The updated data show that the average number of named tropical storms in a given year is now 14, up from an average of 12 between 1981-2010. The average number of full-blown hurricanes is now 7, compared to the old average of 6. The agency updates its definitions of what is normal for the weather every decade.

The new hurricane averages will apply to the 2021 hurricane season, which begins in the Atlantic on June 1.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2021/04/09/985804008/expect-more-tropical-storms-noaa-warns>

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.