



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 12, 2021

Kentucky Sees An Increase In COVID-19 Positivity Rate With Thousands Of Vaccination Appointments Available

(WFPL) Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear announced that the state's positivity rate is the highest it's been in approximately a month — 3.16%.

"We've got to be watching that. We should be wary," Beshear said. "We should see what's going on in other states. We should get everyone out to get vaccinated."

On Monday, Beshear announced **the state will lift most COVID restrictions on venues with capacities of less than 1,000 once 2.5 million Kentuckians are vaccinated.** Already more than 1.5 million Kentuckians have received at least one shot of a COVID vaccine.

Dr. Steven Stack, Commissioner of the Department for Public Health, said the vaccination goal is the state's exit strategy from pandemic restrictions.

Executive Cabinet Secretary J. Michael Brown said thousands of people incarcerated in the state have also received a vaccination within the last week, and active cases in prisons have decreased by more than 600 over the past month.

Beshear announced 270 new coronavirus cases and seven additional deaths on Monday. More than 6,200 people in the state have died from COVID-19.

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/kentucky-sees-an-increase-in-covid-19-positivity-rate-with-thousands-of-vaccination-appointments-available/>

Governor's full press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=711>

[CIDRAP - US hits record COVID vaccine distribution pace](#)
[CIDRAP - WHO: Growing COVID-19 surge hits critical point](#)

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [April 12, 2021](#)

[Incorporating HIV Screening With COVID-19 Testing in an Urban Emergency Department During the Pandemic](#) (*JAMA Internal Medicine*) The COVID-19 pandemic has had negative consequences on HIV care and prevention programs, including routine HIV screening in health care settings. Herein, we report the results of incorporating phlebotomy for universal HIV screening into COVID-19 testing at The University of Chicago Medicine (UCM) emergency department (ED) for the purpose of maintaining screening volumes. Most sites experienced significant reductions in HIV screens during the pandemic, and overall, the program saw a 49% reduction in testing events from January 1 to April 30, 2020. The ED at UCM, however, maintained HIV screening volumes throughout the pandemic and performed 19,111 HIV screens (14,215 in the ED) between January 1 and October 16, 2020, along with 112,242 COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests (18,830 in the ED).

[Pfizer and BioNTech Request Regulatory Agencies Expand Emergency Use of Their COVID-19 Vaccine to Adolescents](#) (*Pfizer*) Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE requested amendments to the U.S. Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of the Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine (BNT162b2) to expand the use in adolescents 12 to 15 years of age. The companies plan to request similar rulings by other regulatory authorities worldwide in coming days. These requests are based on data from the pivotal Phase 3 trial in adolescents 12 to 15 years of age with or without prior evidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection, which demonstrated 100 percent efficacy and robust antibody response after vaccination with the COVID-19 Vaccine.

[More Colleges Say They'll Require Students To Have COVID-19 Vaccines For Fall](#) (*NPR*) Duke University in North Carolina has announced that it will require students to have a COVID-19 vaccine when they return this fall. And the list of campuses with such policies is growing. Rutgers University in New Jersey was the first, and since then more than a dozen residential colleges have followed. The University of Notre Dame; two Ivy League universities, Brown and Cornell; and Northeastern University in Massachusetts are among those requiring the vaccine for the fall. Cleveland State University will do so for all students living on campus. As vaccines become more widely available, it's likely that many more colleges will add their own mandates. Thirty-seven states are now vaccinating all people ages 16 and up, and by April 19, all states in the U.S. will join them.

[Regeneron Says Antibody Cocktail Prevented Covid When Given as Simple Injection, Not an IV](#) (*STAT News*) Regeneron Pharmaceuticals said Monday that a single administration of its monoclonal antibody cocktail reduced the risk that volunteers exposed to Covid-19 would develop the disease by 81%. The study enrolled 1,500 healthy volunteers, each of whom shared a home with someone who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, and randomized them to receive a single dose of its antibody treatment, given subcutaneously as four shots, or

placebo. After 29 days, 11 patients in the treatment group developed Covid-19 compared to 59 on placebo. And for the subjects who got Covid-19 despite treatment, their symptoms resolved after one week, compared to three weeks for those on placebo. The results were made public in a press release, and will be published in a scientific journal or presented at a medical meeting at a later date.

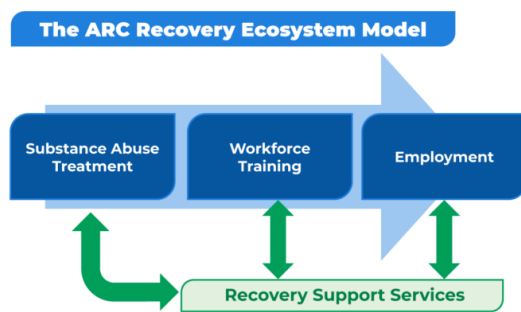
[The following was originally posted April 9th in the Emergency Preparedness Update, but is [being sent out again by ASPR](#) today.]

FDA Recommends that Healthcare Personnel and Facilities Transition Away from Crisis Capacity Conservation Strategies

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued [a letter to healthcare personnel and facilities](#) recommending that they transition away from crisis capacity conservation strategies, such as decontaminating or bioburden reducing disposable respirators for reuse because of the increased availability of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) approved respirators. NIOSH has also [updated its Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators](#) to clarify the application of surge capacity strategies.

ARC Investments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems

(KIPRC/ARC) The Appalachian Regional Commission will make grants of up to \$500,000 for projects within



ARC's 13-state region that create or expand upon a recovery ecosystem that will lead to workforce re-entry for individuals experiencing substance use disorder. Projects are encouraged to support the post-treatment-to-employment continuum, which could include investments in healthcare networks and/or recovery-focused job training. Eligible applicants include state and local governments, local development districts, institutions of higher education, tribes/tribal consortium, and public or private nonprofit organizations. **Letters of intent are required by May 17 for a final application deadline of June 18.** For more information, [click here](#).

La Nina could supercharge this year's tornado season, just like it did to deadly effect in 2011

(ABC 7) A massive cold air outbreak over the central US in early February set hundreds of cold temperature records, stretching the power grid in Texas and leaving millions without power. Sound familiar? The year was 2011, when a moderate La Nina weather pattern and an active jet stream generated the scenario that's almost identical to what we've experienced so far in 2021. [<Read more >](#)

Slip Sliding Away: Landslides Follow Flooding As Major Risk To Appalachian Communities

(WFPL) Elaine Tanner lives with her life partner, Jimmy Hall, at the head of Mill Creek in Letcher County, Kentucky. Jimmy is a sixth-generation Letcher Countian, and the land is his family land. Together, they like to roll around on their property on their ATV. But lately, Tanner's spent more time searching for signs of damage than having fun. That's what she was doing on Thursday morning — investigating her mountain.

Learn more: <https://wfpl.org/slip-sliding-away-landslides-follow-flooding-as-major-risk-to-rbartaappalachian-communities/>

Public Health Communications Collaborative Webinar: Successful COVID-19 Messaging in Rural Communities

Tuesday, April 20 at 12:00 pm ET

For more information and to register, [click here](#).

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.