



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 14, 2021

Kentucky COVID-19 Update

(From [Press Release](#)) On Wednesday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced a 3.33% COVID-19 positivity rate and 782 new COVID-19 cases. Over 1.6 million Kentuckians already vaccinated. There were 14 new deaths recorded, with 10 new audit deaths, for a total of 6,285.

Related story - [Gov. Beshear Visits St. Elizabeth Healthcare to Celebrate Hospital's 100,000th COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

US advisers recommend J&J COVID vaccine stay on pause

(CIDRAP) Today during an emergency meeting, the independent group of vaccine experts, ACIP (the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices), called for the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine to stay "on pause" as the group gathers more data on the potential link between the one-dose vaccine and life-threatening blood clots.

Members said they needed to reconvene as quickly as possible after some risk-benefit and risk refinement has been completed. They said they will announced within 2 days when they plan to next meet, but it will likely be in the next 7 to 10 days.

The meeting came the day after both the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) called for a pause on J&J administration after six cases of a rare type of blood clot, cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST), were reported shortly after patients received the vaccine.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/04/us-advisers-recommend-jj-covid-vaccine-stay-pause>

CDC Clinician Call on the [J&J COVID Vaccine and Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia](#)

Thursday, April 15, 2-3 PM ET

Zoom link below to join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1614336614?pwd=ZVhQUHoyaG4zVFdua2czcE9EU20wUT09>

Pfizer pushes to speed up its vaccine delivery after J&J pause

(The Hill) - Pfizer's CEO said Tuesday that the company has ramped up its vaccine production to deliver doses more quickly following a pause in distribution of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Albert Bourla, Pfizer's CEO, tweeted that the company could complete an order of 300 million COVID-19 vaccines two weeks early following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) earlier Tuesday urging states to halt distribution of the J&J vaccine <[Read more](#)>

UK's Well@Work Podcast: Episode 18: Leadership in the Time of Crisis

Link: <https://youtu.be/2Mb1ywNMwJI>

ASPR TRACIE Acute Care Delivery at Home Tip Sheet

Some healthcare providers and systems have been providing hospital-level care in patient's homes for years; others have implemented acute care delivery at home models in response to overcrowding at hospitals due to COVID-19. [This tip sheet](#) provides an overview of characteristics of various types of acute care delivery at home programs to help healthcare providers better understand this care model.

KY Public Health's Next COVID-19 Clinician's Call Tuesday, April 27 at 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Topics will include (but may not be limited to):

- ✓ Overall vaccination update
- ✓ Johnson & Johnson vaccine update and adverse event reporting
- ✓ Variants of concern situation in Kentucky
- ✓ Prioritizing requests for sequencing and reporting of sequencing results
- ✓ Breakthrough Infection Update
- ✓ Surveillance for LTCF outbreaks

- ✓ Reinfectin Update
- ✓ Ebola situation and monitoring update

Please register for COVID-19 Clinician and Public Health Update Webinar on Apr 27, 2021 11:30 AM EDT at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/905613162489223694>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [April 14, 2021](#)

[How Scientists Are Teasing Apart the Biology of Long COVID](#) (*Science*) After the first surge of COVID-19 cases in spring 2020, a new worry emerged: Some people didn't get better. For those with so-called Long COVID, lingering symptoms ranged from brain fog and intense fatigue to shortness of breath and loss of smell and taste. So far, there's little clarity about what causes or how to treat this constellation of symptoms. Some surveys suggest between 10% and 30% of people infected with the pandemic coronavirus may struggle to recover, but these data are preliminary.

[Underserved Communities Bear Brunt of Paused Johnson & Johnson Rollout](#) (*Washington Post*) Mobile clinics serving a rural expanse north of Columbus, Ohio. A program sending paramedics to vaccinate homebound seniors in Chicago. And sites promising immunization at 34 public colleges and universities throughout New York. Thousands of people can no longer rely on these initiatives, all casualties of Tuesday's decision by federal health officials to recommend a pause in the use of Johnson & Johnson's coronavirus vaccine.

[Once On The Brink Of Eradication, Syphilis Is Raging Again](#) (*NPR*) In 2000, syphilis rates were so low that public health officials believed eradication was on the horizon. But the rates started creeping up in 2001, grew steadily for the next two decades, then spiked 74% since 2015. There were nearly 130,000 cases nationwide in 2019, according to data released Tuesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[Valneva Recruits 4,131 U.S. Adults for Phase 3 Trial of Chikungunya Vaccine Candidate](#) (*Homeland Preparedness News*) Specialty vaccine company Valneva SE has concluded recruitment of 4,131 adults for a phase three trial of VLA1553, a single-shot chikungunya vaccine candidate. If approved, VLA1553 would be the first chikungunya vaccine to gain Biologics License Application. This would, in turn, earn its sponsor a Priority Review Voucher and will support licensure.

[Are you ready for COVID monitoring microchip to be implanted under your skin?](#) **US government scientist just reveals a new implantable microchip that continuously monitors your body for COVID**

Forget about coronavirus vaccines. The U.S. government is working on futuristic technology that will continuously monitor your body for signs of the coronavirus before you even realize you had one.

The Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) revealed that it has developed an implantable microchip that it says will continuously monitor the human body for signs of the virus. This is real and not some kind of 'conspiracy theories.'

Learn more: <https://techstartups.com/2021/04/12/are-you-ready-for-the-covid-19-monitoring-microchip-to-be-implanted-under-your-skin-the-us-government-just-reveals-a-new-covid-19-implantable-microchip/>

FBI Accesses Computers Around Country to Delete Microsoft Exchange Hacks

(VICE) – April 13 - On Tuesday the Department of Justice announced the FBI was given approval to access hundreds of computers across the United States running vulnerable versions of Microsoft Exchange Server software to remove web shells left by hackers who had earlier penetrated the systems. The news shows some of the more proactive steps law enforcement may take when faced with large scale hacking operations, and victims who are not willing or able to swiftly patch their systems.

The action is a response to a hacking campaign earlier in the year which leveraged vulnerabilities in Microsoft Exchange Server. Multiple hacking groups used these security flaws to break into Exchange servers, in [some cases stealing victims' emails](#). A [suspected Chinese hacking group led the way](#), infiltrating tens of thousands of Exchange servers. In this case, the FBI "removed one early hacking group's remaining web shells, which could have been used to maintain and escalate persistent, unauthorized access to U.S. networks," the announcement reads. Full story: <https://www.vice.com/en/article/y3dmjg/fbi-removes-web-shells-microsoft-exchange>

[Related story - Intel assessment warns of increasing threats from China, Russia](#)

Biden Rushes to Protect the Power Grid as Hacking Threats Grow

(Bloomberg) A White House plan to rapidly shore up the security of the U.S. power grid will begin with a 100-day sprint, but take years more to transform utilities' ability to fight off hackers, according to details of a draft

version of the plan confirmed by two people. The plan is the policy equivalent of a high-wire act: it provides incentives for electric companies to dramatically change the way they protect themselves against cyber-attacks while trying to avoid political tripwires that have stalled previous efforts, the details suggest. <[Read more](#)>

Floods Are Increasing in Supposedly Low-risk Areas

(*Scientific American*) The federal flood insurance program paid \$1.2 billion in claims in 2020, breaking the \$1 billion threshold for a record sixth consecutive year, according to an E&E News analysis of federal records. Eight counties in Alabama, Florida and Louisiana accounted for half of the claims payments, which arose from a series of storms that caused major but not catastrophic damage during last year's record-breaking Atlantic hurricane season. <[Read more](#)>

Japan to Dump Wastewater from Wrecked Fukushima Nuclear Plant into Pacific Ocean

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2021/04/13/986695494/japan-to-dump-wastewater-from-wrecked-fukushima-nuclear-plant-into-pacific-ocean>

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.



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Help your teen
become a safe
driver!

Checkpoints Virtual Class

May 8th 2021

10:00am -11:30am

Checkpoints* is a FREE, interactive program for new teen drivers and their parents. Checkpoints gives parents and teens the opportunity to discuss the risks associated with teen driving and provide ways to make driving safer. At the end of the program, a Parent-Teen Driving Agreement will be established to encourage safe driving practices.

Completing Checkpoints may save you money on your car insurance!



This is a free Zoom event. Registration is required. You will need an email address and internet access.

To register, call (502) 629-1234, option 4, or visit NortonChildrens.com/Classes&Events.



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*The Checkpoints Program was developed by Dr. Bruce Simons-Morton of the National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

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