



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 22, 2021

>> *Today is Earth Day!* <<

KY COVID Update

((WKYT) Governor Beshear reported 628 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday, bringing the state total to 439,551 cases. The governor says the state is seeing a 3.36 percent positivity rate. Of Thursday new cases, 137 are in kids 18 or younger.

There were five reported COVID-19 related deaths on Thursday, as well as three additional audit deaths. That brings the state total to 6,381.

As of Thursday, 440 people are hospitalized for COVID-19 related reasons, 121 are in the ICU, and 55 are on ventilators.

Dr. Stephen Stack says it appears Kentucky is at a plateau. At this point in the week, case totals are down slightly from Mon-Thurs last week.

YouTube link & Full story: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/04/22/watch-live-gov-beshear-gives-update-on-covid-19/>

Link to Press Release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=731>

State Updates Healthy at Work Guidelines

(KHA COVID-19 Update) Public Health Commissioner Dr. Steven Stack and Kentucky's hospitals, asked the Association to convene hospital leaders to share their thoughts on how the guidance issued last September related to requirements for health care facilities might be amended. KHA provided Dr. Stack with recommendations from the ad hoc committee of hospital leaders and as a result of this collaboration, there is good news regarding new guidelines for Healthy at Work. The prior health care Executive Order (EO) was rescinded (see link below for previous EOs) and replaced with a new Healthy at Work document posted at <https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-healthy-at-work>.

Health care facilities must refer to **both** the minimum requirements document and the health care facilities supplemental document. KHA believes this revision will be very beneficial for hospitals. The familiar requirements for physical distancing, masking, hand hygiene, environmental cleaning and others remain in place; however, this new guidance:

- ✓ Allows health care facilities more discretion to limit/allow visitation, numbers of people in certain areas
- ✓ Relaxes the screening requirements to allow self-attestation by employees and signage at entrances to replace screening of patients and visitors upon entry
- ✓ No longer requires PPE availability to mean it is housed on site (still must be readily accessible)
- ✓ Is less prescriptive regarding face coverings, referring to CDC guidance as the source for decision making
- ✓ Overtly states that licensed clinicians should determine screening/testing requirements appropriate

An unvaccinated worker set off an outbreak at a KY nursing home where most residents were immunized

(NY Times) An unvaccinated [health care worker set off a Covid-19 outbreak](#) at a nursing home in Kentucky where the vast majority of residents had been vaccinated, leading to dozens of infections, including 22 cases among residents and employees who were already fully vaccinated, a new study reported Wednesday.

Most of those who were infected with the coronavirus despite being vaccinated did not develop symptoms or require hospitalization, but one vaccinated individual, who was a resident of the nursing home, died, according to the study released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Altogether, 26 facility residents were infected, including 18 who had been vaccinated, and 20 health care personnel were infected, including four who had been vaccinated. Two unvaccinated residents also died.

The report underscores the importance of vaccinating both nursing home residents and health care workers who go in and out of the sites, the authors said. While 90 percent of the 83 residents at the Kentucky nursing home had been vaccinated, only half of the 116 employees had been vaccinated when the outbreak was identified in March of this year.

In Chicago, meanwhile, routine screening of nursing home residents and staff members [identified 627 coronavirus infections](#) in 78 skilled nursing facilities in the city in February, but only 22 were found in individuals who were already fully vaccinated. Two-thirds of the cases in the vaccinated individuals were asymptomatic, the report found, but two residents were hospitalized, and one died.

Full story: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/21/health/vaccine-nursing-homes-infections.html>

States have a new COVID problem: Too much vaccine

(Politico) Millions of Americans are still getting shots each day — but, in a jarring twist after months of scarcity, too many slots remain open as skeptics hold out.

Read more: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/04/21/states-covid-vaccine-problem-483872?cid=apn>

Related story: [Biden offers tax credits for COVID-19 vaccination paid time off](#)

CDC: Limited, mild COVID-19 cases seen among vaccinated people

(UPI) -- Twenty-two residents and staff members at 15 Chicago-area skilled nursing facilities developed COVID-19 infections more than 14 days after receiving a second dose of the coronavirus vaccine, according to [data](#) released Wednesday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These cases were reported among the nearly 15,000 residents and staff members across 75 facilities considered "fully vaccinated," meaning they had received both doses of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna inoculations, the agency said. Nearly two-thirds of these cases were asymptomatic, or mild illness with no outward symptoms, the data showed. Full story: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/04/21/coronavirus-vaccine-infections-cdc/2801619014120/

New data reassuring for COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy

(AP) One of the largest reports on COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy bolsters evidence that it is safe although the authors say more comprehensive research is needed.

The preliminary results are based on reports from over 35,000 U.S. women who received either the Moderna or Pfizer shots while pregnant. Their rates of miscarriage, premature births and other complications were comparable to those observed in published reports on pregnant women before the pandemic.

The new evidence from researchers at the federal [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) was published Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Read more: <https://apnews.com/article/pandemics-science-health-coronavirus-vaccine-coronavirus-782b1b326dc58f22f05bf64a3711b4a9>

Americans Still Avoiding ERs in Pandemic, But Uptick Seen in Mental Health Crises

Read more: <https://news360.com/article/553889313>

FDA inspection found problems at factory making J&J vaccine

(AP) The Baltimore factory hired to help make Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine was dirty, didn't follow proper manufacturing procedures and had poorly trained staff, resulting in contamination of material going into a batch of shots, U.S. regulators said Wednesday.

The Food and Drug Administration released a statement and a [13-page report](#) detailing findings from its just-completed inspection of the idled Emergent BioSciences factory.

Agency inspectors said a batch of bulk drug substance for J&J's single-shot vaccine was contaminated with material used to make COVID-19 vaccines for another Emergent client, AstraZeneca. The batch, reportedly enough to make about 15 million J&J vaccine doses, had to be thrown out.

Other problems cited in the inspection report included peeling paint, black and brown residue on factory floors and walls, inadequate cleaning and employees not following procedures to prevent contamination between vaccine batches and ingredients.

Nothing made at the factory for J&J has been distributed, the FDA noted. The nearly 8 million doses of J&J vaccine given in the U.S. came from Europe.

Both Emergent and Johnson & Johnson said Wednesday that they are working to fix the problems as quickly as possible. Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/health-business-coronavirus-science-4cde25193f4604f6b460963a87611bae>

Study links meatpacking plants to 334K U.S. COVID-19 cases

(UPI) Meatpacking plants were the source of an estimated 334,000 COVID-19 cases in the United States, according to a new study. It puts the economic toll stemming from those cases at \$11.2 billion.

And study author Tina Saitone, a livestock and rangeland economics cooperative extension specialist at the University of California, Davis, said those numbers are conservative.

The research included U.S. counties with large meatpacking plants that produced more than 10 million pounds a month. The investigators looked at infections within 150 days after the first documented COVID-19 case in each county.

Beef- and pork-processing plants more than doubled infection rates in counties where they were located, while chicken-processing plants increased rates by 20%, according to the study.

New! Issue 13 of the ASPR TRACIE Exchange

COVID-19 has reminded us that patient care is a true team effort. The articles in [this issue of The Exchange](#) focus on three categories: home care and hospice (including a virtual acute care delivery at home model), the role of allied healthcare providers (e.g., physical, occupational, and respiratory therapy), and engineering and environmental changes in response to the pandemic.

FBI puts law enforcement nationwide on notice about increase in crime, 'remain vigilant'

(Fox) The [FBI](#) is warning local [law enforcement](#) agencies to prepare for potential increases in [crime](#) over the next few months as the summer season kicks off and more people continue to get [vaccinated](#) against COVID-19. Crimes rates in many cities have increased since the early months of the coronavirus pandemic, with many agencies seeing upticks in gun violence and crimes committed by teenagers.

"The FBI is warning local and other federal law enforcement to be on the lookout for potential increases in violence heading into the warmer months," a senior law enforcement official told Fox News. "As more people are free to move about and socialize, crime of all different levels may certainly increase."

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/554048130>

US Lawmakers Say Police Reform Legislation Closer To Bipartisan Consensus

The [AP](#) (4/21, Mascaro) reports that the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, "once stalled on Capitol Hill," is "closer than ever to consensus, lawmakers of both parties said Wednesday, a day after a Minneapolis jury found former officer Derek Chauvin guilty of murder and manslaughter in Floyd's death." The AP goes on to report that while "negotiations are narrowing on a compromise for a sweeping overhaul...passage remains uncertain." However, "the revived effort, led by Black lawmakers including" Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC), "comes at a pivotal moment" with "the nation...on edge over the Floyd case, the deaths of other Black Americans...and almost a year of protests accusing police of brutal actions that often go unseen." (More in the [IACP "The Lead"](#))

USPS runs "covert" program monitoring Americans' social media

(Business Insider) The law-enforcement arm of the USPS is running a "covert" program, according to Yahoo News. The surveillance effort, known as iCop, monitors Americans' social media for "inflammatory" posts. A memo obtained by Yahoo includes identifying details and screenshots of users' Parler accounts.

Learn more: <https://www.businessinsider.com/usps-running-covert-program-that-monitors-americans-social-media-per-report>

**FEMA NIMS Alert #12-21:
Improving Public Messaging for Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place
Findings and Recommendations for Emergency Managers**

FEMA released "[Improving Public Messaging for Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place](#)" The report includes research findings and recommendations emergency managers can use to frame messaging to provide effective warnings, help community members understand risk, and increase compliance with recommended evacuation or shelter-in-place protective actions. This research also includes strategies to help emergency managers understand complexities in individual and household decision-making.

FEMA examined over 120 published peer-reviewed articles to answer five essential research questions drawn from the [Protective Action Decision Model](#):

- ✓ How do environmental and social cues affect individuals' attention and response to evacuation and sheltering-in-place guidance?
- ✓ How do warning messages, information sources and channels affect the message receiver's beliefs and behaviors?
- ✓ What individual and family characteristics affect beliefs and behaviors relative to evacuation and sheltering-in-place guidance?
- ✓ How do awareness and perceptions of different threats and hazards affect decision-making?
- ✓ What are the impediments to positive behavioral response? What situational factors tend to support public response to evacuation and sheltering-in-place guidance?

FEMA created research support resources for use by state, local, territorial and tribal partners. These resources enhance the guidance provided FEMA's "[Planning Considerations: Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place, Guidance for State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Partners](#)" publication.

View the document (PDF): https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_improving-public-messaging-for-evacuation-and-shelter-in-place_literature-review-report.pdf

Health Industry Cybersecurity Securing Telehealth & Telemedicine

The Health Sector Coordinating Council (HSCC) has developed this white paper, the “Health Industry Cybersecurity–Securing Telehealth and Telemedicine(HIC-STAT)”guide,-for the benefit of health care systems, clinicians, vendors and service providers, and patients. All of these stakeholders share responsibility for ensuring that telehealth services achieve their optimum benefit with minimal risk to the privacy and security of the data, the consultations, and the systems hosting them.

Health care is increasingly moving to a digital platform. Recent major investments in health information technology, such as electronic health records and health information exchanges, have created enabling digital components that providers and vendors are leveraging for virtual health care services. These services are primarily delivered to those who otherwise cannot get them, such as those who live in America’s most distant rural settings, the elderly, or patients at risk of contracting COVID-19those who live in America’s most distant rural settings.

About the Health Sector Coordinating Council - The Healthcare and Public Health Sector Coordinating Council (HSCC) is a coalition of private-sector critical healthcare infrastructure entities organized under the National Infrastructure Protection Plan to partner with and advise the government in the identification and mitigation of strategic threats and vulnerabilities facing the sector’s ability to deliver services and assets to the public. The HSCC Joint Cybersecurity Working Group (JCWG) is a standing working group of the HSCC, composed of more than 300 industry and government organizations working together to develop strategies to address emerging and ongoing cybersecurity challenges to the health sector.

[Download [PDF Report here from AHA site.](#)]

China behind another hack as U.S. cybersecurity issues mount

Learn more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/security/china-another-hack-us-cybersecurity-issues-mount-rcna744>

**Fire department run profile for 2019
Almost two-thirds (65%) of the reported calls to fire departments
required EMS and rescue services.**

[Get the run profile report](#)

More than 40% in U.S. live in cities with unhealthy air, study says

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/04/21/air-pollution-forty-percent-of-americans-exposed/3341619031001/

Reminder - April 24th – National Prescription Drug take back Day

([DEA](#)) The DEA’s **Take Back Day** events provide an opportunity for Americans to prevent drug addiction and overdose deaths. Check out the Collection Site Locator: https://takebackday.dea.gov/?qclid=CjwKCAjwmy-DBhAMEiwA7xYrd3GHGE4Pkyfwt7qoErPuoQ8LNJomqE0YIOrVXMXMXJuDX2gFXFnHORoCzl0QAvD_BwE

<p>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.</p>
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