



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 23, 2021

ACIP opts to lift pause on Johnson & Johnson vaccine

(CIDRAP) Today the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the independent group of experts that advises the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommended that the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine be reinstated in the United States' vaccination campaign in a 10 to 4 vote. One member abstained from voting because of a conflict of interest.

This ends a 10-day pause on use of the vaccine. The pause began after rare blood clots, called thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS), were detected in a handful of patients in the weeks following vaccination. At the time of the pause, the Johnsons & Johnson vaccine made up only 5% of immunizations given in the United States, but has been considered an important tool in reaching patient populations that would benefit from the single-dose COVID-19 vaccine.

ACIP members heard from Tom Shimabukuro, MD, MPH, MBA, the deputy director of the Immunization Safety Office at the CDC, who shared that the agency had detected a total of 15 TTS cases, including 3 fatalities, up from 6 when the pause was first instated. The cases had been detected using the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).

All 15 of the cases were women, and all but 2 were under the age of 50. Seven of the 16 cases were in women ages 30 to 39.

Read full report: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/04/acip-opts-lift-pause-johnson-johnson-vaccine>

Gov. Beshear Provides Update on COVID-19 Vaccinations

([Press Release](#)) On Friday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced 1,708,318 Kentuckians have received at least their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Kentuckians should visit vaccinemap.ky.gov to find a COVID-19 vaccination site near where they live.

There were 607 new cases reported today, with a positivity rate of 3.26%. There were five new deaths recorded, and 17 audit deaths, for a total of 6,403.

Related story - FEMA and Kentucky to Open Community Vaccination Centers in Henderson and Laurel Counties

Learn more: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=732>

CIDRAP - [Double masking amid COVID-19 not backed by research, experts say](#)

Research Finds Killings Worldwide Returning After Pandemic Lull

(IACP - [The Lead](#)) The [Washington Post](#) (4/22, Farzan) reports, "In recent weeks, as mass shootings across the United States dominated headlines, many Americans have observed that the country seems to be returning to something like a pre-pandemic state – shootings included," but "for all the ways in which gun violence is a distinctly American problem, the idea that killings are ramping up as people move back toward their usual routines isn't necessarily unique." The Post adds, "Although the number of homicides sharply decreased in numerous countries during the early months of the coronavirus shutdown, 'any significant changes were short-lived and pre-pandemic dynamics soon returned,' a recent research brief from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime concluded." According to the Post, "Analyzing monthly crime data from 21 countries, researchers found the majority did experience a significant drop in the number of homicide victims during March and April of 2020. By the summer, however, the number of victims was back to usual."

77 Iowa inmates received overdoses of COVID vaccine

(NY Post) Dozens of Iowa prisoners received overdoses of the COVID-19 vaccine on Tuesday — kicking off an internal investigation at the state facility, a report said. The inmates at Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison were given up to six times the normal dose of the Pfizer vaccine, [the Des Moines Register](#), citing the state Department of Corrections. None of the 77 prisoners required outside medical attention from their side effects. Two nursing staffers who administered the shots have been placed on leave amid the probe.

Full story: <https://nypost.com/2021/04/22/77-iowa-inmates-received-overdoses-of-covid-vaccine/>

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KY Public Health Position Posting HERA Region-3 South RRC

Job posting: <http://gohire.org/job/healthcare-coalition-and-response-coordinator-hccrrc-kdph-southern-region/>.

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.