



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 24, 2021

*It's Official!*

## FDA and CDC Lift Recommended Pause on J&J COVID-19 Vaccine Use Following Thorough Safety Review

(FDA-CDC Press Release) Following a thorough safety review, including two meetings of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have determined that the recommended pause regarding the use of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 Vaccine in the U.S. should be lifted and use of the vaccine should resume. The pause was recommended after reports of six cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals following administration of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. During the pause, medical and scientific teams at the FDA and CDC examined available data to assess the risk of thrombosis involving the cerebral venous sinuses, or CVST (large blood vessels in the brain), and other sites in the body (including but not limited to the large blood vessels of the abdomen and the veins of the legs) along with thrombocytopenia, or low blood platelet counts.

The two agencies have determined the following:

- Use of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine should be resumed in the United States.
- The FDA and CDC have confidence that this vaccine is safe and effective in preventing COVID-19.
- The FDA has determined that the available data show that the vaccine's known and potential benefits outweigh its known and potential risks in individuals 18 years of age and older.
- At this time, the available data suggest that the chance of TTS occurring is very low, but the FDA and CDC will remain vigilant in continuing to investigate this risk.
- Health care providers administering the vaccine and vaccine recipients or caregivers should review the [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine \(Vaccination Providers\)](#) and [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#), which have been revised to include information about the risk of this syndrome, which has occurred in a very small number of people who have received the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine.

Full press release: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-and-cdc-lift-recommended-pause-johnson-johnson-janssen-covid-19-vaccine-use-following-thorough>

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### HHS renews public health emergency

(From AHA Today) The Department of Health and Human Services has [renewed](#) the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration for another 90 days effective April 21. The extension will help hospitals and health systems combat COVID-19 in their communities.

Link to the order: <https://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/phe/Pages/COVID-15April2021.aspx>

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### [KY COVID-19 Update for April 24, 2021](#)

There were 489 new cases reported today, with 96 18 or under. There were 22 new deaths recorded, with 11 new audit deaths, for a total of 6,436. The positivity rate was 3.21%. <Click the headline to see more.>

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### TX Hospital threatens to fire workers who refuse COVID-19 vaccine

(CBS) Houston Methodist started with a carrot to ensure all of its 26,000 employees get vaccinated against [COVID-19](#). Now it's using a stick. The hospital system is requiring that all of its workers get their shots by June 7, making it the first hospital system in the U.S. to issue a vaccination mandate. Managers at the hospital faced an earlier deadline and had to get their shots by April 15.

Houston Methodist — a medical center and six community hospitals — [rewarded its vaccinated workers with an extra \\$500](#) back in March, while also signaling that at some point the shots would no longer be voluntary for its workers.

Other hospitals will soon follow suit, with plans already in the works at two other medical centers in Texas: Memorial Hermann and Baylor College of Medicine.

Read full CBS story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/covid-vaccine-houston-hospital-fire-workers-refuse/>

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### Demand for water is rapidly increasing as supply dwindles

(CBS) Limited access to [clean water](#) remains a struggle for millions of Americans. And lack of water access is expected to become an even greater problem in the coming years across the U.S. and around the world.

In West Virginia, many households in McDowell County rely on collecting water from fresh springs, which might freeze over in the winter or run dry in the summer. Bob McKinney is the Appalachia Water Project manager for [DigDeep](#), a nonprofit that works to provide water to Americans who wouldn't otherwise have access. He says he estimates that about half of McDowell's population doesn't have reliable running water in their homes.

Across the United States, about 2.2 million people don't have running water, according to data collected by DigDeep. By the year 2030, there will be a 40% gap between global water supply and demand, according to predictions by the World Economic Forum.

To help boost water supplies in Southern California, water and sanitation officials are working on plans for the largest recycled water project in the nation.

Full story & video report: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/clean-water-demand-rises-supply-dwindles/>

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**Study confirms cases of human-to-cat COVID-19 transmission**

Read more: [https://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2021/04/23/coronavirus-human-to-cat-spread-study/9531619183428/](https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/04/23/coronavirus-human-to-cat-spread-study/9531619183428/)

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**'Aerosolized' pathogens hang around after toilet flushes in public bathrooms**

(UPI & HealthDay News) If you're in a public restroom, you may not want to hang around too long, because lots of airborne pathogens are hanging around, too. Researchers from Florida Atlantic University's College of Engineering and Computer Science conducted flush tests in a public restroom with both a toilet and a urinal. "After about three hours of tests involving more than 100 flushes, we found a substantial increase in the measured aerosol levels ... with the total number of droplets generated in each flushing test ranging up to the tens of thousands," said study co-author Siddhartha Verma.

Pathogens that can cause Ebola, norovirus and even COVID-19 can be found in stagnant water, as well as in urine, feces and vomit. According to the research team, flushing can generate large amounts of airborne germs, depending on flushing power, toilet design and water pressure.

Full story: [https://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2021/04/24/aerosolized-pathogens-toilet-flushes-public-bathrooms-study/5451619211353/](https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/04/24/aerosolized-pathogens-toilet-flushes-public-bathrooms-study/5451619211353/)

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**New malaria vaccine offers 77% protection against deadly parasite**

(UPI) A new malaria vaccine developed by researchers at the University of Oxford provides 77% protection against the mosquito-borne parasite for one year, a study published online Friday by the [Lancet](#) found.



The vaccine, called R21/Matrix-M was tested at two dosing levels in 450 people ages 5 to 17 months in Burkina Faso, an African nation where the parasite is common, the researchers said.

In preliminary findings that have not yet been peer-reviewed, the high-dose shot offered 77% protection against the parasite, while the low-dose one gave 71% protection, both over 12 months of follow-up, with no serious side effects, they said.

If confirmed in future clinical trials, the vaccine would be the first to meet the World Health Organization's minimum threshold for malaria vaccine effectiveness of 75%, according to the researchers. Full story: [https://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2021/04/23/malaria-vaccine-study/8191619196625/](https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/04/23/malaria-vaccine-study/8191619196625/)

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**Newest Ingredient in US Honey: Nuclear Fallout**

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s305299>

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FEMA EMI Educational Opportunity

**Master Exercise Practitioner Program (MEPP) Overview/FY22 Application Process**  
[1657 - Training Opportunity - MEPP FY22](#)

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](mailto: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.