



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 28, 2021

KY COVID Updates

([Press Release](#)) As of 4 PM Today, 1,742,037 have received at least one dose of the COVID vaccine. There were 747 new cases, with 434 hospitalized, 119 in an ICU, and 59 on vents. The positivity rate was 3.11%. 9 new deaths were recorded, for a total of 6,485. To view the [full daily report](#), [incidence rate map](#), information on [testing locations](#), [vaccines](#), [contact tracing](#), [school reports and guidance](#), [guidance for health care providers](#) and the White House Coronavirus Task Force reports for Kentucky and more, visit kycovid19.ky.gov.

Today, Gov. Beshear visited Henderson to help launch one of two new Community Vaccination Center (CVC) sites, which the state is [opening in partnership](#) with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The commonwealth and FEMA will also open a CVC site in Laurel County. To learn more, see the [full release](#).

Following Gov. Beshear's request, President Joe Biden granted a Major Disaster Declaration for the Commonwealth of Kentucky Friday, April 23, which included nine counties, to help individuals and communities recover from severe storms, flooding and mudslides that occurred Feb. 27-March 14. Today, the Governor requested federal funding to assist 26 more counties severely impacted by flooding. To learn more, see the [full release](#).

Tennessee governor declares that Covid-19 is no longer a health emergency with only 25% of state's residents fully vaccinated

(CNN) Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee signaled Tuesday that he will not renew any public health orders, saying "[Covid-19](#) is no longer a health emergency in our state," though only 25% of the state's population is fully vaccinated. Health experts say that to reach herd immunity, somewhere between 70-85% of the population probably needs to be immunized. According to the state's website, [24.7% of its population are fully vaccinated](#), and 34.4% have had at least one shot.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/27/us/tennessee-governor-bill-lee-covid-no-longer-emergency/index.html>

Young children at low risk for COVID-19 at school, study finds

(UPI) -- Young children are at a low risk for COVID-19 and do not play a "substantial" role in virus spread while attending school, though the same cannot be said for adolescents and teens, a study published Monday by [JAMA Network Open](#) found.

In the analysis of coronavirus risks before and after the reopening of schools in Israel last fall, children age 9 and younger had a 10% higher likelihood for becoming infected after they returned to class compared to the period immediately beforehand, the data showed.

Those age 10 to 19 had a three-fold higher risk for infection after returning to school compared to when they still were at home, according to researchers.

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/04/26/coronavirus-risk-children-schools-study/1451619443321/

Data reveal fewer real-world COVID vaccine side effects

(CIDRAP) A new real-world study finds fewer side effects after vaccination with the Pfizer/BioNTech and the AstraZeneca/Oxford COVID-19 vaccines than reported in phase 3 clinical trials, while another paper notes some instances of facial paralysis after receipt of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine but no increased risk.

Learn more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/04/data-reveal-fewer-real-world-covid-vaccine-side-effects>

CDC MMWR Report: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7018e1.htm>

FDA updates data on serology test performance

(From AHA Today) The Food and Drug Administration today updated its [webpage](#) on the performance of SARS-CoV-2 serology tests authorized for emergency use to help health care providers interpret these antibody test results for their patients. The update also clarifies the use of serology tests when assessing a patient's adaptive immune response.

Key Questions About COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates

(Kaiser) The extent to which states and/or employers might adopt COVID-19 vaccine mandates remains an open question but could affect the distribution and uptake of vaccinations. This is likely to become a more

prominent issue over time, as the need to vaccinate a large share of the U.S. population becomes more urgent in the face of variants and reluctance by some to get vaccinated, and if any of the vaccines which currently operate under emergency use authorization (EUA) are fully approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This issue brief explains the legal basis for vaccine mandates by the federal government, states, and private employers; highlights considerations for mandates while COVID-19 vaccines are subject to an EUA; and discusses mandate exemptions based on disability or religious objection. Key takeaways include the following:

- The federal government's authority to institute a general vaccine mandate is unclear, and has not yet been tested in the courts, though it is likely limited at best.
- States' authority to mandate vaccines to protect public health is well-established. Currently, all states require vaccines for school attendance, while state vaccine requirements for health care workers vary. More generally, though, states do not use mandates for adult vaccination and have thus far said they are not mandating COVID-19 vaccination
- Some private employers require influenza vaccines for employees in health care settings, unless prohibited by state law, and some employers and universities have already instituted mandates for COVID-19 vaccination for employees and/or students; at the same time, several states have sought to limit their ability to do so.
- More generally, however, it is unclear whether COVID-19 vaccines can be mandated while operating under an EUA, and courts have not yet ruled on this issue.
- When in place, under federal law, vaccine mandates may be subject to exemptions based on disability or religious objection.

As COVID-19 vaccination efforts progress, it will be important to monitor any changes in government or employer policy as well as public opinion on vaccine mandates.

Read more: <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/key-questions-about-covid-19-vaccine-mandates/>

Is a Cheap 'Universal' Coronavirus Vaccine on the Way?

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/554425179>

**Blood banks phase out convalescent plasma.
Concern about blood shortage.**

(CNN) In the early months of the pandemic, blood donation centers around the country rushed to collect convalescent plasma as it was seen as a potential wonder treatment for Covid-19.

Now many are moving away from plasma collection, and even doing away with antibody testing to find volunteers who want to donate.

With vaccinations up and case counts down, doctors are administering less convalescent plasma, as numerous clinical trials found the treatment does not significantly lower Covid-19 mortality or shorten hospital stays.

Overall, hospital demand for plasma has diminished, and blood banks are reporting they have enough plasma stockpiled if there is once again a demand, since it has a year-long shelf life.

But while plasma needs have subsided, blood banks now face a blood shortage, which is expected to only get worse through the summer.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/24/health/antibody-testing-convalescent-plasma-phase-out/index.html>

**Here's What the CDC Says Summer Camps Should Do
To Prevent and Respond to COVID Cases**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says day and overnight camps can operate in person this summer if they take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and prepare for potential infections.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/04/26/990857306/heres-what-the-cdc-says-summer-camps-should-do-to-prevent-and-respond-to-covid-c>

**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [April 28, 2021](#)**

[Pfizer CEO Says Antiviral Pill To Treat Covid Could Be Ready By The End Of The Year](#) (*Forbes*) A pill that can be ingested orally at home to combat Covid-19 when illness is first detected could be available to the public by the end of 2021, Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla told CNBC on Tuesday, noting that the antiviral treatment is expected to be effective against variants of the virus.

[Israel Examines Heart Inflammation Cases After Pfizer Shot](#) (*Bloomberg*) Israel is examining dozens of cases where people experienced heart inflammation after receiving Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE's coronavirus vaccine. Health officials are investigating whether the cases are connected with the shot which has been administered to more than 5 million people, Corona Commissioner Nachman Ash said Sunday in an interview

with Radio 103FM. The government identified 62 incidents of inflammation of the heart muscle, or heart-muscle membrane, Channel 12 reported last week, citing a health ministry study.

[An Unexpected Pandemic Side Effect In Peru: A Comeback For TB](#) (NPR) Tuberculosis kills around 1.5 million people a year, making it a top priority for public health organizations. The United Nations aims to end the epidemic of tuberculosis by 2030, but COVID-related disruptions to TB treatments may push that goal out of reach — and end up propagating strains that are resistant to treatment, which also tend to be the deadliest.

Why New Guidelines for Opioid Treatment Are a 'Big Deal'

(NPR) More medical practitioners are being allowed to prescribe buprenorphine under new guidelines from the Biden administration. The change means that the drug shown to reduce opioid relapses and overdose deaths can be more widely prescribed.

It comes after a year of overdose deaths spiking across the United States. Early estimates indicate about 90,000 people died of drug overdoses in the 12 months ending in September, higher than has ever been recorded. It's about an increase of [20,000 deaths](#) from the previous 12-month period. The [majority](#) of drug overdose deaths involved opioids.

Listen to podcast or read more: <https://www.npr.org/2021/04/27/991349604/why-new-guidelines-for-opioid-treatment-are-a-big-deal>

Summer Food Program Expansion Aids Millions of Ohio Valley Children

(WFPL & Ohio Valley Resource) The Biden administration announced Monday the expansion of a nutrition program, born amid the start of the pandemic that could provide more food to nearly 2 million children throughout Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia this summer.

The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer, or P-EBT, program started last March to provide money to low-income families whose children were missing meals normally received at school, programs that were disrupted by the pandemic. Funds are loaded onto a card for individual families to purchase food for their children. The program is now being expanded through the summer, providing food dollars for families alongside the existing food distribution programs run by districts.

Read more: <https://wfpl.org/summer-food-program-expansion-aids-millions-of-ohio-valley-children/>

**Feds extend Real ID deadline until 2023
KY Relocating Driver's License Offices by June 2022**

(WDRB) -- Americans will have more time to get the Real ID that they will need to board a flight or enter federal facilities. The Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday extended the Real ID deadline until May 3, 2023. The deadline had been Oct. 1, 2021, but it was becoming clear that many people wouldn't make it, in part because the COVID-19 outbreak has made it harder for states to issue new licenses. Congress passed the Real ID Act in 2005 to establish minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and ID cards following a recommendation from the 9/11 Commission. The Homeland Security Department says only 43% of all driver's licenses and identification cards are compliant.

Meanwhile, more Kentucky counties are making the transition to offer Real IDs. Hardin County is one of eight with circuit court clerk offices that will shut down nearly all in-person driver licensing services on May 24, according to a news release from Gov. Andy Beshear's office. Other counties joining Hardin in the switch are: Caldwell, Casey, Green, Hardin, Menifee, Metcalfe, McCreary and Webster.

Licensing services in those counties and the 12 others that have made the switch will be performed at regional offices of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC). State officials are working to get the entire state on that system by June 2022.

Full WDRB report: https://www.wdrb.com/news/feds-extend-real-id-deadline-until-2023/article_b5675da8-a78e-11eb-8df3-8bc525ea7663.html

Learn more about KY's plans: <https://drive.ky.gov/Driver-Licensing/Pages/Regional-Offices.aspx>

We could have a gas shortage this summer!

Curious about why? <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/27/business/summer-gasoline-shortage/index.html>

A Breakdown of FEMA's New Flood Insurance Rating Procedures

(DS News, April 27, 2021) The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for pinpointing high-risk zones where property owners with federally backed mortgages must purchase flood insurance. The problem is, as reported last summer, FEMA's maps of areas required to hold flood insurance have historically proved unreliable. < [Read more](#) >

Related story - Flood risk's impact on home values

(*Science Blog*, April 27, 2021) Buyer beware: Single-family homes in floodplains – almost 4 million U.S. homes – are overvalued by nearly \$44 billion collectively, or \$11,526 per house on average, according to a new Stanford University-led study. Published in Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences, the study suggests that unaware buyers and inadequate disclosure laws drive up financial risks that could destabilize the real estate market. The threat is likely to grow as climate change drives more frequent extreme weather. <[Read more](#) >

FBI Warns Of Scams Targeting Job Applicants

([IACP the Lead](#)) [CNN](#) (4/27) reports, "Looking for a job during the coronavirus pandemic has proven to be much harder than in normal times. Last April, 20.5 million jobs were wiped from the US economy. And a year after the pandemic began, the country is down roughly 10 million jobs. But if you are searching, consider this: Is the job you're applying for even real?" CNN adds, "The FBI is warning job seekers about scammers who post fake job listings and profit from applicants during the process. The bogus job posts appear on popular online job boards, where scammers impersonate legitimate employers looking for potential hires, the FBI said in a recent statement."

DHS Launches Internal Investigation of Domestic Violent Extremism

([IACP the Lead](#)) [CBS News](#) (4/27) reports, "Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has launched an internal investigation to address the threat of domestic violent extremism within the department, according to a memo to employees obtained by CBS News." CBS News reports that in the statement, Secretary Mayorkas said eliminating domestic violent extremism is an "urgent priority of the Biden-Harris Administration and of this Department" and that the internal investigation will be a "comprehensive review of how to best prevent, detect, and respond to threats related to domestic violent extremism within DHS," and "led by chief security officer Richard McComb."

U.S. Customs and Border Protection seize paintings, tablecloths hiding cocaine, methamphetamines

Learn more: <https://www.kyforward.com/u-s-customs-and-border-protection-seize-paintings-tablecloths-hiding-cocaine-methamphetamines/>

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Pentagon Partly Explains Plan to Manage Big Piece of Internet

(Newser) A strange thing happened on the Internet the day President Biden was sworn in. A shadowy company residing at a shared workspace above a Florida bank announced to the world's computer networks that it was now managing a colossal, previously idle, chunk of the Internet owned by the US Department of Defense. That real estate has since more than quadrupled to 175 million addresses—about 1/25th of the current Internet, the [AP](#) reports.

"That is the biggest thing in the history of the Internet," said Doug Madory, director of Internet analysis at Kentik, a network operating company. It's also more than twice the size of the Internet space actually used by the Pentagon. After weeks of wonder by the networking community, the Pentagon has provided a terse explanation. But it has not answered many basic questions, beginning with why it chose to entrust management of the address space to a company that seems not to have existed until September.

The military hopes to "assess, evaluate, and prevent unauthorized use of DoD IP address space," said a statement from the Pentagon's Defense Digital Service, which is running the project.

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s305388>

The KHEREF 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 KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.