

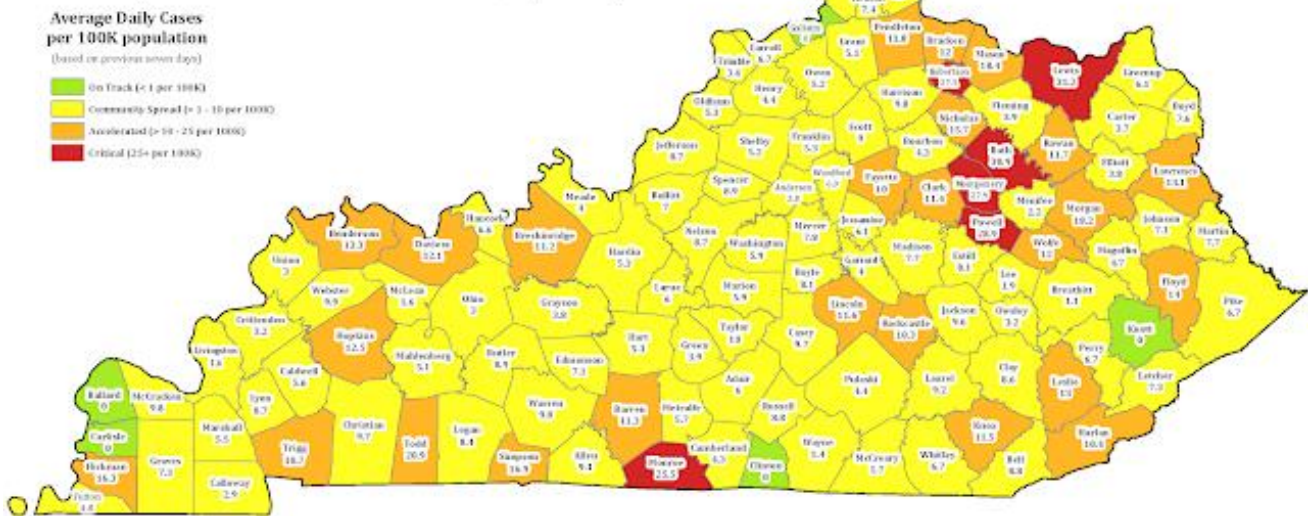


# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 29, 2021

## KY COVID Updates

([Press Release](#)) The Governor announced that as of 4 PM today 1,751,541 have received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine. There were 796 new cases, with a positivity rate of 3.12%. For more information on cases and hospital capacity, see the [full daily COVID-19 report](#). To see a list of those reported lost to the virus today, click [here](#).

Seven-day rate of new coronavirus cases, by county



## Why India's Surge Could Be a Problem for the Planet

(Newser) Though it's been widely reported that India's COVID-19 death toll is likely an undercount, the count it is putting forth passed the 200,000 mark on Wednesday. [CNBC](#) reports the 3,293 deaths logged brings the country's number of coronavirus fatalities to 201,187. New infections numbered 360,960 and were the seventh straight day above the 300,000 mark. The [BBC](#) makes the case that this surge is concerning not just for India but for the planet. It gives two reasons:

- First, variants: With every infection comes the opportunity for the virus to evolve. More infections equal more opportunity, and the ultimate fear is that a mutation could arise that our current vaccines wouldn't work against.
  - Indeed, [CNN](#) reports that the recent surge synced with the appearance of a new Indian variant called B.1.617 and known as the "[double mutant](#)"—meaning it features two mutations—that scientists are still performing genomic sequencing on. Jeffrey Gettleman, the [New York Times'](#) New Delhi bureau chief, writes this of the variant: "Doctors are pretty scared. Some we have spoken to said they had been vaccinated twice and still got seriously ill, a very bad sign."
- Vaccines are reason two. The Serum Institute of India is the largest vaccine manufacturer in the world, and it was to be a key part in the [COVAX initiative](#), which will see vaccines shipped to low- and middle-income countries. Except that effort was frozen last month in India as the cases began to mount.
  - India's own vaccine numbers are paltry: It has yet to get 10% of its population to even receive the first shot; only 1.6% are fully vaccinated.

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/305491/why-indias-surge-is-concerning-for-us-all.html>

## CDC MMWR Early Release COVID-19 Outbreak Associated with a SARS-CoV-2 R.1 Lineage Variant in a Skilled Nursing Facility After Vaccination Program

Summary: COVID-19 vaccines have demonstrated high efficacy in clinical trials. Limited data are available on effectiveness in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and against emerging variants. In a COVID-19 outbreak at a Kentucky SNF involving a newly introduced variant to the region, unvaccinated residents and health care personnel (HCP) had 3.0 and 4.1 times the risk of infection as did vaccinated residents and HCP. Vaccine was

86.5% protective against symptomatic illness among residents and 87.1% protective among HCP. Vaccination of SNF residents and HCP is essential to reduce the risk for symptomatic COVID-19, as is continued focus on infection prevention and control practices.

MMWR link: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7017e2.htm>

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**Are all pulse oximeters challenged by skin pigmentation?**

(Modern Helthcare) Pulse oximetry is a critical tool in detecting low levels of oxygen in the blood (hypoxemia) in patients, including those with severe COVID-19. However, a recent study shows that readings may be inaccurate in patients with darker skin, further adding to racial discrepancies in COVID-19 outcomes.

Fortunately, not all pulse oximeters have this problem. In our latest episode of **Healthcare Insider**, we're joined by **Anand Sampath, EVP of operations and clinical research at Masimo**, and **Rick Gannotta, Masimo's Chief Healthcare Administrative Officer**, to discuss devices that are taking an equitable approach during development and show accuracy regardless of skin tone.

Click below to listen and catch Healthcare Insider on your favorite podcatcher. [LISTEN NOW](#)

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**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines**  
**Extracts from [April 29, 2021](#)**

**[Half-year Follow-up of Patients Recovering from Severe COVID-19: Analysis of Symptoms and Their Risk Factors](#)** (*Journal of Internal Medicine*) Our study provides a preliminary database for the physical and psychological profile of patients with COVID-19 at sixth-month follow-up. To our knowledge, this is the first report on detailed medium or long-term follow-ups of patients who recovered from severe COVID-19. We recommend that measures should be taken to prevent mental health problems, and a comprehensive plan should be initiated to assist patients with COVID-19 to recover from physical and psychological disorders. Further follow-up is needed to assess whether these symptoms are persistent and to identify the duration of protective antibodies.

**[Biden Order Will Require New Cybersecurity Standards In Response To SolarWinds Attack](#)** (*NPR*) The Biden administration is putting the final touches on an executive order aimed at helping the U.S. defend itself against sophisticated cyberattacks like the one Russian hackers recently leveled against Texas software-maker SolarWinds. The order, as now written, lays out a series of new requirements for companies that do business with the government. The initiative includes plans for more systematic investigations of cyber events and standards for software development. The idea is to use the federal contracting process to force changes that will eventually trickle down to the rest of the private sector

**[The Impact of Disruptions Caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic on Global Polio Eradication](#)** (*Vaccine*) Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in 2020 caused disruptions in human interactions and unprecedented restrictions in population movement that affected both the daily lives of people and the transmission of other diseases. Notably, countries responded to COVID-19 by reducing or shutting down economic and social activities, which led to substantially decreased population mixing and health services, including reduced polio immunization.

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**A New Low For Scammers: Going After FEMA Funeral Expense Grants**

(*Mix Gulf Coast*, April 28, 2021) Losing someone to COVID-19 is tragic enough. But now scammers have stooped to a new low, trying to take advantage of grieving families looking for financial help from FEMA to cover burial costs. The Better Business Bureau Serving Central & South Alabama is warning consumers about a new scam - and this one is very tragic. A shameful breed of scammers is already trying to take advantage of families looking for financial help from a new government program that offers up to \$9,000 to help pay for funerals of COVID-19 victims. [<Read more >](#)

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**Which Ky. county has the best and worst vaccination numbers?**

(WLEX) Which Kentucky County leads the way in the number of people fully vaccinated? Woodford County with 43.2% of its total population vaccinated. Nearly 80% of those are people 65 and older, according to Woodford County Public Health Director Cassie Prather.

Counties with the lowest rates include Spencer County with 12.5% fully vaccinated followed by Christian, Ballard, and Lewis Counties.

Full story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/which-kentucky-county-has-the-best-and-worst-vaccination-numbers>

**COVID-19 Has Hit The Amish Community Hard.  
Still, Vaccines Are A Tough Sell  
Despite High COVID Infections& Deaths**

Podcast and Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/04/28/990986056/covid-19-has-hit-the-amish-community-hard-still-vaccines-are-a-hard-sell>

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Upcoming **Public Information/Spokesperson Training** Opportunity  
August 10-11, 2021

To register for this training go to the Kentucky TRAIN Management System -  
<https://www.train.org/ky/home> -

**Course ID# 1089062 MGT-318 Public Information in an All-Hazards Incident**  
[You will need to attend both days of this training to receive your training certificate and CEUs]

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**Be a COVID-19 Vaccine Champion**

(ASPR TRACIE Webinar)

May 12, 1:30 PM ET

**Register today!**

As healthcare and public health systems continue vaccinating community members against COVID-19, there is a need to provide information that builds confidence and helps people make informed decisions about the vaccines. ASPR TRACIE, in collaboration with New York City Health + Hospitals, is hosting the "Be a COVID-19 Vaccine Champion" webinar where speakers will discuss this local initiative dedicated to building confidence in the vaccines; provide information about the current FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines and their safety and effectiveness; and share effective communication strategies to encourage friends, family, colleagues, and the community to get vaccinated. Additional educational resources and tools developed by local healthcare partners will be shared. Significant time will be allotted for participant Q&A.

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**CIDRAP News Headlines**

- [UN meeting calls for more action, less talk, on antimicrobial resistance](#)
- [Obesity studies highlight severe COVID outcomes, even in young adults](#)
- [WHO sends COVID-19 aid as India nears 400,000 daily cases](#)

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**Bullied, mistreated teens more likely to consider violence, study shows**

(UPI) Bullied and mistreated teens are much more likely to fantasize about hurting or killing others, a new study warns. "One way to think about fantasies is as our brain rehearsing future scenarios," said lead author Manuel Eisner, director of the University of Cambridge Violence Research Center in Britain. His research included more than 1,400 young people in Zurich, Switzerland, who were asked about their thoughts and experiences at ages 15, 17 and 20.

Among other things, they were asked whether they'd had violent thoughts in the last month, and the types of bullying or aggression they had faced in the past year. Researchers also asked about participants' experiences with 23 forms of victimization, including taunts, physical attacks and sexual harassment by peers; aggressive parenting such as yelling and slapping; and dating violence such as being pressured into sex.

Boys were generally more likely to have violent thoughts

Full story: [https://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2021/04/29/bullying-leads-teens-to-consider-violence-study/1481619664633/](https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/04/29/bullying-leads-teens-to-consider-violence-study/1481619664633/)

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**Dogs getting **THC** poisoning**

Learn more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/vet-warns-dog-owners-about-risks-of-thc-after-apparent-poisoning-at-red-river-gorge>

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**Special Response Team headquarters damaged in Somerset fire**

Story link: <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/this-has-been-my-worst-nightmare-special-response-team-headquarters-damaged-in-somerset-fire>

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**GAO releases report on Move Over laws and responder safety**

Despite Move Over laws in every state, first responders remain at risk for being killed or injured by passing vehicles at roadside emergencies.

In December 2020, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported to the Congress on the impact of state Move Over laws. State officials cited raising public awareness as the most prevalent challenge, as motorists may not know the law exists or its specific requirements. [Learn more about this report](#)

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**Arson Awareness Week is May 2-8**

Join USFA and our partners for a webinar and virtual networking opportunity on May 3 from 8-11 a.m. EDT to discuss topics that include historic civil unrest responses, mutual aid agreements, risk management, civil unrest response strategies, federal arson statutes and sentencing, and dealing with multiple scenes.

[Register for the AAW webinar](#)

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**US Justice Department Ends Limits On Grants To “Sanctuary Cities”**

(IACP [The Lead](#)) [Reuters](#) (4/28) reports, “The U.S. Justice Department has repealed a policy put in place during Donald Trump’s presidency that cut off hundreds of millions of dollars in grants to sanctuary cities that limit cooperation with federal immigration authorities.” Reuters adds, “In an internal memo seen by Reuters, acting head of the Office of Justice Programs Maureen Henneberg said that prior grant recipients, including cities, counties and states that were recipients of the department’s popular \$250 million annual grant program for local law enforcement, will no longer be required to cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement as a condition of their funding. She also ordered staff to take down any pending Justice Department grant applications with similar strings attached and start the process over again.”

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**US investigating possible mysterious directed energy attack near White House**

(CNN) Federal agencies are investigating at least two possible incidents on US soil, including one near the White House in November of last year, that appear similar to mysterious, invisible attacks that have led to debilitating symptoms for dozens of US personnel abroad.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/29/politics/us-investigating-mysterious-directed-energy-attack-white-house/index.html>

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**U.S. Postal Service to consolidate 18 facilities,  
leading to concerns over mail delays  
*Paducah Facility Among Those in the Plan***

Learn more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/u-s-postal-service-consolidate-18-facilities-leading-concerns-over-n1265748>

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**Agencies issue cyber advisory on best practices for network defense**

(From [AHA Today](#)) The FBI and Department of Homeland Security this week released [recommendations](#) to help organizations secure their networks from ongoing cyber threats from the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, which recently exploited software updates to the widely used SolarWinds information technology performance-monitoring platform.

“This joint advisory provides analysis of the tactics, techniques and procedures of the adversary and details specific steps to help identify corrupted software updates,” said John Riggi, AHA senior advisor for cybersecurity and risk. “Corrupted updates from ‘trusted’ sources are extremely difficult to defend against, but implementing some of the advisory’s recommendations, such as auditing log files to identify attempts to access privileged certificates and creation of fake identities, will help mitigate the threat.”

For more on the SolarWinds breach, see the recent Health Information Sharing and Analysis Center (Health-ISAC) [white paper](#).

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](mailto: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.