



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 30, 2021



## Oaks Day COVID Update

([From press release](#)) On Friday, Gov. Andy Beshear wished all Kentuckians a happy Derby weekend and announced 1,760,933 Kentuckians have received at least their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Kentuckians should visit [vaccinemap.ky.gov](http://vaccinemap.ky.gov) to find a COVID-19 vaccination site near them.

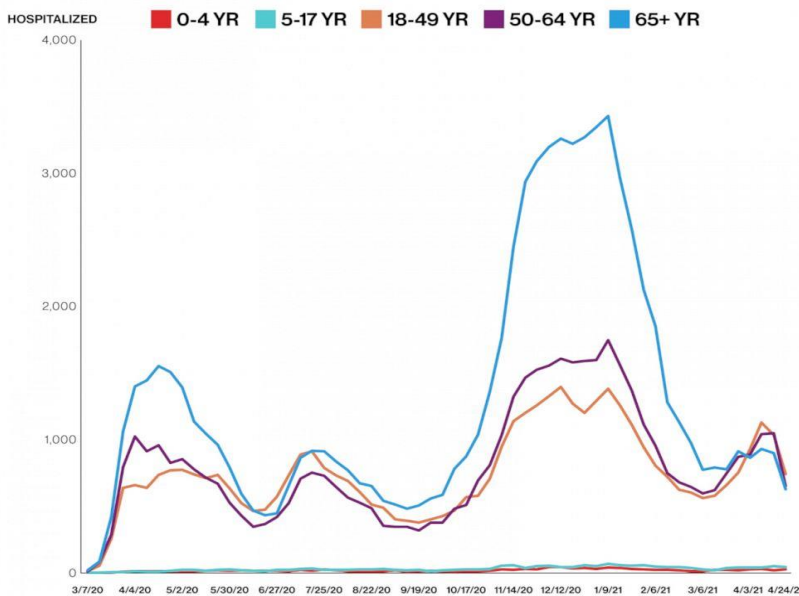
Today, Gov. Beshear, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz joined together to release a [video](#) on social media urging people in their states to get safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.

As of 4 PM today there were 723 new cases, with 172 in persons 18 and under. There is a positivity rate of 3.22%. Four new deaths were recorded, for a total of 6,501. For more information on cases and hospital capacity, see the [full daily COVID-19 report](#).

### Why younger patients are becoming severely ill with COVID-19

(ABC) With vaccination totals increasing and [coronavirus cases](#) declining across the country, many Americans are feeling a newfound sense of hope, that perhaps, there is finally a light at the end of the tunnel.

#### COVID-19 Associated Hospitalizations by Age



\*Recent hospitalization data is subject to change as more data becomes available. Hospital admissions are subject to lag.

SOURCE: CDC

abc NEWS

However, [health](#) and government officials across the country are continuing to warn that the virus is still spreading among unvaccinated populations, with a larger share of [younger Americans](#) becoming infected, and in some cases, hospitalized with severe cases of the virus.

For the first time, patients between the ages of 18 and 64 now account for the largest cohort of the 37,000 total patients currently hospitalized with the virus. With more older Americans vaccinated, this marks the third week that the number of hospitalized individuals in the 65 and older age group has been smaller than both the 18-49, and the 50-64 age groups.

Experts say the exact reason behind this trend is unclear, but could include the rise of variants, relaxed attitudes towards distancing and other mitigation measures, a younger population that is not yet fully vaccinated and vaccine

hesitancy. It could also be merely more younger people getting the disease.

Because the U.S.' vaccination strategy targeted high-risk individuals by age, almost all of these younger hospitalized patients have yet to be vaccinated, Samuel Scarpino, epidemiologist and assistant professor at Northeastern University, told ABC News.

Full report: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/covid-burden-shifts-younger-americans-older-generations-vaccinated/story>

### Pfizer and Moderna Begin COVID Vaccine Trials on Children as Young as 6 Months Old

(People) A COVID-19 vaccine could soon be available for children as young as 6 months old. Pfizer and Moderna have both [begun vaccine trials](#) on the youngest age group yet, with parental consent. Dr. Steve Plimpton, the principal investigator for Moderna's trial in children, told ABC News that their main concern is that kids can unknowingly infect others.

"We anticipate early safety results from this study could be available in the second half of 2021," a spokesperson for Pfizer tells PEOPLE in a statement.

Learn more: <https://people.com/health/pfizer-and-moderna-begin-covid-vaccine-trials-on-children-as-young-as-6-months/>

## **ECHO COVID-19 Webinars**

### **“The COVID-19 Vaccine for Adult Genetics Patients”**

Thursday, May 6 @ 11 AM ET

Register here: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_9FBpXASOTviGMsYShkCIBQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9FBpXASOTviGMsYShkCIBQ)

### **“Management of Severe Pulmonary Fibrosis with COVID-19”**

Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 11 AM ET

Register here: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_9d3VPffvTFS3rTmoUpo88A](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9d3VPffvTFS3rTmoUpo88A)

### **Moderna says COVID-19 vaccine can be stored at refrigerator temperatures for 3 months**

(The Hill) The Massachusetts-based drugmaker [said in a statement](#) that the extended shelf life could facilitate easier distribution to doctor offices and other smaller settings if authorized. Moderna's vaccine is currently approved for storage of up to one month at refrigerated temperatures of 36 to 46 degrees Fahrenheit, and for up to seven months in a standard freezer at minus 4 degrees. The company said it is working on other formulations of the vaccine that could extend its shelf life further.

Also on Thursday, Moderna announced plans to increase its supply to 3 billion doses in 2022, up from the 1.4 billion it previously predicted.

Full story: <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/550919-moderna-says-covid-19-vaccine-could-be-stored-at-refrigerator-temperatures>

### **Hackers hijack COVID supply chain**

CBS story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/covid-19-vaccine-hackers-supply-chain/>

### **Johns Hopkins: Health security Headlines**

#### **Extracts from [April 30, 2021](#)**

**[Household COVID-19 Risk and In-person Schooling](#)** (*Science*) In-person schooling has proved contentious and difficult to study throughout the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Data from a massive online survey in the United States indicates an increased risk of COVID-19-related outcomes among respondents living with a child attending school in-person. School-based mitigation measures are associated with significant reductions in risk, particularly daily symptoms screens, teacher masking, and closure of extra-curricular activities. A positive association between in-person schooling and COVID-19 outcomes persists at low levels of mitigation, but when seven or more mitigation measures are reported, a significant relationship is no longer observed. Among teachers, working outside the home was associated with an increase in COVID-19-related outcomes, but this association is similar to other occupations (e.g., healthcare, office work). While in-person schooling is associated with household COVID-19 risk, this risk can likely be controlled with properly implemented school-based mitigation measures.

**[Complications of COVID-19 Nasopharyngeal Swab Test](#)** (*JAMA Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*) During the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous swab samples have been taken for SARS-CoV-2 reverse transcriptase–polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing. Nasopharyngeal sampling is considered safe, despite adjacent vital structures (eg, orbit, skull base, rich vasculature). However, single case reports and clinical observations indicate the possibility of severe complications. This case series investigated the frequency and type of SARS-CoV-2 nasopharyngeal test complications.

**[After a Year of Loss, South America Suffers Worst Death Tolls Yet](#)** (*New York Times*) In the capital of Colombia, Bogotá, the mayor is warning residents to brace for “the worst two weeks of our lives.” Uruguay, once lauded as a model for keeping the coronavirus under control, now has one of the highest death rates in the world, while the grim daily tallies of the dead have hit records in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Peru in recent days. Even Venezuela, where the authoritarian government is notorious for hiding health statistics and any suggestion of disarray, says that coronavirus deaths are up 86 percent since January. As vaccinations mount in some of the world's wealthiest countries and people cautiously envision life after the pandemic, the crisis in Latin America — and in South America in particular — is taking an alarming turn for the worse, potentially threatening the progress made well beyond its borders.

**[Virologist Angela Rasmussen on the Controversy Surrounding Russia's Sputnik V Covid-19 Vaccine](#)** (*STAT News*) By all accounts, the Covid-19 vaccine developed by Russia's Gamaleya Institute, called Sputnik V, has looked really good. In a study published in *The Lancet* in February, the vaccine's efficacy was 91.6%, putting it among the most effective vaccines for this pandemic in the world. STAT sat down with Angela Rasmussen, a virologist and research scientist affiliated with the Georgetown Center for Global Health Science and Security and VIDO-InterVac at the University of Saskatchewan, to discuss.

**[Pfizer Begins Exporting U.S.-made COVID-19 Vaccine to Mexico](#)** (*Reuters*) Pfizer Inc's shipment of COVID-19 vaccine to Mexico this week includes doses made in its U.S. plant, the first of what are expected to be

ongoing exports of its shots from the United States, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters on Thursday. The vaccine shipment, produced at Pfizer's Kalamazoo, Michigan plant, marks the first time the drugmaker has delivered abroad from U.S facilities after a Trump-era restriction on dose exports expired at the end of March, the source said.

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From Best Colleges: [What Colleges Require the COVID-19 Vaccine?](#)

**But, there are NO KY Colleges on the list...**

[Major Kentucky Universities Won't Mandate COVID-19 vaccine](#)

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**1 in 4 caregivers say kids anxious, stressed during pandemic**

(UPI) About 1 in 4 children and teens have become angry, anxious or stressed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to parents and caregivers, a study published Thursday by [JAMA Network Open](#) found. In addition, nearly one-third of parents and caregivers surveyed in June and July said the young people in their households have experienced loneliness due to isolation from school and friends, and nearly 15% reported that children or teens in their care showed signs of depression, the data showed.

Before the pandemic, roughly 1 in 4 parents and caregivers said their children were anxious or stressed, and fewer than 1 in 20 parents said their kids had feelings of depression or loneliness at that time.

About 30% of responding parents and caregivers described their kids and teens as "hopeful" -- talking about plans for the future -- since the start of the pandemic, down from nearly 50% before the virus began to spread. For this study, Raviv and her colleagues surveyed more than 32,000 parents and caregivers -- including grandparents and other relatives, as well as foster parents -- for nearly 50,000 Chicago public school students in June and July.

The survey assessed the impact the pandemic has had on responding households, as well as the perceived psychological well-being of children in kindergarten through grade 12 living in the home. White parents and caregivers were more likely to report negative mental health effects for their children related to the pandemic than Black or Hispanic parents and caregivers, the researchers found.

Full story: [https://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2021/04/29/coronavirus-children-mental-health-study/6751619711316/](https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/04/29/coronavirus-children-mental-health-study/6751619711316/)

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**CVS to Offer In-Store Mental Health Counseling**

(NPR) As the number of people seeking therapy soars during the pandemic, CVS has begun testing a model to offer counseling services in its stores. It hopes to reduce costs for both patients and itself.

Podcast or read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/04/29/990899374/retail-therapy-cvs-plans-to-expand-mental-health-care-in-stores>

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**US DOJ Considering Law Addressing Domestic Terrorism**

(IACP [The Lead](#)) [Reuters](#) (4/29, Hosenball, Rosenberg) reports, "The Justice Department is looking into ways to tighten federal criminal law to make it easier to prosecute alleged domestic terrorists, a top Justice Department official told Congress on Thursday." Reuters adds, "Brad Wiegmann, deputy chief of the Justice Department's national security division, noted that U.S. federal prosecutors can charge suspected foreign militants with 'material support for terrorism,' but that there is no parallel law prosecutors can use against suspected domestic terrorists." According to Reuters, "Legal experts have suggested that disparity should be addressed following the deadly Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol by supporters of Donald Trump. 'That is something that we are thinking about,' Wiegmann told a House appropriations subcommittee hearing. But he added: 'We haven't reached any conclusions on that yet.'" Reuters notes that "the power to change the law rests with Congress, not President Joe Biden's administration."

**Related story - Nearly 40 rounds fired into Georgetown (KY) home, multiple vehicles**

Learn more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/georgetown-police-respond-investigate-overnight-shooting>

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**Fierce hail storms batter Texas, Oklahoma on Thursday  
'Billion-dollar damage' likely from 'gargantuan' (soft-ball sized) hail**

Learn & see more: <https://news360.com/article/554645986>

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**How to Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in Your Home**

(ProPublica) Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless, colorless gas that can cause serious injury or even death if inhaled in high quantities. Here's how you can keep your home and family safe. Carbon monoxide poisoning is almost entirely preventable. And yet, every year, [more than 400 people in the U.S. die](#) and tens of thousands more are sickened. Often, the culprit is a common household appliance that malfunctions or is used improperly. But carbon monoxide poisoning can be especially dangerous during power outages, when people use alternative sources of fuel or electricity such as generators.

Learn more: <https://www.propublica.org/article/how-to-prevent-carbon-monoxide-poisoning-in-your-home>

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**'Unnecessary loss': Wildfire survivors, experts urge congressional action ahead of fire season**

(NBC News, April 29, 2021) As a potentially historic fire season threatens the West, wildfire survivors and experts urged Congress on Thursday to act quickly to prevent more devastation amid a worsening drought and rising temperatures. Members of the House Natural Resources subcommittee on national parks, forests and public lands heard sometimes emotional testimony about how to better manage forests, fight climate change and equip federal firefighters for what is likely to be another record wildfire season. <[Read more](#)>

**Related story - The Home Depot Announces New and Enhanced Disaster Preparedness Resources**

(Cision PR Newswire, April 29, 2021) With the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizing May 9–15 as National Hurricane Preparedness Week and the month of May as National Wildfire Preparedness Month, The Home Depot®, the world's largest home improvement retailer, is offering new and enhanced resources for natural disaster preparedness and is encouraging customers to prepare early for all natural disasters, including hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and wildfires. A variety of digital resources and tools to help guide customers throughout a natural disaster, from critical readiness topics to storm recovery and disaster relief, are now available on HomeDepot.com. <[Read more](#)>

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**'We always come last'**

**Deaf people are vulnerable to disaster risk but excluded from preparedness**

(Prevention Web, April 29, 2021) Deaf people are highly vulnerable to disaster risk but tend to be excluded from programs aimed at boosting preparedness and resilience, our research has found. Our study, published in the International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, examined the challenges the New South Wales Deaf community faces in accessing the support they need to effectively respond to disaster risk. <[Read more](#)>

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**Is your home in a flood-prone zone?**

**In most states, you won't find out until after you buy**

(Grist, April 30, 2021) Over the past two decades, the annual cost of flood damage in the United States has quadrupled. And as global temperatures continue to rise and extreme weather events intensify, scientists estimate such damage to homes could increase another 60 percent over the next 30 years. Yet despite these alarming numbers, many homeowners in the U.S. remain unaware of the risks their properties face: More than half of states do not have, or have inadequate, flood risk disclosure laws — meaning no one has to tell homebuyers if they're purchasing a flood prone-property. <[Read more](#)>

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**A Billion Lab-Grown Mosquitos Are Being Released and People Are Freaking Out**

(VICE) On Thursday afternoon, six Florida Keys residents walked out into their yards and set out aquamarine cardboard boxes filled with mosquito larvae. Then, water was poured into the containers. For the next ten days, as the mosquitoes grow into adults, their neighbors will be waiting to see what happens next. That's because these aren't just any mosquitoes: These are genetically-modified organisms, known as the OX5034, and they were made in a laboratory in London.

Under a two-year Experimental Use Permit [approved by the EPA](#), the British biotech firm Oxitec has been green-lit to release over 1 billion genetically modified mosquitoes across 6,600 acres in Florida and Texas. For their pilot project, they're focusing on the lower Florida Keys, where in the coming 12 weeks, they plan to release 144,000 non-biting male mosquitoes from six different locations—making this the first time ever that a genetically-engineered mosquito will be let out into an open ecosystem in the United States.

And because Florida mosquitoes are growing increasingly resistant to insecticide, the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District, which has a budget of a little over \$14 million a year to kill off as many bloodsuckers as possible, have teamed up with the private firm to get rid of the deadliest animal on earth. Oxitec's technology will target the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which can carry dengue fever, Zika virus, and yellow fever, diseases that have been relatively common, and deadly, in Florida.

Full story: <https://www.vice.com/en/article/pkdb8v/genetically-modified-oxitec-mosquitos-florida-texas>

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.