



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 1, 2021

### COVID-19 Vaccination Rates Plummet Since Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Pause

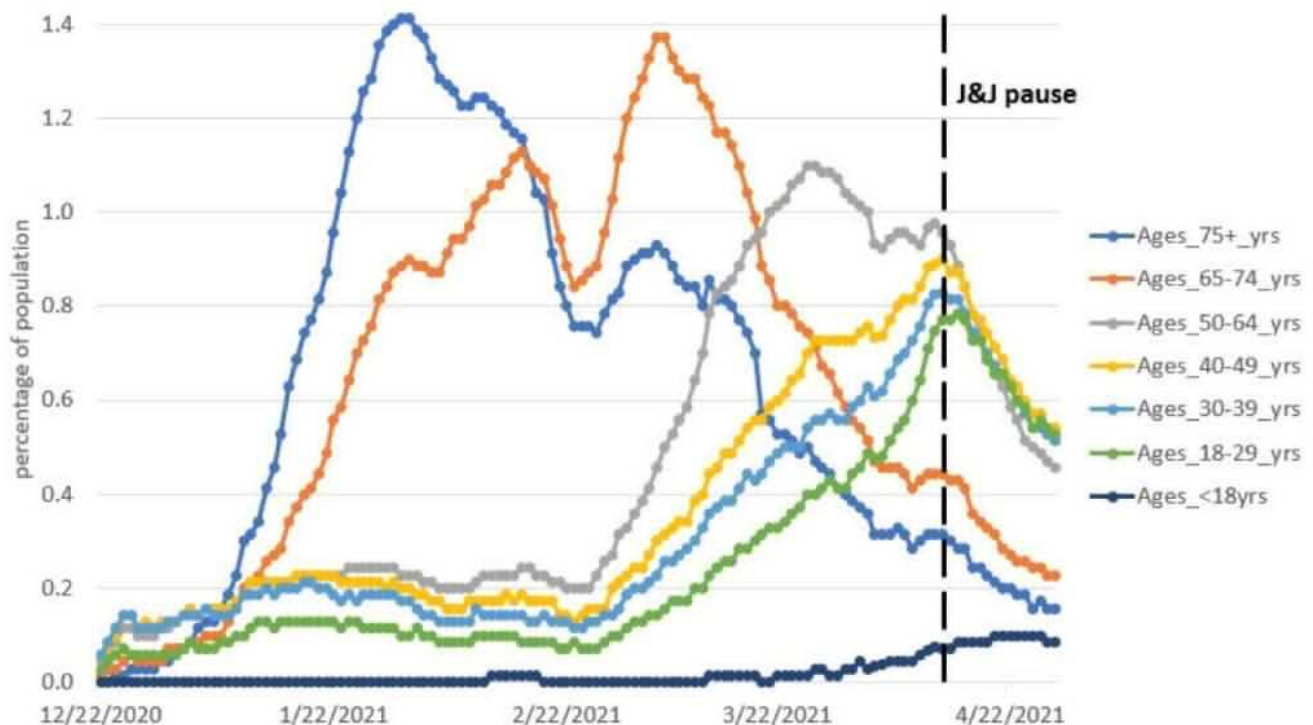
After a strong start, the American rate of vaccinating against COVID-19 has been stalling. Some are blaming the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) decision to halt the use of Johnson & Johnson's vaccine after six recipients developed blood clots.

The number of Americans who received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine rose greatly from late December 2020 through around the middle of April 2021. But since then, the numbers have been dropping sharply.

What explains the drop? Some of it could just be that we've reached a tipping point. The vaccine's availability lagged behind the market of people who wanted it, but that market was always limited and now we're catching up.

But the FDA's "pause" of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine also seems to have played a role. For one thing, there were suddenly fewer vaccine doses available to distribute. More worryingly, the pause may have helped contribute to vaccine hesitancy.

Daily Vaccination Rates (7-Day Averages)



"What this shows is that people ages 18-49, who were rapidly increasing their vaccination rate, took a sudden lurch downward right at the time the J&J pause was announced," [points out](#) Kevin Drum, a political blogger.

"Those from 50-64, who were holding steady, also took a big downward dip."

"The similar timing across age groups is easy to explain if it was the J&J pause (everyone saw the pause at the same time) but it requires *multiple* coincidences to explain why every age group would reach their hesitancy point at different levels of vaccination but at the same time," [writes](#) Alex Tabarrok, professor of economics at George Mason University.

Full story: <https://reason.com/2021/04/30/covid-19-vaccination-rates-plummet-since-johnson-johnson-vaccine-pause/>

### Related story - Number of Americans fully vaccinated tops 100 million

(AP) Disneyland reopened on Friday and cruise lines welcomed the news that they could be sailing again in the U.S. by midsummer, as the number of Americans fully vaccinated against COVID-19 reached another milestone: 100 million.

The reopening and similar steps elsewhere around the country reflect increasing optimism as COVID-19 deaths tumble and the ranks of the vaccinated grow — a stark contrast to the worsening disaster in India and Brazil and the scant availability of vaccines in many poor parts of the world.

While the overall number of lives lost to COVID-19 in the U.S. has eclipsed 575,000, deaths have plummeted to an average of about 670 per day from a peak of around 3,400 in mid-January.

Thirty-nine percent of the nation's adult population has been fully vaccinated, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Over 55% of adults have received at least one dose, up from 30% a month ago. Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/ny-state-wire-coronavirus-health-1b7dd49a70a5232dca0cf2431d4da7b3>

### **Related story #2 - US to restrict travel from India over COVID starting Tuesday**

Learn more: <https://apnews.com/article/india-coronavirus-travel-restriction-5e73dbbd0da45208af988d93c430e959>

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**KY Derby Day COVID-19 Update**



(KY [Daily Report link](#)) There were 646 new cases reported today, 160 in persons 18 and under. The positivity rate is 3.40%. There were nine new deaths recorded, with 3 new audit deaths, for a total of 6,513. There were 448 hospitalized, with 115 in the ICU and 48 on a ventilator.

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**Canada to start to get Pfizer vaccines from the US next week**

Learn more: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/canada-start-pfizer-vaccines-us-week-77422426>

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**NETEC COVID-19 WEBINAR**

**“Variants of Concern: Learning from Experiences in the UK and Germany”**

**May 5 @ 1 PM ET**

**[Click here to register!](#)**

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**FDA Approves Higher Dosage of Naloxone Nasal Spray to Treat Opioid Overdose**

(FDA April 30) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced today the approval of a higher dose naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray product to treat opioid overdose. The newly approved product delivers 8 milligrams (mg) of naloxone into the nasal cavity. The FDA had previously approved 2 mg and 4 mg naloxone nasal spray products.

Naloxone is a medicine that can be administered by individuals with or without medical training to help reduce opioid overdose deaths. If naloxone is administered quickly, it can counter the opioid overdose effects, usually within minutes. A higher dose of naloxone provides an additional option in the treatment of opioid overdoses.

Full press release: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-higher-dosage-naloxone-nasal-spray-treat-opioid-overdose>

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.