



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 2, 2021

KY COVID-19 Update

([KY Daily Report](#)) On Sunday there were 368 new cases reported, with 77 in patients 18 and under. The positivity rate is 3.43%. There were only three new deaths recorded, and one new audit death, for a total of 6,517.

Younger Kentuckians under-vaccinated, even as COVID-19 cases rise in those populations

(WKYT) Cases of COVID-19 among Kentuckians 40 and younger are rising. Those age groups remain the least vaccinated populations in the Commonwealth but accounted for more than 9,000 new cases throughout April.

People 16 and older have been eligible to receive the vaccine since the beginning of April. Lexington-based Wild Health has focused on bringing the vaccine to all Kentuckians, including those on college campuses. However, Dr. Luke Murray said the turnout has been disappointing.

Learn more: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/05/01/younger-kentuckians-under-vaccinated-even-as-covid-19-cases-rise-in-those-populations/>

Related story - Why so many people are skipping their second COVID shot — and why they shouldn't

When the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reported that almost 8% of the millions who have received the first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine hadn't returned to get the second shot they need, it raised concerns that the country might not be able reach herd immunity.

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/02/us/covid-vaccine-second-shot-missed/index.html>

Critical Care Nurses Report Higher Levels of Stress, Depression and Anxiety

(NPR) The new study surveying more than 700 critical care nurses found that 40% were struggling with symptoms of depression.

Podcast and full story: <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/01/992679643/critical-care-nurses-report-higher-levels-of-stress-depression-and-anxiety>

Opioids to Treat COVID Long Haul Symptoms

(NPR & Kaiser Health News) Almost 10% of those who survive COVID-19 still have a battle ahead, what's now called long COVID. Symptoms include exhaustion, brain fog, stubborn loss of taste or smell and persistent bone and muscle pain. Now a new study in the scientific journal Nature says a treatment could present another epidemic among this group - opioid addiction.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/01/992670121/how-opioids-could-treat-covid-long-haul-symptoms>

A 'New Category' of Transplant Patients Is Emerging *COVID is leaving formerly healthy people with destroyed lungs*

(Newser) Another gloomy sidebar to the COVID story: the fact that the illness is giving rise to what one doctor calls "a completely new category of transplant patients." [NBC News](#) charts the evolution of thought about giving new lungs or hearts to patients who have seen those organs essentially ruined by the disease: Initially, with little known about the disease and whether a COVID patient could even survive a transplant, few of them were done (a point NBC illustrates via the case of a 53-year-old who needed new lungs in October and had to call a number of hospitals to find one that was willing to take a chance on him). But late that month, new codes that flag a transplant due to a COVID diagnosis were created, and as of March 31, 58 such transplants have been logged—54 lungs and 4 heart.

Read full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/304868/a-new-category-of-transplant-patients-is-emerging.html>

Chlorinating Your Pool Might Be Tough This Summer

(Newser) A major shortage of chlorine has come just in time for pool season. Per [CNN](#), a chemical plant fire in Louisiana caused by Hurricane Laura has caused a dip in supply of the tablets commonly used to keep pools clear and free of algae. The fire left just two domestic manufacturers of chlorine tablets, per [CNBC](#). Experts say to expect a steep uptick in the price of chlorine and urge pool owners to run, not walk, to their suppliers.

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/305629/theres-a-chlorine-shortage-just-in-time-for-pool-season.html>

Houston Police Discover 90 People Kept in 2 Rooms of House *Human smuggling investigation begins*

Read more: <http://newser.com/s305611>

Watch Out for AirTags...

Apple's New Trackers - Everything We Know

Apple in April 2021 [unveiled its long awaited AirTag](#) after years of rumors and speculation. The small circular tag is designed to be attached to items like keys and wallets to allow these accessories to be tracked using Bluetooth right alongside Apple devices in the [Find My](#) app. *AirTags* became available for preorder on Friday, April 23, and officially launched on Friday, April 30.



The AirTag is a small, button-shaped tracking device with a glossy white front that can be customized with an engraving and a silver backing. AirTags are designed around the CR2032 batteries that are inside, and need additional accessories to attach to an item.

Ahead of the launch of AirTags, members of the media were able to test them out and first impressions are positive. AirTags have been described as "smart" and capable" for those in Apple's ecosystem, and tracking has been lauded for its accuracy. Full story: <https://www.macrumors.com/guide/airtags/>

[Editor's cautionary note – an Airtag could also be used to track people!]

Related story - If you find an unwanted AirTag, here's how to disable it When in doubt, just remove the battery

Learn more: <https://mashable.com/article/how-to-disable-unwanted-airtags-apple/>

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 (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.