



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 7, 2021

Gov. Beshear Updates Kentuckians on COVID-19 Vaccinations

(Full [press release](#)) On Friday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced 1,851,835 people have received at least their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in Kentucky. There were 638 new cases reported today, with a positivity rate of 3.5%. 158 new cases were in persons 18 or under. There were 10 new deaths, with a new audit deaths, for a total of 6,559.

States plan to lift remaining COVID-19 restrictions

Learn more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/05/states-plan-lift-remaining-covid-19-restrictions>

Ahead of key CDC meeting on vaccinating adolescents, Pfizer files for full FDA approval of COVID-19 vaccine

([AHA Today](#)) The Centers for Disease Control's independent advisory committee will [meet](#) May 12 for what's expected to be a discussion of Pfizer's request to authorize the emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine on children aged 12 to 15. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices will discuss efficacy and safety data that has been under review by the Food and Drug Administration for several weeks. Pfizer, after indicating plans to do so earlier this week, formally filed for full FDA authorization of its vaccine for ages 16 and up. Full approval likely will increase the potential of more employers requiring vaccination.

Related - [Moderna Says Its COVID-19 Vaccine Is 96 Percent Effective in Children 12 To 17 Years Old](#)

COVID: Roche Gets Emergency Use Nod for Antibody Cocktail Vaccine

Story link: <https://news360.com/article/555105800>

Nurse practitioners filling gap within rural health care, cite barriers

(WBKO) To some, nurse practitioners are the unsung heroes of rural healthcare. "We couldn't work without our nurse practitioners," said Dr. James Middleton of Mundfordville. To them, they're just doing their job.

"I usually see 25 to 30 patients easily a day, I could see more than that if time would allow," said Angela Jessie, APRN, FH&L Family Practice, LLC. Jessie has 20 years of experience as a nurse practitioner, 30 years as a nurse, opening her own clinic in Metcalfe County in 2015. "The patients that I see here, I see completely independently, without any direction from any other physician or provider," said Jessie. She is one of three full-time nurse practitioners in Metcalfe County.

Data shows the number of doctors in rural communities continues to decrease, while nurse practitioners almost everywhere in southcentral Kentucky have increased.

Full story: <https://www.wymt.com/2021/05/06/nurse-practitioners-filling-gap-within-rural-health-care-cite-barriers/>

Volunteer Firefighters Have High Levels of Potentially Toxic Chemicals

(Medicine Net) Volunteer firefighters have higher levels of so-called "forever chemicals" in their bodies than the general population does, a new study finds. It also found that levels of these potentially toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in volunteer firefighters' bodies rise with years of service.

PFAS are found in everyday items like electronics and carpeting, and they have been linked with [heart disease](#) and other health conditions that strike firefighters. Levels of two PFAS -- perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDoA) and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) -- were higher in the volunteer firefighters. Volunteer firefighters represent more than 65% of the U.S. fire service. Full report <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=256088>

Genetically modified grass used clean soil pollutants at military test sites

(UPI) -- Toxins from explosives and fire-fighting foams are known to leach into the environment at military bases around the world. But a new type of grass could help clean up the mess.

To tackle the problem of water contamination at training ranges, munitions dumps and other military facilities, scientists genetically modified a special grass variety to capture and trap RDX, a toxic chemical common used in munitions. Researchers detailed their engineering feat in a new paper, published Monday [in the journal Nature Biotechnology](#).

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Science_News/2021/05/03/britain-switchgrass-gm-crop-rdx-toxins-cleanup/6331620066422/

CDC: Seniors falling results in 2.2 million ER visits a year

(UPI) -- Injuries from falls result in roughly 2.2 million emergency room visits a year for older adults, according to [figures](#) released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In addition, these injuries resulted in more than 650,000 hospitalizations for people age 65 and older in 2018, the most recent year for which data is available, the agency said.

Unintentional falls were the cause of nearly 92% of all ER visits and hospitalizations for older adults, while injuries sustained in motor vehicle accidents led to 8%, the data showed.

Older women were nearly twice as likely as men to require ER treatment and hospitalization for these injuries, and represented about 65% of them. Read more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/05/06/seniors-falls-er-visits-cdc-data/8271620307216/

Chinese rocket debris set to hit Earth this weekend...but no one knows where

(NBC) It's 10-stories tall and twice as heavy as a school bus, and it's set to crash back to [Earth](#) this weekend — but no one is quite sure where or when. A piece of a rocket [launched by China in late April](#) is expected to re-enter Earth's atmosphere sometime late Saturday or early Sunday, according to experts and officials.

The 98-foot-long, 20-ton section of [China's](#) Long March 5B rocket is tumbling through space in an uncontrolled orbit at 18,000 miles per hour after blasting off last month carrying part of the country's new space station. And while it's common for pieces of rockets to fall back to Earth, this particular section has drawn concern because its lack of control means experts aren't sure where it will come down.

The U.S. Space Command is tracking the Chinese debris — along with 27,000 other bits of space junk. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin assured reporters Thursday that the United States has no plans to shoot it down. The latest prediction from the Aerospace Corporation is that the rocket will crash down in Sudan at around 11:45 p.m. ET Saturday.

Full story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/chinese-rocket-debris-set-hit-earth-weekend-no-one-knows-n1266669>

NIMS Alert 13-21: FEMA Released Slide Library of Research Findings to Improve Public Messaging for Evacuations and Sheltering-in-Place

FEMA released a [slide library](#) of the key findings from the recently published “[Improving Public Messaging for Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place](#)” literature review. The slide library includes presentation-ready versions of the research findings and recommendations of the report. Emergency managers can use these slides to inform community members about risk and to educate planners about how to develop effective warnings that increase compliance with the recommended protective actions, to evacuate or to shelter-in-place.

FEMA examined over 120 published peer-reviewed articles to answer five essential research questions drawn from the [Protective Action Decision Model](#). This research will help emergency managers understand the complexities in individual and household decision-making and frame messaging to counteract potential impediments to action.

This research reinforces the guidance provided in FEMA's “[Planning Considerations: Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place, Guidance for State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Partners](#)” publication. These resources are available at [Planning Guides | FEMA.gov](#).

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines from May 7, 2021

[Antibody Response to 2-Dose SARS-CoV-2 mRNA Vaccine Series in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients](#)

(*JAMA*) In contrast to immunocompetent participants in vaccine trials, 1,2 a low proportion (17%) of solid organ transplant recipients mounted a positive antibody response to the first dose of SARS-CoV-2 messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines, with those receiving anti-metabolite maintenance immunosuppression less likely to respond. In this study of the humoral response to 2 doses of mRNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccine among solid organ transplant recipients, the majority had detectable antibody responses after the second dose, although participants without a response after dose 1 had generally low antibody levels. Poor humoral response was persistently associated with use of antimetabolite immunosuppression. Although no threshold has been established for protective immunity, antibody levels were well below that which has been observed in immunocompetent vaccinees.

[Scientists OK Plan to Release One Million Tonnes of Waste Water from Fukushima](#) (*Nature*) Japan's proposal to discharge more than one million tonnes of contaminated water from the ruined Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station into the ocean off its east coast has been strongly opposed by neighbours including China and South Korea. But scientists say the risks are likely to be minimal if the release is carried out as planned.

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.