



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 11, 2021

## KY COVID Update for May 11

(Full press release) On Tuesday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced 1,882,396 people have received at least their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in Kentucky. Kentucky is now using the [CDC's vaccines.gov website](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines) to help Kentuckians to find a vaccination site near them. The site also allows users to look for sites with the vaccine they would like to take.

As of 4 PM, there were 758 new cases, and a positivity rate of 3.15%. 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](#).

### Parents urged to catch kids up on other shots ahead of Covid-19 vaccine rollout

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/10/health/covid-19-childhood-vaccines-catch-up-wellness/index.html>

### Mandate staff vaccines or promote them with a \$1K bonus? Which one works best might surprise you.

(McKights) Two nursing home providers in separate areas of the United States were able to far exceed national averages for COVID-19 vaccination among staff members, despite using contrasting methods — a \$1,000 bonus in one building and a vaccine mandate in the other. Both recently detailed successes with their respective efforts, which led to nearly the same uptake rate.

Some providers have stayed away from [vaccine mandates](#) due to legal uncertainties since the doses are approved for emergency use and not under full authorization. (Pfizer on Monday started the process of gaining [full federal approval](#) for its COVID-19 vaccine.)

Read more: <https://www.mcknights.com/news/mandate-staff-vaccines-or-promote-them-with-a-1k-bonus-which-one-works-best-might-surprise-you/>

### CDC recommends delaying travel until you are [fully vaccinated](#)

(EPIC Exchange) Since travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. If you are not fully vaccinated and must travel, follow CDC's recommendations for unvaccinated people. **Even if you are fully vaccinated, choose safer travel options to protect yourself, your loved ones, and others from COVID-19.** CDC will update these recommendations as more people are vaccinated, as rates of COVID-19 change, and as additional scientific evidence becomes available.

See EPIC Exchange report: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/newsletters/epic/051121.htm>

- CDC - [Living in or Visiting Retirement Communities or Independent Living Facilities](#)

### MedPage Today – [Op-Ed: Vaccinate Our Undocumented](#)

### Study: Lockdowns Didn't Stop COVID

(Wall Street Journal) Covid-19 lockdowns shaved 3.5% off U.S. GDP in 2020 even as the federal government spent more than \$2.6 trillion in relief measures. Millions of children fell behind in learning and nearly 100,000 businesses closed for good. Conventional wisdom holds this was worth it because lives were saved by shutting workplaces and schools and telling people to stay home. But a new [study](#) by University of Chicago economist Casey Mulligan shows the opposite. After the first month of the pandemic, organizations that adopted prevention protocols became safer places than the wider community. Officials who didn't see that coming forgot that organizations are rational and look for cooperative solutions that improve the welfare of the group, such as reducing the risks of communicable disease.

WSJ story link: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/lockdowns-didnt-stop-covid-11620596906> <May require subscription>

Univ of Chicago Study link: [https://bfi.uchicago.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/BFI\\_WP\\_2021-51-1.pdf](https://bfi.uchicago.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/BFI_WP_2021-51-1.pdf)

### CMS expands COVID-19 requirements for long-term care facilities

([AHA Today](#)) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services today released an [interim final rule](#) requiring long-term care facilities in the Medicare and Medicaid programs to offer the COVID-19 vaccine to residents and staff, educate them on the benefits and potential side effects, and begin reporting weekly COVID-19 vaccination and treatment data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Healthcare Safety Network by June 13. The education and vaccination requirements also apply to intermediate care facilities serving clients with intellectual disabilities. In addition, CMS seeks comments on whether to extend the requirements to other congregate living settings, including inpatient psychiatric hospitals, psychiatric residential treatment facilities and

assisted living facilities. For more on the vaccination requirements, see the [CMS memorandum](#) to state survey agencies.

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**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines**  
**Extracts from [May 10, 2021](#) & [May 11, 2021](#)**

**[CDC's Slow, Cautious Messaging on Covid-19 Seems Out of Step With the Moment, Public Health Experts Say](#)** (*STAT News*) Nearly a year ago, amid concerns about how to prevent transmission of the virus causing Covid-19, scientists were beginning to conclude that rigorous disinfection of surfaces — say, fogging them or deep-cleaning with bleach — was overkill. Academics were warning that the risk of so-called fomite transmission was wildly overblown. In the fall, research from Israel and Italy found that the virus couldn't even be cultured from surfaces in hospital infectious disease units. By February of this year, the editorial board of *Nature* was openly urging the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to update its guidelines.

**[Mucormycosis: The 'Black Fungus' Maiming Covid Patients in India](#)** (*BBC*) Even as a deadly second wave of Covid-19 ravages India, doctors are now reporting a rash of cases involving a rare infection - also called the "black fungus" - among recovering and recovered Covid-19 patients. Mucormycosis is a very rare infection. It is caused by exposure to mucor mould which is commonly found in soil, plants, manure, and decaying fruits and vegetables. It affects the sinuses, the brain and the lungs and can be life-threatening in diabetic or severely immunocompromised individuals, such as cancer patients or people with HIV/AIDS. Doctors believe mucormycosis, which has an overall mortality rate of 50%, may be being triggered by the use of steroids, a life-saving treatment for severe and critically ill Covid-19 patients.

**[The Myriad Ways Sewage Surveillance Is Helping Fight COVID Around the World](#)** (*Nature*) From the subarctic community of Yellowknife, Canada, to the subtropical city of Brisbane, Australia, scientists in more than 50 nations are now monitoring the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in sewage. The number of sewage-surveillance programmes tracking COVID-19 has exploded during the past year from a dozen or so research projects to more than 200, following the discovery that whole virus particles and viral fragments are shed in faeces.

**[America's Mask Makers Face Post-pandemic Meltdown](#)** (*Reuters*) The small U.S. manufacturers that rushed to produce face masks over the past year are now stuck with hundreds of millions of unsold face coverings because China is flooding the market with below-cost masks, and most may not survive the end of the pandemic.

**[With Long Covid, History May Be Repeating Itself Among People of Color](#)** (*STAT News*) It's well-known now that people of color have shouldered a disproportionate burden in the Covid-19 pandemic. Now researchers and clinicians are increasingly concerned that history is repeating itself in the case of long Covid. Long Covid — one name for the mysterious multitude of problems that persist after Covid-19 infections have cleared — affects all populations to some degree; it also afflicts people regardless of whether they had mild or even no symptoms, or needed ICU care to survive. But researchers and health care clinics fear that the same reasons that caused certain racial and ethnic groups to experience higher infection rates and illness severity may be responsible for driving disparities in the treatment of long Covid. Many vulnerable communities lack access to quality care, or face heightened burdens to convince providers that their conditions are real.

**[AstraZeneca Weighs Seeking Full, Not Emergency, U.S. Approval for COVID-19 Shot - WSJ](#)** (*Reuters*) AstraZeneca Plc (AZN.L) may skip asking the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for emergency-use authorization for its COVID-19 vaccine and instead pursue the more time-intensive application for a full-fledged license to sell the shot, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Friday. Such a step would further delay any rollout of the British drugmaker'

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**Emergency declaration in 17 states and D.C. regarding fuel pipeline cyberattack**

(*KARK*, May 10, 2021) As summer approaches it usually means more travel for Arkansans. It also means an annual hike in gas prices as there is more demand. The Colonial Pipeline shutdown will likely affect inventory across the eastern coast and southeast region of the US, but Chief Economist and State Economic Forecaster at UA-Little Rock Michael Pakko thinks it's only a part of the equation. <[Read more](#)>

**Related story - F.B.I. Identifies Group Behind Pipeline Hack**

(*The New York Times*, May 10, 2021) President Biden said on Monday that the United States would "disrupt and prosecute" a criminal gang of hackers called DarkSide, which the F.B.I. formally blamed for a huge ransomware attack that has disrupted the flow of nearly half of the gasoline and jet fuel supplies to the East Coast. The F.B.I., clearly concerned that the ransomware effort could spread, issued an emergency alert to electric utilities, gas suppliers and other pipeline operators to be on the lookout for code like the kind that locked up Colonial Pipelines, a private firm that controls the major pipeline carrying gasoline, diesel and jet fuel from the Texas Gulf Coast to New York Harbor. <[Read more](#)>

**Related story – [NPR: What we Know about the Ransomware Attack](#)**

**DHS Creates New Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3) and Additional Efforts to Comprehensively Combat Domestic Violent Extremism**

(DHS) Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas announced today that DHS has established a new Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3) to improve the Department's ability to combat terrorism and targeted violence, consistent with privacy protections, civil rights and civil liberties, and other applicable laws.

"CP3 will help build local prevention frameworks to provide communities with the tools they need to combat terrorism and targeted violence," said Secretary Mayorkas. "Individuals who may be radicalizing, or have radicalized, to violence typically exhibit behaviors that are recognizable to many but are best understood by those closest to them, such as friends, family, and classmates."

CP3 will replace the Office for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention while ensuring DHS's efforts are grounded in an approach to violence prevention that leverages behavioral threat assessment and management tools, and addresses early-risk factors that can lead to radicalization to violence.

Secretary Mayorkas also announced a new, dedicated domestic terrorism branch within the Department's Office of Intelligence & Analysis (I&A) to ensure DHS develops the expertise necessary to produce the sound, timely intelligence needed to combat threats posed by domestic terrorism and targeted violence. I&A will also continue leveraging the National Network of Fusion Centers and our deployed intelligence professionals who collect and analyze threat information alongside our state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners to increase timely and actionable information sharing in a dynamic threat environment.

Full DHS press release: <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2021/05/11/dhs-creates-new-center-prevention-programs-and-partnerships-and-additional-efforts>

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EIS Council and Global Resilience Commission  
**World's cyber leaders will meet to discuss how to secure the supply chain of Cyber products & systems.**

May 26, 11:30 EDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**FEMA's flood insurance program is about to undergo major changes**

(ABC 7, May 10, 2021) There is something about living alongside the ocean in Marshfield, Massachusetts that brings Meaghan Desmond peace. Desmond grew up by the water, and now, she owns a home along the coast. But living in a place like this also comes with a bit of uncertainty. [<Read more >](#)

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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.