



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 16, 2021

Gov. Beshear reports 287 new COVID-19 cases; 2.79% positivity rate

(WAVE) Kentucky governor Andy Beshear announced Sunday the commonwealth's positivity rate has once again dropped compared to previous days. Positivity rate on Sunday based on a seven-day rolling average is now 2.79 percent, according to the governor's update. An additional 287 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Kentucky Sunday. The total number of cases since the pandemic began is now 452,537.

Eight additional deaths due to COVID-19 were also confirmed from the state health department. Total deaths in the commonwealth due to the virus is now 6,656.

Beshear also confirmed so far, 1,916,501 Kentuckians have received at least their first dose of a COVID vaccine.

Story link: <https://www.wave3.com/2021/05/16/gov-beshear-reports-new-covid-cases-positivity-rate/>

KY Daily Summary Report: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/COVID19DailyReport.pdf>

Mixed reactions to CDC's revised COVID mask mandate

(CIDRAP) While states continue to relax COVID-19 mitigation measures, concerns about vaccine uptake continue. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) announcement that people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 do not have to use masks in most settings has prompted some states to drop mask mandates. Others, however, have said they need to take time to look at their state's specific COVID situation, and health experts, state and local governments, business owners, and the public have had similar guarded reactions.

"I wouldn't want to declare victory [over COVID-19] prematurely, but I'm saying this is clearly a step in the direction that we want to go," Anthony Fauci, MD, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, [told CNN's Jake Tapper](#).

At the same time, Fauci acknowledged that people such as store or restaurant owners will have to trust others to unmask responsibly. "They will not be able to know," he said. "I mean, you're going to be depending on people being honest enough to say whether they were vaccinated or not."

Fauci reminded CNN that while **there will be no federally mandated vaccine passports**, organizations such as colleges and businesses can require COVID-19 vaccination.

In light of the CDC's announcement, the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America released a [statement](#) yesterday calling for continued vigilance with COVID-19 mitigation practices. The authors write, "SHEA strongly cautions against relaxing transmission mitigation efforts including masking in communities with ongoing high rates of transmission and within healthcare settings," the latter of which still require masking.

CIDRAP story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/05/mixed-reactions-cdcs-revised-covid-mask-mandate>

Honor system, paper cards won't cut it for COVID vaccine verification, experts say. 'Vaccine passports' are coming.

(USA Today) No shirt, no shoes, *no vaccine* – no service.

That's the future critics of "vaccine passports" fear as Americans vaccinated against COVID-19 can safely live more normal lives, [including spending time in most indoor settings without a mask](#).

The notion that a "passport" could separate the vaccinated from the unvaccinated has sparked fears of a dystopian future where people's health decisions would limit where they could travel, where they could shop, what events they could attend and whether they would be asked to wear a mask. Many public health experts are exasperated by the controversy, given that Americans have long been expected to provide proof of vaccination in some circumstances.

Read full story: <https://news.yahoo.com/honor-system-paper-cards-wont-120011562.html>

CDC recommends U.S. schools continue to use masks

(Reuters) Schools in the United States should continue to use masks for the 2020-2021 academic year as all students will not be fully vaccinated, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Saturday. The CDC in its latest [guidance](#) said all kindergarten through grade 12 schools "should implement and layer prevention strategies and should prioritize universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing."

The recommendation comes after the agency on Thursday said fully vaccinated people do not need to wear masks outdoors and can avoid wearing them indoors in most places. [read more](#)

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-schools-should-continue-use-masks-cdc-2021-05-15/>

Many Americans don't trust their public health system during COVID-19 pandemic, survey shows

(USA Today) The U.S. public health system was thrust into the limelight by the coronavirus pandemic, and [a survey published Thursday](#) found many Americans aren't happy with its performance. According to the survey, conducted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in February and March, ratings of the nation's public health system declined from 43% in 2009 to 34% in 2021. Positive ratings for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention fell overall, from 59% in 2009 to 54% in 2021. Health experts say distrust and the politicization of public health measures contributed to Americans' negative view of health institutions.

Full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2021/05/13/cdc-fda-american-opinion-public-health-system-suffers-amid-covid/5054439001/>

'What if it was your kid?'

Parents of young children feel forgotten as CDC loosens mask restrictions

Read more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/05/14/covid-19-cdc-mask-guidance-parents-young-children-coronavirus/5093405001/>

Related story - [8-month-old becomes youngest COVID vaccine recipient in the world](#)

Pfizer enter trials on vaccines for children

Indian COVID-Infected Woman, 76, Believed to Be Dead, Wakes Up Minutes Before Her Cremation

Learn more: <https://www.newsweek.com/covid-19-infected-woman-76-believed-dead-wakes-minutes-before-her-cremation-1591857>

Geothermal Energy As A Sustainable Energy Source: Potential For Reducing CO₂ Emissions

<https://news360.com/article/555834857>

Related story - [Carbon Emissions From Dams Considerably underestimated](#)

<https://news360.com/article/555834847>

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EARTH EX will be available for play anytime from 1 September through 31 October. You can play multiple functional areas and lanes during that time.

Registration is open now - <https://battlerhythm.net/Registration/registerMKII.html?id=17>

More Information: Contact us at [EARTHEX @EISCOUNCIL.ORG](mailto:EARTHEX@EISCOUNCIL.ORG)

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