



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 17, 2021

## National Organizations Share Strategies to Improve Crisis Standards of Care Implementation During Future COVID-19 Surges and Beyond

(*National Academy of Medicine*) Although the late winter wave of COVID-19 in the United States seems to have crested, the emergence of variant strains and ongoing questions about immunity and vulnerability leave open the real possibility of additional waves later this year. Meanwhile, there is a growing humanitarian crisis befalling South Asia – in particular, the tragedy unfolding in India, where the health care system has essentially collapsed and many victims of COVID-19 are unable to receive any level of care whatsoever. These current events should make clear how important it is to prepare for future waves of the virus, as the fight against COVID-19 is not over. We must promote vaccination at every turn, support efforts to share clinical and operational lessons learned in order to make improvements based on this past year's experiences, and ready our health care system and communities for the potential for further surges in demand for care.

Going forward, the following actions would support a more efficient response:

- Ensuring that health care facilities in a given area have common indicators and agreed-on thresholds for what is considered “crisis” –in terms of both staffing and decisions being made.
- Creating messages for health care providers and the public to communicate effectively about what to expect from the health care system when crisis thresholds are reached.
- Ensuring that strategies are in place to “load-balance” patients and resources regionally to *avoid* triage decisions, particularly decisions that are likely to lead to adverse and inequitable outcomes.
- Briefing local officials on response plans and providing situational updates, thereby encouraging recognition of crisis situations “on the ground” as well as official support for the response.

The concept of “triage teams” was designed to support decision making when the outcome of a decision may be grave (e.g., ventilator allocation). This construct proved too narrow due for the breadth and novelty of the decisions faced by providers during the COVID-19 pandemic, which were often ad hoc and difficult. Going forward, the following strategies would improve care and decision making:

- Ensuring that any provider facing a novel/uncomfortable allocation decision has a designated point of contact to obtain immediate expert advice (e.g., an intensivist on call) and a channel to raise the issue to an incident management team.
- Employing a standardized assessment of the goals of care with the patient and family at the time of hospitalization and reconsidering for the continuation of therapies when the patient's condition changes.
- Ensuring the availability of palliative care providers to support providers as well as family and patient needs and to facilitate more complicated decision making; and encouraging best practices of palliative care to enhance the comfort of all patients and ensure that care is consistent with patient wishes.
- Developing facility/system policy to support common allocation decisions (e.g., strategies adopted house-wide to stretch dialysis or oxygen resources) whenever possible.
- Emphasizing that staff should not be taking upon themselves decisions to restrict resources (e.g., withholding mechanical ventilation due to personal interpretation of resource scarcity or impending scarcity).

Learn more: <https://nam.edu/national-organizations-share-strategies-to-improve-crisis-standards-of-care-implementation-during-future-covid-19-surges-and-beyond/>

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**KY COVID Update for Monday**

On Monday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced 1,927,168 people have received at least their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in Kentucky. Overall, 54% of all Kentucky adults and 80% of Kentuckians 65 and older now have at least their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. On May 28, all indoor and outdoor events of any size and businesses of any capacity [can increase](#) to 75% capacity.

As of 4 PM the Governor reported 285 new cases, with a positivity rate of 2.78%. There were 6 new deaths recorded, for a total of 6,662.

See full press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=779>

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**Baptist Health Corbin now administering COVID-19 vaccines to ages 12 through 15**

Read more: <https://www.wymt.com/2021/05/17/staff-at-baptist-health-corbin-are-now-administering-covid-19-vaccines-to-ages-12-through-15/>

## Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky host virtual panel after poll reveals new vaccine data

(WYMT – May 14) The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky held a virtual panel discussing new data on how Kentuckians would feel about requiring vaccines for students and employees going back to school or work in person. The data gathered from the poll suggested that half of individuals living with no children agreed with requiring the vaccine, however, a majority of people living with children did not.

See more: <https://www.wyvt.com/2021/05/14/foundation-for-a-healthy-kentucky-host-virtual-panel-after-poll-reveals-new-vaccine-data/>

### CIDRAP News Extract

- ✓ [Retailers, states grapple with shifting COVID-19 mask mandates](#)
- ✓ [Plasma from recovered patients found not helpful for COVID hospital patients](#)
- [Homeless people with COVID-19; COVID reinfection in college](#)

### CDC Clarifies - Masks still required in health care settings.

(AHA Today) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention today emphasized that its new masking recommendations for people [fully vaccinated](#) against COVID-19 do not apply to health care settings. "This means that staff, patients, residents and visitors should continue to wear masks as recommended in all healthcare facilities," the agency said in an email on the May 13 recommendations. AHA had requested the clarification.

CDC said health care facilities should continue to refer to CDC's infection prevention and control [guidance](#) for recommendations regarding source control and physical distancing in health care settings. "We will keep you informed if any changes are made to the guidance for healthcare settings," the agency said.

### U.S. To Ship 20 Million Additional COVID Vaccine Doses Overseas

(NPR) President Biden's commitment Monday to donate doses of Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines adds to an earlier promise of 60 million doses of AstraZeneca.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/17/997575473/u-s-to-ship-20-million-additional-covid-vaccine-doses-overseas>

FEMA NIMS Alert 16-21

### ["COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance: All-Hazards Incident Response and Recovery"](#)

FEMA is offering [webinars](#) throughout the month of June to go over the pandemic operational guidance.

### Magnets in cellphones, smartwatches may affect pacemakers

(UPI) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is warning that strong magnets in some cellphones and smartwatches can interfere with pacemakers and other implanted medical devices.

Studies have shown that these high-strength magnets may cause some implants to switch to "magnet mode," stopping normal functioning until the magnet is moved away from the device.

Many implants have a "magnet mode" so they can be safely operated during medical procedures, such as MRI scans. Doctors typically activate these features by placing a high-strength magnet near the implant. Removing the magnetic field restores normal operation of the medical device.

See FDA recommendations and more: [https://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2021/05/16/FDA-warning-smartwatch-cellphone-battery-pacemaker/9371621186092/](https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/05/16/FDA-warning-smartwatch-cellphone-battery-pacemaker/9371621186092/)

### Cicadas are arriving in Kentucky What you need to know

WHAS: <https://www.whas11.com/article/news/kentucky/cicadas-in-kentucky-what-you-need-to-know/417-2af34771-c741-405b-b29e-b614c272f3d8>

### Peak tick season kicks off in Kentucky

(WKYT) The Commonwealth is heading into peak tick season, and if not prepared, you can get sick. Ticks are a problem year-round, but especially during the summer, they can be a problem for people and pets.

"Ticks in Kentucky pop up from May through July. We see a lot of overlap between the major species like a Black Deer tick, the Lonestar tick, and the American dog tick," said Dr. Johnathan Larson, extension entomologist at the University of Kentucky. "So this is when we will be seeing people picking off from themselves for the next few months."

Dr. Larson says some of these ticks in Kentucky carry Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and a disease that causes a meat allergy.

Video report and full story: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/05/16/peak-tick-season-kicks-off-in-kentucky/>

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**UK researchers working to significantly reduce  
the cost of capturing air pollution from plants**

WYMT: <https://www.wytm.com/2021/05/17/uk-researchers-working-to-significantly-reduce-the-cost-of-capturing-air-pollution-from-plants/>

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**Man clocked driving 143 mph on Bluegrass Parkway  
jailed after running out of gas**

WLEX story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/man-clocked-driving-143-mph-jailed-after-running-out-of-gas>

**Related story - Street Racing Surges Across US Amid Pandemic**

The [AP](#) (5/13, Selsky) reports, "Jaye Sanford, a 52-year-old mother of two, was driving home in suburban Atlanta on Nov. 21 when a man in a Dodge Challenger muscle car who was allegedly street racing crashed into her head-on, killing her. She is one of the many victims of a surge in street racing that has taken root across America during the coronavirus pandemic, prompting police crackdowns and bills aimed at harsher punishments." The AP adds, "Experts say TV shows and movies glorifying street racing had already fueled interest in recent years. Then shutdowns associated with the pandemic cleared normally clogged highways as commuters worked from home. Those with a passion for fast cars often had time to modify them, and to show them off, said Tami Eggleston, a sports psychologist who participates in legal drag racing."

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**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 May 7th 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.

"Injuries are a leading cause of death among U.S. [older] adults [and] non-fatal injuries among this age group are more common and result in long-term health consequences," the agency researchers wrote.

However, "injuries are not an inevitable part of aging and can be prevented," they said.

Full UPI story: [https://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2021/05/06/seniors-falls-er-visits-cdc-data/8271620307216/](https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/05/06/seniors-falls-er-visits-cdc-data/8271620307216/)

CDC MMWR link: [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7018a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm7018a1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7018a1.htm?s_cid=mm7018a1_w)

**[National Stop the Bleed Day May 20, 2021](#)**  
**[Healthy and Safe Swimming Week May 21 -27, 2021](#)**  
**[National Safe Boating Week May 22-28, 2021](#)**  
**[Heat Safety Awareness Day May 28, 2021](#)**  
**[National Heat Awareness Day May 31, 2021](#)**

----- From IACP "[The Lead](#)" News -----

**Police Departments Ready For Violent Summer**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/15, Subscription Publication) reports police departments in sizable metro areas throughout the country are readying for what they indicate may be a violent summer. According to officials, states ending COVID-19 curbs and more individuals being in public areas in warmer weather raise the probability of further shootings, in addition to less-serious crimes.

**Axios Report: Federally Mandated Police Reform Linked To Surges in Violent Crime**

[Axios](#) (5/14, Contreras) reports that "most police agencies in recent federally court-ordered reform agreements saw violent crime rates skyrocket immediately, according to an Axios examination of departments under consent decrees." According to Axios, "The increases in violent crime rates – in one case by 61% – suggest that there can be unintended consequences...to the policing changes many Americans have demanded," and have "also given police unions another argument in their campaign against reforms." Axios says its "review of...data on all 12 agencies under consent decrees since 2012 found that seven of them experienced jumps in violent crime rates." Axios reports that Albuquerque "experienced a 36% increase in its violent crime rate," although "before its consent decree, the city had seen a 30-year low in crime." Axios adds that Los Angeles County "saw a colossal rise of 61% in its violent crime rate following a consent decree."

### **Rising US Violence Leading To Increased Calls for Police Investment**

The [Washington Post](#) (5/16) reports that while the nationwide protests over George Floyd's death urged politicians to "reimagine the American criminal justice system and end race-based abuses," there "are growing signs that the thirst for change is being blunted by fears of runaway crime" in cities across the country. The article examines the tight race for New York City's mayoral election, and the unlikely rise of former police officer and current Brooklyn borough president Eric Adams, who "said his 22-year career as a police officer has been an asset, not a liability, at a time when crime is at the forefront of voters' minds."

### **US Lawmakers, Groups Push To End Giving Military Grade Gear to Police**

[The Hill](#) (5/13, Kheel) reports, "A group of House Democrats is introducing a bill Thursday to repeal the program that allows the Pentagon to send excess equipment to local police departments." The Hill adds, "More than 150 outside organizations are also sending a letter to lawmakers Thursday backing the bill, which was sponsored by Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-N.Y.) and co-sponsored by 17 other House Democrats. 'The 1033 program has contributed to a military-style police culture and has endangered countless lives, particularly in communities of color,' the 155 organizations wrote in the letter, a copy of which was obtained by The Hill." The bill and the letter "are the latest effort in a push to curtail the Pentagon's ability to transfer military-grade weapons to U.S. police departments through what's known as the 1033 Program."

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### **Advance ICS-400 Command and General Staff-Complex Incidents Course**

*Campbell County on September 22-23, 2021.*

Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (MGT904) provides training and resources for personnel who require advanced application of the ICS. The course expands upon information covered in the ICS-100, ICS-200 and ICS-300 courses. This course is intended for individuals who may assume a supervisory role in expanding incidents of Type 3 category. This course is 16 hours. You can register online at: <https://bit.ly/2OrnA8I>

Also, remember you are now required to have a FEMA Student Identification (SID) number to attend any homeland security training in person or online. The SID number takes the place of your social security number. Below is a link to the FEMA website to obtain the SID number if you do not already have one. The whole process should not take more than three minutes. [FEMA SID site: https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register](https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register).

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.