



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 18, 2021

[National EMS Week – May 16 - 22](#)
[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](#)

KY COVID Update for May 18

There were 645 new cases today, with 133 18 and under. The positivity rate is 2.79%. There were 11 new deaths, for a total of 6,673. 390 are hospitalized, with 113 in the ICU, and 53 on a vent.

COVID-19 vaccination rates lower in U.S. rural areas among all groups

(UPI) COVID-19 vaccination rates are about 15% lower in rural areas of the United States than they are in urban regions, according to [data](#) released Tuesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Just under 39% of adults living in rural counties nationally had been vaccinated as of April 10, compared to 46% of those in urban counties, the data showed. Adults age 65 and older -- those given first priority for receiving the shots -- were vaccinated at a rate of 68% in rural areas and 76% in urban ones, the agency said. Fewer than 30% of adults under age 64 living in rural areas had received the COVID-19 vaccine as of April 10, while 38% of those in urban areas had done so. In addition, vaccination rates among women -- 48% versus 42% -- and men -- 42% versus 35% -- were higher in urban counties than in rural ones, the CDC said. Full UPI story: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/05/18/coronavirus-vaccination-rates-lower-rural-cdc/2001621348593/

EU Regulators say Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine can be stored longer in fridge temps

(UPI) -- Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine can be stored for a longer period of time at non-freezing temperatures than previously recommended, the European Union's top medical regulator says. The European Medicines Agency said on Monday that the vaccine developed by Pfizer and partner BioNTech can be stored at refrigerator temperatures for one month, rather than the previously recommended five days. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved storage and transport of the Pfizer vaccine at standard freezer temperatures of minus 5 degrees to minus 13 degrees for up to two weeks, as opposed to the ultra-low temperatures. Pfizer [had asked the FDA to approve the warmer storage](#) and transportation temperatures after tests indicated that the vaccine remained stable in those conditions. Full story: https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2021/05/18/eu-ema-pfizer-vaccine-storage/7441621332547/

Hospitals with Emergency Departments



2021 Pediatric Emergency Care Assessment is OPEN!

[Print a Copy or complete the assessment now.](#)

If you have questions about the NPRP, you can contact [Morgan Scaggs](#), KY EMS for Children Project Director, or [visit the NPRP Assessment FAQ website.](#)

Study: 2 in 5 older adults with COPD lack access to beneficial treatment

(UPI) -- Nearly two in five older adults with COPD lack access to needed pulmonary rehabilitation services, an analysis presented Tuesday during the American Thoracic Society's 2021 [conference](#) found.

Just under 40% of Medicare beneficiaries with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, live more than 10 miles away from the nearest pulmonary rehabilitation clinic, the data showed.

For nearly 15%, the closest clinic offering these services, which include exercise and educational programs designed to improve lung function, is more than 25 miles away.

Overall, the researchers found that one in four Medicare beneficiaries with COPD lives in small towns or rural areas with, on average, one pulmonary rehab clinic per 4,300 beneficiaries with COPD.

Full UPI story: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/05/18/copd-care-access-study/2981621359415/



KY Public Health Announces New HPP Region 7 Coordinator Welcome to Jimmie Hampton

Ken Kik, Kentucky Public Health's HPP Program Manager, welcomes [Jimmie Hampton](#) into his new role as the Appalachia HCC Regional Readiness Coordinator. He replaced Jackie Campbell who retired at the end of March.

Jimmie has been the Rowan County Emergency Management Director.

IRELAND'S HEALTH SERVICES HIT WITH \$20 MILLION RANSOMWARE DEMAND

Date: 15-May-21 **Source:** Bleeping Computer **Summary:** Ireland's health service, the HSE, says they are refusing to pay a \$20 million ransom demand to the Conti ransomware gang after the hackers encrypted computers and disrupted health care in the country. Ireland's Health Service Executive (HSE), the country's publicly funded healthcare system, shut down all of their IT systems on Friday after suffering a Conti ransomware attack.

"We have taken the precaution of shutting down all our IT systems in order to protect them from this attack and to allow us fully assess the situation with our own security partners," the Irish national health service said. This IT outage has led to widespread disruption in the country's healthcare, causing limited access to diagnostics and medical records, transcription errors due to handwritten notes, and slow response times to healthcare visits.

More Information At: <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/irelands-health-services-hit-with-20-million-ransomware-demand/>

Analytical Note: The HSE is the second major health service to be hit by a cyberattack this month. Here in San Diego, Scripps' systems are still offline after passing the two-week mark on May 14th. Scripps is still not disclosing whether patients personal information had been stolen or if it was just a disruption of the current systems. Scripps is keeping all current information close and not disclosing much other than the investigation into what happened and how far it reached is still ongoing.

The Conti ransomware gang stated they had been inside the HSE network for two weeks and were able to have extracted over 700 gigabytes of unencrypted files including patient info, employee info, contracts, financial statements, payroll, and much more. The Conti gang is said to have shared some of the stolen information back to the HSE to prove they had infiltrated their systems but, it is not confirmed if the information shared back was legitimate or not. Taoiseach Micheal Martin, the Prime Minister of Ireland said on May 14th that they have no plans of paying the ransom.

Pikeville Medical Center Trauma Symposium 2021 Pre-recorded virtual event with CEU/CME

Click the link, and choose the 2021 Trauma Symposium, to register and attend
<https://www.pikevillehospital.org/trauma-symposium-may-2021/#1587755182-2-61>

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.