



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 22, 2021

These are the states most at risk thanks to a drop in vaccinations

(Business Insider) Vaccinations across the country are down by close to 50% from their peak last month. The country was vaccinating an average of almost 3.4 million people a day in mid-April but only [1.8 million vaccine doses](#) were given out each day over the last week.

While COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths have been on the decline as more people get vaccinated, experts are worried the slowing of vaccinations could leave groups of unvaccinated people vulnerable to infection, especially during the summer when people are likely to congregate indoors to avoid the heat, [CNN](#) reported.

Specifically, experts are worried about states with the lowest vaccination rates per capita, including Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Wyoming, Idaho, Georgia, and **Tennessee**.

Full story: <https://www.businessinsider.com/these-are-states-most-risk-covid-19-thanks-drop-vaccinations-2021-5>

Related story - [Dating Apps Are Adding Vaccination Badges](#)

[COVID-19 may have killed 20% more than reported in US](#)

(CIDRAP) The COVID-19 pandemic may have exacted a 20% higher US death toll than previously estimated, particularly among racial minorities, underscoring the need to adapt policies to address deepening ethnic and sociodemographic disparities, according to a [study](#) led by Boston University researchers.

The study, published yesterday in *PLOS Medicine*, consisted of analyzing provisional county-level COVID-19 and all-cause death data from the National Center for Health Statistics from Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2020. The sample included 2,096 counties (out of more than 3,000 in the country) that reported at least 20 coronavirus deaths during that time, representing a total of 319.1 million people.

Direct, indirect causes - For every 100 deaths attributed to COVID-19, another 20 deaths were ascribed to other causes. The percentage of non-COVID-19 excess deaths was significantly higher in southern and western counties and those with larger proportions of Black residents, lower median household incomes, lower educational levels, poorer health, and higher rates of diabetes. Counties with high COVID-19 death rates also had high all-cause death rates before the pandemic.

New COVID-19 Rapid Test Kit Receives Scientific Seal Of Approval

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/556307382>

Study: 10% of hospitalized COVID-19 patients return for care after discharge

UPI Story: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/05/21/coronavirus-lingering-symptoms-study/9271621602154/

Minnesota Paramedic's International Trip To Treat COVID Put Him Behind Bars

(CBS) It's a plot made for the movies: A Minnesota paramedic shares the frightening story of his 3,000 mile journey to treat COVID patients that landed him behind bars. It all started with a call for help from the federal government. A paramedic for Bemidji Ambulance and a physician's assistant, he had volunteered years earlier for an event in Washington, D.C. In doing so, he signed an agreement that he'd be available in case of emergency. Last March he was first deployed to San Francisco; But, it was a new assignment weeks later that proved the most dangerous.

Read more and watch the interview: <https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2021/05/20/minnesota-paramedics-international-trip-to-treat-covid-put-him-behind-bars/>

Asian American health care workers are fighting two viruses: Covid and hate

(CNN) Health care workers are on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic, risking their lives to protect Americans from illness and even death. Among them are countless Asian American medical professionals, serving as doctors, nurses, pharmacists, lab technicians and more. But as they work around the clock to stop the virus from spreading, many are having to confront another danger: hate.

Misplaced blame for the coronavirus pandemic has made Asian Americans a target for increased harassment and even violence. In fact, an [analysis](#) by the [Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism](#) at California State University, San Bernardino, found that anti-Asian hate crimes in 16 of the largest US cities and counties rose by 164% in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the same period the year before.

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/21/us/asian-american-health-care-workers-hate-crimes-trnd/index.html>

As Memorial Day Approaches

Ky. Office of Highway Safety pushing 'Click It or Ticket' campaign to help keep drivers safe

Full story: <https://www.wyvt.com/2021/05/21/ky-office-of-highway-safety-pushing-click-it-or-ticket-campaign-to-help-keep-drivers-safe/>

Beware Of Extra Copperheads Out Snacking On Cicadas In Kentucky This Spring

Nature is a part of life and sometimes it's cute and cuddly while other times it's... not. Of course, every creature throughout Kentucky has a place in its ecosystem, but some of the habits of these animals are downright hair-raising. By now you likely know that the Bluegrass State is going to be [invaded by millions of cicadas this spring](#) and we are getting very close to their arrival. What you may not know is that with all of these bugs comes extra copperhead snakes in Kentucky, slithering out for a snack. [These venomous snakes](#) can be found all over Kentucky, so keep an eye out for them this spring. And fair warning: if you're not a fan of bugs and snakes, you may want to read the rest of this article with your eyes mostly covered.

Be brave! Read on... <https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/kentucky/copperheads-cicadas-ky/amp/>

Voluntary Nationwide Expanded Recall of Dibar Labs Hand Sanitizer Due to the Presence of Methanol (Wood Alcohol)

See FDA Recall: <https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/dibar-nutricional-s-de-ri-de-cv-issues-voluntary-nationwide-expanded-recall-dibar-labs-hand>

US enacts 'Real Water' recall amid reports of death, illness

(AP) Federal authorities have ordered a complete recall of a Las Vegas-based bottled water brand Real Water and ordered the company to surrender records in investigations of at least one death and multiple cases of liver illness among people who reported drinking it.

The product is sold as premium alkalized drinking water in distinctive boxy blue bottles touting "E2 Electron Energized Technology." Labels say it is "infused with negative ions" and offers healthy detoxifying properties. Water is drawn from the Las Vegas-area municipal supply, according to the complaint, filtered and processed with potassium hydroxide, or lye, the chemical potassium bicarbonate and magnesium chloride, a salt.

The Las Vegas-based Southern Nevada Health District on Thursday reported five more cases of liver illness believed to be linked to Real Water, including the death of a Clark County woman in her 60s who had underlying medical conditions. The report brought to 16 the number of acute non-viral hepatitis cases tied by the district to the product.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/ut-state-wire-business-health-a59850f80a296f6bef6546136efd41eb>

How Your Hot Showers and Toilet Flushes Can Help the Climate

(NPR) Evolving technology is making it possible to turn sewage wastewater into energy that can heat and cool large buildings. The largest such project in the U.S. is under construction in Denver.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/21/997954472/how-your-hot-showers-and-toilet-flushes-can-help-the-climate>

For 7th Year in a Row, Hurricane Season Starts Like This

Thanks to subtropical storm near Bermuda, it's 7th year in a row that named storm formed before June

Learn more: <https://www.newser.com/story/306461/for-7th-year-in-a-row-hurricane-season-starts-like-this.html>

Popular Mechanics: This Rechargeable Cement Battery Could Power the World coming to a building near you soon!

Curious? <https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/green-tech/a36478422/rechargeable-cement-battery/>

Microsoft is killing off Internet Explorer for good

Read the obituary: <https://news360.com/article/556176680>

Related story - Security at risk as PC users continue to use end-of-life Windows 7

Almost a quarter of PC users are still using the end-of-life operating system Windows 7, new research has revealed. Security firm Kaspersky conducted a study based on anonymised OS metadata provided by consenting Kaspersky Security Network users. The survey has found 22% are still using Windows 7, which stopped receiving mainstream support in January 2020.

When an OS comes to the end of its lifecycle, no more updates will be issued by the vendor, including critical security fixes. Although a trusted operating system may seem fine on the surface because it does everything you need it to do, if the vendor no longer supports it, it could be susceptible to attacks, Kaspersky says.

Kaspersky's findings also showed that only a small percentage (less than 1%) of people and businesses still use older operating systems, such as Windows XP and Vista, support for which ended in 2014 and 2017, respectively.

Read full story: <https://securitybrief.co.nz/story/security-at-risk-as-pc-users-continue-to-use-end-of-life-windows-7>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [May 20](#) & [May 21, 2021](#)

Mask Use and Ventilation Improvements to Reduce COVID-19 Incidence in Elementary Schools — Georgia, November 16–December 11, 2020 (*MMWR*) COVID-19 incidence was 37% lower in schools that required teachers and staff members to use masks and 39% lower in schools that improved ventilation. Ventilation strategies associated with lower school incidence included dilution methods alone (35% lower incidence) or in combination with filtration methods (48% lower incidence).

COVID-19 in Nursing Homes: Most Homes Had Multiple Outbreaks and Weeks of Sustained Transmission from May 2020 through January 2021 (*GAO*) COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on the 1.4 million residents who live in nursing homes in the U.S. We looked at the frequency and duration of COVID-19 outbreaks in nursing homes from May 2020 through January 2021. A nursing home outbreak begins when a nursing home reports a new case among residents or staff and ends when the home has two consecutive weeks with no new cases

Safety and Immunogenicity of a Purified Inactivated Zika Virus Vaccine Candidate in Healthy Adults: An Observer-blind, Randomised, Phase 1 Trial (*The Lancet*) Zika virus, a flavivirus transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes, is associated with cases of congenital malformations and neurological complications. Absence of specific treatment makes a prophylactic Zika virus vaccine an unmet medical need. We assessed safety and immunogenicity of three doses of a purified, inactivated, Zika virus vaccine candidate in healthy flavivirus-naïve and flavivirus-primed adults.

Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness for Prevention of Severe Influenza-Associated Illness among Adults in the United States, 2019-2020: A test-negative study (*Clinical Infectious Disease*) Influenza vaccine effectiveness (VE) against a spectrum of severe disease, including critical illness and death, remains poorly characterized. During a season with drifted viruses, vaccination reduced severe influenza-associated illness among adults by 32%. VE was high among young adults.

Two AstraZeneca COVID Shots Could Be 85-90% Effective, UK Real-world Data Suggest (*Reuters*) Two doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine may be around 85% to 90% effective against symptomatic disease, Public Health England (PHE) said on Thursday, while cautioning that it did not yet have enough data to be conclusive.

New Coronavirus Detected In Patients At Malaysian Hospital; The Source May Be Dogs (*NPR*) In the past 20 years, new coronaviruses have emerged from animals with remarkable regularity. In 2002, SARS-CoV jumped from civets into people. Ten years later, MERS emerged from camels. Then in 2019, SARS-CoV-2 began to spread around the world. For many scientists, this pattern points to a disturbing trend: Coronavirus outbreaks aren't rare events and will likely occur every decade or so. Now, scientists are reporting that they have discovered what may be the latest coronavirus to jump from animals into people. And it comes from a surprising source: dogs.

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.