



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 23, 2021

Gov. Beshear: Decline in weekly COVID cases, 215 new cases of COVID-19 in Ky. Sunday

See more: <https://www.wave3.com/2021/05/23/gov-beshear-decline-weekly-covid-cases-new-cases-covid-ky-sunday/?outputType=apps>

Covid-19 vaccine rollout for ages 12 to 15 is 'better than expected,' health officials say

(CNN) Appointment slots are quick to fill. Excited grins are hidden behind masks. Syringes are filled and shots are ready to go into arms.

The rollout of the Pfizer/BioNTech coronavirus vaccine for children ages 12 to 15 in the United States has been reminiscent of when those very first Covid-19 vaccine doses were administered late last year, said Dr. Lisa Costello, a pediatrician at [West Virginia University Medicine Children's Hospital](#) and a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on State Government Affairs.

It has been one week since the rollout for younger teens and pre-teens began. The [US Food and Drug Administration authorized](#) the emergency use of Pfizer/BioNTech's coronavirus vaccine in the younger age group last Monday and then on Wednesday, the [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended](#) using the vaccine in that age group.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/19/health/covid-19-vaccine-rollout-ages-12-to-15-wellness/index.html>

Related story - Faced with anti-vaccination parents, teens are helping each other get Covid shots

(NBC) The Gen Zer from Ohio who made a splash two years ago for defying his mother to get his childhood immunizations has a message for teenagers seeking [Covid-19](#) vaccinations and getting pushback from their parents — get one if you can.

[Ethan Lindenberger](#), 20, got his first dose three weeks ago and said doing so “could save someone’s life.” “Teens faced with this have to weigh things like ‘I know vaccines are lifesaving, but I don’t want to become homeless,’” he said. “So I tell them if you can’t have that loving conversation with your parents and you’re of age, weigh those consequences seriously.

“Don’t get yourself kicked out or seriously in trouble ... but, if you’re able to have that conversation, please get your shots as soon as possible,” he said.

Summer Johnson McGee, dean of the University of New Haven's School of Health Sciences, said she wholeheartedly approves that message.

"Ethan’s advice is spot on for encouraging teens to undertake education and straight talk with parents about their desire to be vaccinated," she said. "Teenagers who do not share their parents' views on vaccination are in a tough spot, but should advocate for their own decision-making to be vaccinated if they wish."

Full NBC story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/faced-anti-vaccination-parents-teens-are-helping-each-other-get-n1268093>

- ✓ [BRIEF-U.S. CDC Says Administered 285,720,586 Doses Of COVID-19 Vaccine As Of May 23 Versus 283,941,223 Doses Administered As Of May 22](#)
- ✓ [BRIEF-U.S. CDC Reports Total Deaths Of 586,793 Due To Coronavirus As Of Yesterday Versus 586,335 In Previous Report On May 22](#)

U.S. CDC looking into heart inflammation in some young vaccine recipients

(Reuters) Some teenagers and young adults who received COVID-19 vaccines experienced heart inflammation, a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advisory group said, recommending further study of the rare condition. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in a statement dated May 17 said it had looked into reports that a few young vaccine recipients, predominantly adolescents and young adults, and predominantly male, developed myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart muscle. The condition often goes away without complications and can be caused by a variety of viruses, the CDC group said.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/us-cdc-investigating-heart-problem-few-young-vaccine-recipients-nyt-2021-05-22/>

Wuhan lab staff sought hospital care before COVID-19 outbreak disclosed

(Reuters) Three researchers from China's Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) sought hospital care in November 2019, months before China disclosed the COVID-19 pandemic, the [Wall Street Journal reported](#) on Sunday, citing a previously undisclosed U.S. intelligence report.

The newspaper said the report - which provides fresh details on the number of researchers affected, the timing of their illnesses, and their hospital visits - may add weight to calls for a broader probe of whether the COVID-19 virus could have escaped from the laboratory.

The report came on the eve of a meeting of the World Health Organization's decision-making body, which is expected to discuss the next phase of an investigation into the origins of COVID-19.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-china/wuhan-lab-staff-sought-hospital-care-before-covid-19-outbreak-disclosed-wsj-idUSKCN2D40KX>

Smart Toilet May Soon Analyze Stool For Health Problems

<https://news360.com/article/556354148>

Pandemic has fueled eating disorder surge in teens, adults

(AP) Many hospital beds are full. Waiting lists for outpatient treatment are bulging. And teens and adults seeking help for eating disorders are often finding it takes months to get an appointment.

The pandemic created treacherous conditions for eating disorders, leading to a surge of new cases and relapses that is not abating as restrictions are loosened and COVID-19 cases subside in many places, doctors and other specialists say.

"We are absolutely seeing massive increases," said Jennifer Wildes, an associate psychiatry professor and director of an outpatient eating disorders program at the University of Chicago Medicine. Some patients are waiting four to five months to get treatment such as psychotherapy and sometimes medication. Waits usually lasted only a few weeks pre-pandemic, Wildes said. Her program is treating about 100 patients, a near doubling since before the pandemic, she said.

Read more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/pandemic-has-fueled-eating-disorder-surge-in-teens-adults>

KYTC, KSP announce transition to regional test sites

Read more: <https://www.wymt.com/2021/05/23/kytc-ksp-announce-transition-to-regional-test-sites/>

Solar Storms Are Back, Threatening Power Grids and Satellites

(Bloomberg) A few days ago, millions of tons of super-heated gas shot off from the surface of the sun and hurtled 90 million miles toward Earth. The eruption, called a coronal mass ejection, wasn't particularly powerful on the space-weather scale, but when it hit the Earth's magnetic field it triggered the strongest geomagnetic storm seen for years. There wasn't much disruption this time -- few people probably even knew it happened -- but it served as a reminder the sun has woken from a years-long slumber.

Learn more: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-05-22/solar-storms-are-back-threatening-life-as-we-know-it-on-earth>

A massive heat dome is about to make the Southeast sweat

(CNN) The first heat wave of the season begins Sunday and continues into the workweek for much of the eastern US. While we're not yet officially in the summer, Mother Nature is playing by her own rules. Over 30% of the US population will experience temperatures of [at least 90 degrees](#) or higher this week.

"The warm, smothering embrace of a high-amplitude ridge will continue into the long term period," says Kyle Theim, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Atlanta. "Temperatures starting on Monday will run between 10-15 degrees above normal, and border on record maximum temperatures, both for daily highs and lows."

More than 70 daily heat records may be broken from Sunday through Wednesday, as a high-pressure system dominates the eastern half of the country. Some cities such as Atlanta, Nashville, Tennessee, Baltimore, and Montgomery, Alabama, are forecast to have multiple days of record heat.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/23/weather/weather-heat-wave-southeast/index.html>

Low-flying chopper to follow rivers, mapping aquifers across Southeast

(AP) People along rivers in seven states may see a low-flying helicopter towing a long cylinder, starting late this month and going into July. The 30-foot-long tube holds an electromagnetic instrument that the U.S. Geological Survey uses to make maps of aquifers. Those are underground areas from which water can be drawn. The helicopter holds more equipment.

The helicopter will generally fly along rivers in Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky, and Illinois. It will start in what's called the Mississippi Alluvial Plain, which the agency says is the nation's third-largest area of irrigated cropland.

Full story: <https://www.wyvt.com/2021/05/23/low-flying-chopper-to-follow-rivers-mapping-aquifers-across-southeast/>

NOAA Launches First National Rip Current Forecast Model

(NOAA) For the first time, NOAA is launching a national rip current forecast model, aimed at saving lives of beach-goers around the country. This new model can predict the hourly probability of rip currents along U.S. beaches up to six days out.

NOAA's National Ocean Service and National Weather Service collaboratively developed and implemented the model, which leverages wave and water level information from the [recently upgraded National Weather Service's Nearshore Wave Prediction System](#). Similar to predicting weather or precipitation, the model predicts the likelihood of dangerous seaward currents on a sliding scale - from 0 to 100%.

"Safety for beach-goers and boaters is taking a major leap forward with the launch of this new NOAA model," said Nicole LeBoeuf, acting director of NOAA's National Ocean Service. "Extending forecasting capabilities for dangerous rip currents out to six days provides forecasters and local authorities greater time to inform residents about the presence of this deadly beach hazard, thereby saving lives and protecting communities."

"Improved model resolution will enable forecasters to issue more accurate and detailed rip current forecasts further into the future," said Allison Allen, Chief, Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services Branch, NOAA's National Weather Service. "This information enables public safety personnel to better prepare for hazardous beach conditions and inform the public of potential for danger before they head to the beach."

The forecast model covers a majority of the U.S. East and Gulf Coast and portions of California, Hawaii, Guam and Puerto Rico. Additional coastline coverage will be expanded in the future.

Learn more: <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/apr21/rip-current-forecast.html>

US will increase social media tracking of domestic extremism

(WLKY) The Department of Homeland Security plans to ramp up social media tracking as part of an enhanced focus on domestic violent extremism. While the move is a response to weaknesses exposed by the deadly U.S. Capitol insurrection, it's raising concerns about undermining Americans' civil liberties.

DHS in recent weeks has announced a new office in its intelligence branch focusing on domestic extremism and a new center to facilitate "local prevention frameworks" that, according to a statement, can better identify people "who may be radicalizing, or have radicalized, to violence."

Learn more: <https://wlky.com/article/us-increase-social-media-tracking-domestic-extremism/36490745>

Don't Kiss Your Chickens! The CDC Says In A Salmonella Warning

(NPR) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is warning people to refrain from snuggling with backyard poultry, citing concerns that the chickens may be spreading salmonella.

[The CDC warned](#) that backyard poultry owners should take special precautions when handling their animals after 163 confirmed cases of salmonella were reported in 43 states. "Don't kiss or snuggle backyard poultry, and don't eat or drink around them. This can spread *Salmonella* germs to your mouth and make you sick," the public health agency said.

It's [not the first time](#) the CDC has had to remind bird lovers to love from a distance, but the growing numbers of owners do make it a bigger concern.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/22/999457051/dont-kiss-your-chickens-the-cdc-says-in-a-salmonella-warning>

The KHEREF 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 KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.