



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 25, 2021

Gov. Beshear Announces 2 Million People Have Received at Least Their First Dose of a COVID-19 Vaccine in Kentucky

([Press Release](#)) On Tuesday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced 2,006,742 people have received at least their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in Kentucky.

The Governor also noted Moderna announced its COVID-19 vaccine is 100% effective in a study of adolescents ages 12 to 17. The company said it plans to ask the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to expand the emergency use of its vaccine for this age group early next month. If approved, it would be the second COVID-19 vaccine available for this age group, as Pfizer's vaccine has already been approved for ages 12 and older.

Finally, the Governor said this week, he renewed the [executive order](#) prohibiting price gouging.

As of 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 25, Gov. Beshear reported 580 new cases, with a positivity rate: 2.52%. There were 4 new deaths recorded, plus 1 additional audit death. For more information on cases and hospital capacity, see the [full daily COVID-19 report](#).

White House encourages COVID-19 vaccine incentives

(CIDRAP) Andy Slavitt, the White House senior advisor for COVID-19 response, said during a White House press briefing on the pandemic that he was inspired by Ohio's "Vax-A-Million" lottery, which will award \$1 million to a person each week for 5 weeks, with winners drawn at random with proof of vaccination.

Slavitt said since the program was announced by Gov. Mike DeWine, the state has seen a 55% increase in 20- to 49-year-olds getting vaccinated, and in several counties rates of vaccination have doubled.

"In other words, this program is working," Slavitt said. Maryland, New York, and Oregon have announced similar programs, and Slavitt said the Biden administration, via the American Rescue Plan, is encouraging states to get creative in offering cash incentives, lottery winnings, or other prizes as a way to draw attention to the vaccine.

Full report: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/05/white-house-encourages-covid-19-vaccine-incentives>

FEMA program for Covid-19 victims stumbles over death-certificate data problems

(Politico) Thousands of Americans seeking federal funeral assistance for coronavirus victims can't collect because their family members' death certificates do not list Covid-19, according to two senior administration officials with direct knowledge of the situation.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency rolled out the \$2 billion pandemic [funeral assistance program](#) in April, modeling it on similar efforts it has run after major hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters. The funding came from a \$2.3 trillion spending package that former President Donald Trump signed in December 2020, making it the largest funeral assistance program FEMA has ever handled.

More than 200,000 people have sought reimbursement of up to \$9,000 per family for Covid-19-related funeral expenses. FEMA has approved a total of about \$66 million for 9,700 applicants. But eligibility is limited to those who have death certificates stating that their family member's death was caused by, "may have been caused by" or "was likely a result of" Covid-19 or Covid-19-like symptoms. That excludes thousands of Americans who died early in the pandemic, when doctors were still learning how to diagnose the disease and testing to confirm cases was limited.

Full story: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/05/24/covid-19-funerals-fema-490635?cid=apn>

[Building Healthcare Resiliency through Employee Personal Preparedness](#)

(Homeland Security Affairs Journal) Hospital Emergency Departments are at the forefront of disaster response. It is increasingly important to provide health care workers with the resources and support to achieve emergency personal preparedness at home, so they can respond to emergencies while ensuring continuity of care and patient safety. The purpose of this study is to determine the baseline of personal preparedness and test the efficacy of a personal preparedness informational intervention using a pretest-posttest research model. EM staff sought a better understanding of the interventional impact of this information. They also looked to determine whether to augment their approach or information to drive better outcomes. This study uses a pretest-posttest research design with a sample of clinical and non-clinical employees. Results demonstrate that targeted interventions can make a measurable difference in the personal preparedness of both clinical and non-clinical hospital staff. By providing staff with personal preparedness information and resources, we build a more resilient Health System for times of major emergencies and disasters. Article: <https://www.hsaj.org/articles/17130>

[How Medical Jargon Can Make COVID Health Disparities Even Worse](#)

(NPR) When cases of COVID-19 began rising in Boston last spring, Pooja Chandrasekhar, then a first year student at Harvard Medical School, worried that easy-to-understand information about the pandemic might not be available in the many languages spoken by clients of The Family Van, the health services and health literacy program where she was working at the time. So Chandrasekhar recruited more than 175 multilingual health profession students from around the U.S. to start the COVID-19 Health Literacy Project. Its aim: Create clear, understandable information about the virus in more than 40 languages, including English. The group's COVID-19 fact sheets, vetted for accuracy and readability by faculty members who speak and read those languages (the first Urdu effort was deemed too formal), were shared with community organizations around the world. They've been downloaded more 250,000 times so far, in over 150 countries.

Webinar: [Infection Prevention and Control in Schools](#)

The National Association of County and City Health Officials invites local health department leadership and staff to participate in a webinar, Infection Prevention and Control in Schools, on Thursday, June 10, 3:00-4:00 pm ET. As more schools return to in-person learning, the work of balancing the best possible education while keeping students and staff safe has become even more challenging. The Infection Prevention and Control in Schools Task Force, led by Danielle Allen, James Bryant Conant University Professor and Director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University, will discuss a roadmap that will support education and public health leaders in building the organizational capacity and partnership needed for maintaining healthy schools in this pandemic and the next. (NACCHO, 6/10/2021)

Cyber event - this Wednesday

Securing the Supply Chain of Cyber Products & Systems

May 26th @ 11:30 AM ET

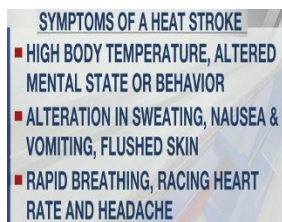
[Register](#)

GAO Believes Additional Guidance Could Help DHS Replace BioWatch

(*Homeland Security Today*, May 24, 2021) In response to the 2001 anthrax attack, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiated the BioWatch program to provide early warning of similar terrorist attacks. A prior effort to upgrade the BioWatch system – known as Biological Detection for the 21st Century or BD21 – proposed using sensors that couldn't distinguish particles like pollen or dust from dangerous agents, thereby causing false alarms. In 2019, the House Science and Technology Committee called for the new program to be shut down, citing tests that found that the technology to be relied on by BD21 detected viral material simulating smallpox or other deadly viruses that could be weaponized in just eight of 168 attempts, a success rate of less than 5%.

[<Read more >](#)

Sudden hot weather means more calls related to heat illnesses



(WSAZ) - Hot days can pose big problems to children, older adults and pets. With temperatures reaching the low 90s, and WSAZ meteorologists predicting Tuesday could be the hottest day of the year so far, it is important to take precautions when it comes to heat. As hot weather approaches, even touching your car door can be too hot to handle.

These symptoms are all indicators of a heat stroke. More information can be found at the [CDC website](#) and [here](#).

Read more: <https://www.wyvt.com/2021/05/24/sudden-hot-weather-means-more-calls-related-to-heat-illnesses/>

Poison Centers Warn Against Gas Siphoning

(MedicineNet) A [rash](#) of gasoline-related poisoning calls has led U.S. poison experts to warn against [gas](#) siphoning. Gasoline hoarding and siphoning in some East Coast states has led to a significant increase in gasoline-related emergencies, the Association of [Poison Control](#) Centers said.

Recent concerns about limited gasoline supplies due to the shutdown of a major pipeline led some people to try to stockpile gasoline. There was a 45% increase in gasoline ingestions from May 10-12, according to the National Poison Data System.

Most of those cases involved people between the ages of 13-59, and more than three-quarters of the cases were managed outside of hospitals.

In response, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission warned that people should not fill [plastic bags](#) with gasoline. When gasoline is not stored in proper fuel-approved containers, it can be hazardous if inhaled.

[Inhalation](#) resulted in 25% of gasoline exposures in May, according to the poison data system.

Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=258764>

CNN Analysis: Rising Crime Bolsters Calls To Increase Police Funding

(IACP [The Lead](#)) In an analysis, [CNN](#) (5/24) senior writer Zachary B. Wolf writes that while “the murder of George Floyd a year ago Tuesday by a now-former and convicted Minneapolis cop was the touchstone that set off a national reckoning over race and policing,” and “a lot of attention was paid last year to calls for redirecting police budgets toward mental health and social services, shorthanded as ‘defund the police,’” an “increasingly visible and alarming rise in crime over the past year” poses a threat to such policies going forward.

NIMS Alert 18-21
FEMA Releases Shelter in Place Guidance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released [Shelter-in-Place Pictogram Guidance](#) for ten hazards and three building types.

The pictograms provide clear, visual guidance to the public on shelter-in-place actions classified by both hazard and building type to ensure the public takes effective protective actions when instructed to shelter-in-place during emergencies.

The guidance provides recommended interior locations for specific hazards, additional actions for protection, and the recommended duration for staying sheltered-in-place.

The ten hazards are:

- Active Shooter
- Chemical Hazards
- Earthquake
- Flooding/Flash Flooding
- Hurricane
- Nuclear/Radiological Hazards
- Pandemic
- Thunderstorm
- Tornado
- Winter Storm

The three building types are:

- Manufactured or Mobile Home
- 1- or 2-Story Buildings
- Multistory Buildings

The shelter-in-place pictograms can be used by community partners in multiple communication channels, such as, posters, websites, just-in-time social media posts and by emergency managers for Integrated Public Alert & Warning System Wireless Emergency Alerts.

The [Shelter-in-Place Pictogram Guidance](#) can be found on [Planning Guides | FEMA.gov.](#)

Virtual Webcast
Emerging Hospital Technologies and Innovation Conference
Thursday, June 10, 2021 | 8:15 - 11:30 a.m. ET
[Register Today!](#)

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.