

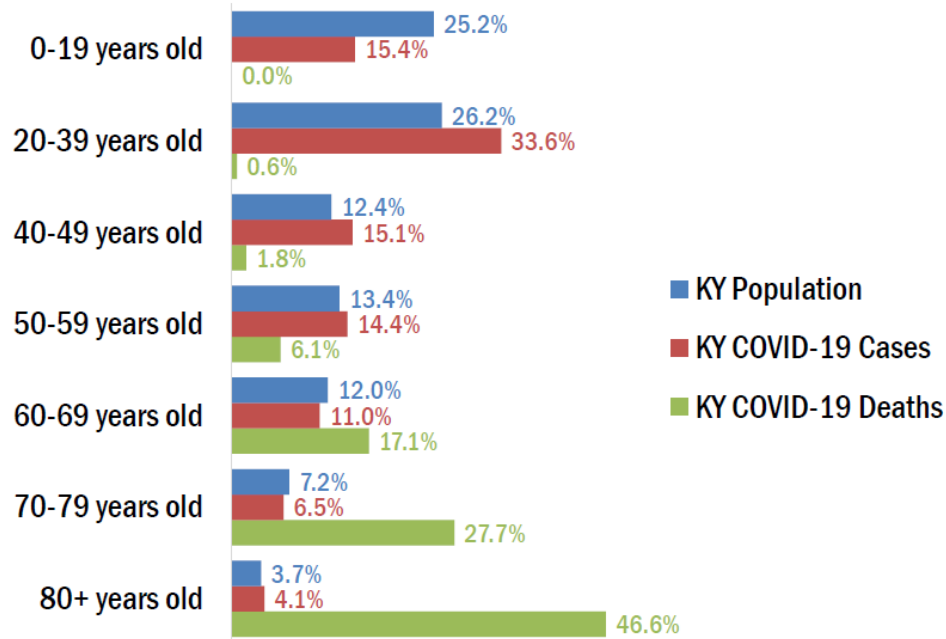


Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 26, 2021

Kentucky COVID Update

(KY [Daily Report](#)) There were 440 new cases today, with 78 cases 18 and under. The positivity is 2.4%. There were 16 new deaths recorded, with 3 new audit deaths, for a total of 6,744. 349 are hospitalized with COVID, with 109 in the ICU and 50 on a vent.

Distribution of Age by KY Population, COVID-19 Cases, and COVID-19 Deaths



225 COVID-19 cases with missing/unknown age (<0.1%)
Updated May 26, 2021

[CNBC: Nine states have 70% of adults at least partially vaccinated against Covid as U.S. cases, deaths fall further](#)

Data Shows Suicides Dropped At Height of Pandemic

(IACP [The Lead](#)) [USA Today](#) (5/25, Weise) reports, “Deaths by suicide fell 9% at the height of the pandemic shutdown compared with previous years, a surprise given increases in reported levels of stress, anxiety and depression. There were more than 2,400 fewer deaths by suicide between March and August 2020 than normally would have been expected, said Dr. Jeremy Samuel Faust, an emergency physician in the Division of Health Policy and Public Health at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston and an instructor at Harvard Medical School.” Another expert, Thomas Joiner, who is a professor of psychology at Florida State University, “believes the expanded availability of mental health services via telehealth, such as counseling calls by phone or computer, may” explain the trend.

***Related story* - Research Finds Decline in Drug Overdose Mortality Rates in Eastern Kentucky Counties between 2008 and 2017**

Researchers at the University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health (UK CERH) and the Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis at the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago have released a report detailing the findings of a study conducted to understand possible factors that contribute to Eastern Kentucky leading the nation in declining overdose mortality rates.

Data from the study indicate that several counties in Eastern Kentucky have seen declines in drug overdose mortality rates over the past decade, even as overdose rates have risen in the state of Kentucky as well as in

the Appalachian regions of neighboring states such as Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia and across the nation. To read the entire press release, [click here](#)

Experts question Olympic COVID readiness

(CIDRAP) A group of infectious disease experts yesterday raised concerns about several gaps in the International Olympic Committee's (IOC's) COVID-19 protocols, and they called on the World Health Organization (WHO) to convene an emergency committee to weigh the risks and make recommendations for the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

If a WHO emergency committee takes up the issue, it would mark the second time in recent years that international experts have tackled the safety of the Summer Games.

Learn more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/05/experts-question-olympic-covid-readiness-ask-who-weigh>

NHTTAC offering free training on SUD treatment for human trafficking survivors

([AHA Today](#)) The [National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center](#), through its [SOAR to Health and Wellness Training Program](#), invites organizations to form teams for a free, six-week training opportunity and technical assistance package to strengthen your organization's substance use treatment and referral system for survivors of human trafficking. Training will cover the creation of action plans that identify opportunities for responding to trafficking within an existing service delivery model; empowering staff; the development of response protocols and resources; partnerships with community stakeholders as part of a holistic approach to assist survivors and prevent human trafficking; and the gathering and analyzing of data to improve programs and policies. [Register](#) by May 31.

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [May 25th](#) & [May 26, 2021](#)

[C.D.C. Will Not Investigate Mild Infections in Vaccinated Americans](#) (*New York Times*) No vaccine provides perfect protection, and so-called breakthrough infections after coronavirus vaccination are rare and unlikely to lead to serious illness. Federal health officials have told fully vaccinated people they no longer need to wear masks or maintain social distance because they are protected, nor do they need to be tested or quarantine after an exposure, unless they develop symptoms. Now, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has stopped investigating breakthrough infections among fully vaccinated people unless they become so sick that they are hospitalized or die.

['Better Than the Hospital': Pandemic Boosts Care for Serious Illnesses at Home](#) (*KHN*) Hospital care at home is nothing new for patients with low-level health needs. But since the pandemic began, a growing number of health systems, including Adventist Health, the Mayo Clinic and Kaiser Permanente (which is not affiliated with KHN) are offering people with more serious health conditions hospital-level treatment in the comfort of their homes.

[Faster Than a PCR Test: Dogs Detect Covid in Under a Second](#) (*The Guardian*) Faster than PCR and more accurate than lateral flow tests, the latest weapons against Covid-19 have four legs and a wet nose. A study published on Monday found that people who are infected with coronavirus give off a distinct odour, which these highly trained dogs can detect with pinpoint precision.

[Children's Risk Of Serious Illness From COVID-19 Is As Low As It Is For The Flu](#) (*NPR*) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention made a strong statement about the effectiveness of vaccines when it decided that fully vaccinated people don't need to wear masks in most circumstances. But it left some parents concerned about how the change might affect children too young to be vaccinated. Dr. Paul Offit, who heads the vaccine education center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, says that the new mask guidance is mostly good news. "But I think that has made this world a little less safe for young children," he says.

[Low Oxygen Levels, Shallow Breathing Tied to COVID Death](#) (*CIDRAP*) A blood oxygen level below 92% and fast, shallow breathing were associated with significantly elevated death rates in a study of hospitalized COVID-19 patients, suggesting that people who test positive for the virus should watch for these signs at home, according to a study led by University of Washington at Seattle researchers. The study, published today in *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses*, involved a chart review of 1,095 adult coronavirus patients hospitalized at University of Washington hospitals or Rush University Medical Center in Chicago from Mar 1 to Jun 8, 2020.

[6-month Multidisciplinary Follow-up and Outcomes of Patients with Paediatric Inflammatory Multisystem Syndrome](#) (*PIMS-TS*) at a UK Tertiary Paediatric Hospital: a Retrospective Cohort Study (*The Lancet*) Despite initial severe illness, few organ-specific sequelae were observed at 6 months. Ongoing concerns requiring physical re-conditioning and mental health support remained, and physiotherapy assessments revealed persisting poor exercise tolerance. Longer-term follow-up will help define the extended natural history of PIMS-TS.

Drought conditions could worsen California wildfires

that have already burned 5 times more land this year than same time last year

(CNN, May 26, 2021) Wildfires have burned roughly 14,000 acres in California this year as a deepening drought grips the Southwest -- more than five times the acreage charred by the same time last year. It's a worrying trend that has fire officials taking a proactive approach -- from more funding to wildfire prevention to hiring additional crews -- after the state saw its worst fire season ever in 2020. <[Read more](#) >

It Doesn't Take a Hurricane to Cause a Flood

(Insurance Journal, May 25, 2021) Flooding is the costliest — and the most common — natural disaster to significantly impact communities across the United States, The PEW Charitable Trust notes in its reporting on flood-prepared communities. Flood events have accounted for more than \$850 billion in damage and losses in the U.S. since 2000, the global nonprofit, nongovernmental organization points out. <[Read more](#) >

After Colonial Pipeline Hack, U.S. to Require Operators to Report Cyberattacks

(The Wall Street Journal, May 25, 2021) The Transportation Security Administration intends to release the first of at least two security directives that would require pipeline operators to notify it when they are targets or victims of cyberattacks, according to senior officials at the Department of Homeland Security. The action, expected this week, also will require each company to designate a point person for cybersecurity. <[Read more](#) >

CDC Clinician's ZOOM Webinar/Call

Underlying Medical Conditions and Severe COVID-19:

Evidence-based Information for Healthcare Providers

Thursday, May 27 @ 2 PM ET

More info and call-in details: https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2021/callinfo_052721.asp

Lessons Learned from the First Hospital System to Mandate COVID-19 Vaccines

Webinar on June 17 from 12:15 PM ET

[Register Now](#)

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 added or deleted, 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.