



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 27, 2021

Kentucky COVID Update

(KY [Daily Report](#)) There were 421 new COVID cases reported today, with 78 in patients 18 and under. The positivity rate was 2.51%. There were two new deaths recorded, with two additional audit deaths.

KY Public Health COVID Update Webinar

June 8th @ 11:30 AM – 1 PM ET

Please register for COVID-19 Healthcare and Public Health Update at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8038248450893855503>

[You will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar after registering.]

Coronavirus immunity may last for years, finds study

Findings may help put to rest lingering fears that protection against virus is short-lived

(Irish Times) Immunity to the coronavirus lasts at least a year, probably much longer, and improves over time especially after vaccination, according to two new studies. The findings may help put to rest lingering fears that protection against the virus will be short-lived.

Together, the studies suggest that most people who have recovered from Covid-19 and who were later immunised will not need boosters. Vaccinated people who were never infected most likely will need the shots, however, as will a minority who were infected but did not produce a robust immune response.

Both reports looked at people who had been exposed to the coronavirus about a year earlier. Cells that retain a memory of the virus persist in the bone marrow and may churn out antibodies whenever needed, according to one of the studies, published Monday in the journal Nature. The other study, which is also under review for publication in Nature, found that these so-called memory B cells continue to mature and strengthen for at least 12 months after the initial infection.

Full article: <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/health/coronavirus-immunity-may-last-for-years-finds-study-1.4576766>

CDC Coronavirus “What’s New” Extracts

- [Science Brief: Background Rationale and Evidence for Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#)
- [Overall US COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration Update as of Wed, 26 May 2021 06:00:00 EST](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#)

[FDA Authorizes Additional Monoclonal Antibody for Treatment of COVID-19](#)

May 26th, the FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the investigational monoclonal antibody therapy sotrovimab for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients (12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kilograms [about 88 pounds]) with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing and who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death.

Colorado children hospital declares mental health emergency

(AP) A children’s hospital in Colorado has declared “a pediatric mental health state of emergency” after an unprecedented number of children 8 and older have reported needing immediate treatment, mostly for suicidal thoughts and attempts.

Children’s Hospital Colorado CEO Jena Hausmann said the facility is overrun with “kids attempting suicide and suffering from other forms of major mental health illness.” Hausmann issued a call to action on Tuesday to Democratic Gov. Jared Polis, state lawmakers and agencies to prioritize mental health services for children, release more funding for suicide prevention, recruit more providers and reduce bureaucracy in enabling children to access services, The Gazette [reported](#).

Children’s Hospital Colorado Chief Medical Officer Dr. David Brumbaugh said between a dozen and two dozen children systemwide may wait hours or days on any given day to get a behavioral health bed. As a result, Hausmann has suggested setting up emergency centers, like those that emerged for COVID-19 patients, to accommodate the overflow.

Learn more: <https://apnews.com/article/colorado-business-coronavirus-pandemic-mental-health-government-and-politics-ee6353e44e3c86e9f4139ea4a2ba6030>

Big spikes in overdose cardiac arrests, opioid deaths amid COVID-19

(CIDRAP) Two new *JAMA* studies reveal startling jumps in overdose-related cardiac arrests and fatal opioid overdoses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Record overdose-linked cardiac arrests: The first [study](#), led by University of California, Los Angeles, researchers and published yesterday in *JAMA Psychiatry*, involved 33.4 million patient emergency medical services (EMS) encounters from the beginning of the pandemic to May 2020 in the US National EMS Information System, a database of EMS visits from more than 11,000 agencies in 49 states. These visits made up more than 87% of all EMS encounters in 2020.

The number of overdose-related cardiac arrests was compared with those from 2018 and 2019 and with provisional aggregate death data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 2018 through July 2020.

Fatal opioid overdoses up 320% in young people: In the second [study](#), published yesterday in *JAMA Network Open*, a team led by St. Michael's Hospital researchers in Toronto conducted a time series analysis of opioid-related deaths among people 15 years and older in Ontario from Jan 1, 2018, to Sep 20, 2020. Then they compared fatal opioid overdoses from Mar 16 to Sep 15, 2020, the same period in 2019, and from Sep 14, 2019, to Mar 15, 2020.

Over the entire study period, weekly opioid-associated deaths rose 135%, with the fastest growth among people younger than 35 years (320% increase). During that time, 2,774 people (73.4% male, 47.2% 35 to 54 years) died of an opioid overdose.

In the first 6 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, 1,237 people died after overdosing on an opioid, compared with 766 in the first 6 months of 2019 and 772 from Sep 14, 2019, to Mar 15, 2020.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/05/big-spikes-overdose-cardiac-arrests-opioid-deaths-amid-covid-19>

Researchers explore the possible benefits of pairing doses from two different COVID-19 vaccines

(WAVE/WKYT) Many things can be mixed and match but, what about vaccines? It's been done before and now scientists are exploring the possible benefits of pairing doses from two different Covid-19 vaccines. Right now, there is guidance from the CDC on mixing vaccines.

"The CDC and the manufacturers don't really want you to mix the vaccines," Dr. Mark Burns from UofL Health said. If you got the Moderna vaccine, your second dose should be the Moderna vaccine. The same goes for Pfizer's shot.

The CDC, says only under "exceptional circumstances" that it's OK for people to receive one shot of Pfizer vaccine and one shot of Moderna at least 28 days apart. But, the possibility of mixing the vaccines is being explored.

One study out of the UK says mixing coronavirus vaccines may increase the short-term side effects. In the British study, 830 people ages 50 and older were given a dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, followed by the Pfizer shot or vice-versa or two doses of the same vaccine. Those who received mixed doses were more likely to develop mild to moderate side effects compared to those who got the same vaccine. The researchers say the adverse reactions were found to be short-lived and there were no other safety concerns.

Burns said he's also seen reports of a study from Spain. Preliminary results from the Spanish study suggest mix and matching vaccine doses may increase antibodies.

Learn more: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/05/26/researchers-explore-the-possible-benefits-of-pairing-doses-from-two-different-covid-19-vaccines/>

Pandemic 'was like the devil walked through and was invisible' McKnight's 'Distinction' panelists talk about the impact on LTC

(McKnight's Long Term Care News) Operating through the pandemic was like working with a ghost that was impossible to grasp, leading to feelings of failure among senior living and care leaders. But the pandemic also refocused priorities.

That's according to speakers Wednesday during a *McKnight's* Women of Distinction Forum session titled "Addressing pandemic challenges with success." Three industry leaders revealed how their organizations rose to meet COVID-19-related hardships and also shared best practices learned. *McKnight's Home Care* Editor Liza Berger moderated the session.

Fear of the unknown, change and conflicting governmental guidance topped the panel's list of challenges. Everything changed so quickly early on — and continues to change today — that it was difficult to create consistency and a sense of calm, said David Pomeranz, chief operating officer of RiverSpring Living. Changing guidance, protocols and expectations were difficult to manage, he noted.

“A lot of inconsistency of information created extra anxiety,” Pomeranz explained. “Change created a lot of extra work to manage, and continue to manage, throughout this.”

Pomeranz agreed with Terri Cunliffe, CEO of Covenant Living Communities and Services, another panelist, who said that change led to fear among employees. Covenant Living incentivized employees for pushing through their fears, offering additional paid time off benefits and “hero pay.”

Cunliffe said that from a business perspective, the pandemic taught her that her organization’s infection control wasn’t as solid as believed. Once the company understood the virus, attention turned to implementing infection control protocols in housekeeping, facilities and dining — not just in clinical settings.

She also pointed out that the pandemic exacerbated senior living’s image problem. As lay media reports focused on the negative stories coming out of nursing homes, senior living communities were included under the same umbrella.

Full story: <https://www.mcknights.com/news/pandemic-was-like-the-devil-walked-through-and-was-invisible-mcknights-distinction-panelists/>

Google, HCA and Ascension Cut Data Deals on Patient Records
Goals include greater efficiency, help for clinicians

([Newser](#)) Google is moving deeper into the health care business. Under a multiyear deal with HCA Healthcare, a hospital chain, the companies' engineers will develop algorithms to help monitor patients, guide medical decisions, and increase efficiency. Google will store data generated by HCA's medical devices, as well as information from health records, the [Wall Street Journal](#) reports. The company has about 2,000 US sites. "Part of what we're building is a central nervous system to help interpret the various signals," says Jonathan Perlin, the company's chief medical officer. The companies hope to come up with algorithms that will, among other things, send an alert to clinicians' mobile devices when there's a change in a patient's condition.

The advent of digital medical records has provided opportunity for tech companies, including Google. Data can be used to improve patient outcomes and discover new treatments, advocates say. "We want to push the boundaries of what the clinician can do in real time with data," a Google Cloud executive says. But deals like this one, including Google's [agreement with Ascension](#), also have raised concerns about patient privacy. Perlin says Google and HCA will be vigilant about privacy, per the [Hill](#). Identifying information will be removed from patient records before they go to Google, he says.

DOJ Refocuses “Project Safe Neighborhoods”

(IACP [“The Lead”](#)) The [AP](#) (5/26, Balsamo) reports that the Justice Department “is refocusing a long-standing violent crime initiative amid a string of violence and mass shootings across the U.S. that includes embedding federal agents with local homicide investigators and sweeps to arrest wanted fugitives with a significant history of violence. ‘Today, we renew our commitment to reducing violent crime and building strong communities where all Americans are safe,’ Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement.” According to the AP, “The new focus of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a program that encourages federal, state and local law enforcement officials to work together on crime-reduction strategies, will not be on the number of arrests but on how it is driving down violent crime, and officials will not tout the number of prosecutions that are being brought, senior Justice Department officials said.”

The [New York Post](#) (5/26) reports, “Garland said that all US attorney’s offices are being instructed to draw up plans with state and local officials to address a surge in crimes such as murders, shootings and carjackings.” Garland “announced a ‘comprehensive strategy to deploy our federal resources in the most effective way, disrupting the most dangerous threats and supporting the ground-level efforts of local law enforcement.’ The attorney general said the feds will reinforce local cops to help nab suspects and will provide grants to help shore up local forces.” In a news release, the Justice Department “outlined a broad vision for federal intervention to beef up local policing – though it’s not immediately clear how the ramp-up compares to the Trump administration’s Operation Legend, which similarly sought to tamp down rising crime last year. New York City has seen major spike in murders over the last year.”

Earth Is Barreling Toward 1.5 Degrees Celsius of Warming, Scientists Warn

(NPR) The average temperature on Earth is now consistently 1 degree Celsius hotter than it was in the late 1800s, and that temperature will keep rising toward the critical 1.5-degree Celsius benchmark over the next five years, according to a new report from the World Meteorological Organization.

Scientists warn that humans must keep the average annual global temperature from lingering at or above 1.5 degrees Celsius to avoid the most catastrophic and long-term effects of climate change. Those include massive flooding, severe drought and runaway ocean warming that fuels tropical storms and drives mass die-offs of marine species.

The new report from the WMO, an agency of the United Nations, finds that global temperatures are accelerating toward 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming. The authors of the new report predict there is a 44% chance that the average annual temperature on Earth will temporarily hit 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming at some point in the next five years. That likelihood has doubled since last year.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/26/1000465487/earth-is-barreling-toward-1-5-degrees-celsius-of-warming-scientists-warn>

Safe Emergency Response to Chemical Assisted Suicide

KY Emergency Management is offering **a new 2 hour virtual course** focusing on Safe Emergency Response to Chemical Assisted Suicide. The courses will be offered in June and July.

It is designed for first responders to recognize when victims are contaminated with toxic chemicals. This course covers selecting personal protective equipment and decontamination procedures to avoid cross contamination of personnel and equipment. Students will be presented with guidelines for safely responding to incidents involving hydrogen sulfide that are based on results of experiments conducted with hydrogen sulfide in vehicles.

This course is open to all Emergency Management, Rescue, Fire, Environmental, HazMat Response, Emergency Medical Services, Law Enforcement personnel, or any organization having responsibility for responding to a hazardous materials incident. Students are evaluated on their attentiveness during instruction and participation in small group activities and class discussions.

Prerequisites: We strongly recommend students complete an 8 hour HazMat Operation Course.

Advance student registration is REQUIRED in order to participate in this course. **MAXIMUM number of participants is 24 students per session.** You will receive an email with your Virtual Training Log In information. This course is geared towards certification.

Dates:

June 15, 1:00pm-3:00pm	(Register no later than June 7)
June 17, 1:00pm-3:00pm	(Register no later than June 10)
July 20, 1:00pm-3:00pm	(Register no later than June 13)
July 22, 1:00pm-3:00pm	(Register no later than June 15)

Registration application for the course can be completed using the following link to the KYEM website: <http://kyem.ky.gov/training/Pages/HazMat.aspx> Students will be notified if the course is cancelled. For this reason, it is imperative that you provide accurate contact information.

For more information, contact: Danita Farrier, KYEM HazMat Program Manager Danita.e.farrier.nfg@mail.mil



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.