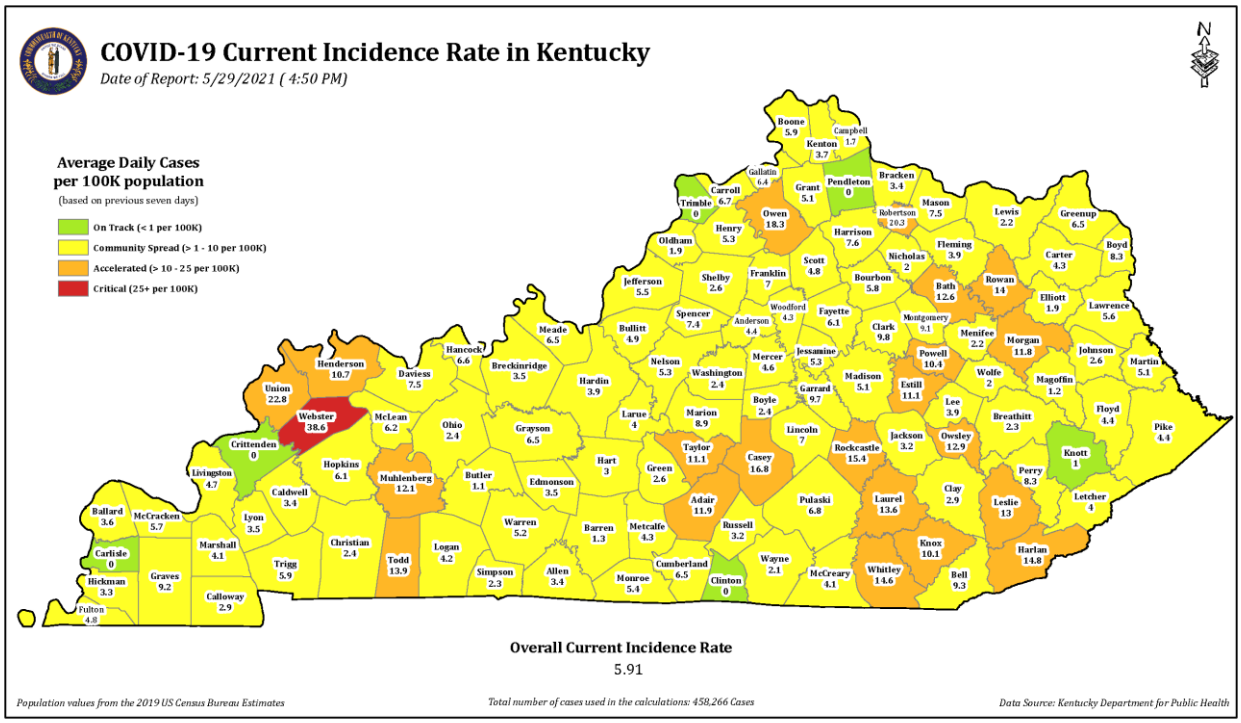
Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation
Emergency Preparedness Update
for May 29, 2021

Kentucky COVID Update

(KY Daily Report) There were 383 new COVID cases reported today, with 76 in patients 18 and under. The positivity rate was 2.49%. There were six new deaths recorded, with eighteen (18) additional audit deaths, for a total of 6,782.

There were 326 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, with 93 in the ICU and 46 on vents. The highest ICU capacity in use was in HPP Region 5 (72.04%) and Region 7 (70.2%).

The highest 7-day Incidence Rate per 100,000 was in Webster County (38.6), followed by Union (22.8) and Robertson (20.3). Six counties were at 0.0 (Carlisle, Clinton, Crittenden, Knott, Pendleton and Trimble).



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.]

Vaccine Researchers: We've Unlocked Blood Clot Mystery

Delivery of adenovirus vector vaccines can trigger mutant proteins

(Newser) German scientists say they've figured out why certain coronavirus vaccines trigger rare and potentially deadly blood clots. *Experts urge caution because the theory—that the issue lies with how the AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson "adenovirus vector" vaccines are delivered—isn't proven or peer-reviewed, and there are other possibilities*. But in a preprint study, Goethe University scientists say adenovirus vectors—harmless viruses used to send genetic instructions to cells to produce the spike protein of the coronavirus, which triggers an immune response—deliver these instructions to the nucleus, the central part of the cell, rather than the fluid part, "where proteins are usually produced," per Bloomberg. Vaccines using mRNA technology, like those by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, deliver genetic material of the coronavirus spike protein to the fluid part of the cell, not the nucleus.

"RNA genes are not optimized for gene transcription inside the nucleus," lead author Rolf Marschalek tells Deutsche Welle. There, parts of the spike protein DNA can break apart, causing mutations which prevent

proteins from bonding to the cell, per CBC News. Proteins can then flow through the bloodstream, triggering inflammatory reactions. Researchers point to "highly specific blood flow conditions in veins that drain from the brain." On the bright side, Marschalek tells the CBC that adenovirus vector vaccines (Russia's Sputnik V is another) can be modified to avoid "splice reactions." J&J's Janssen Pharmaceuticals says it's "too soon to draw conclusions," per Bloomberg. The outlet cites one molecular virologist as saying the data "highlights that production of this truncated spike may well occur, but it stops short of providing a concrete link with promotion of blood clotting." Source: https://www.newser.com/story/306716/vaccine-researchers-weve-unlocked-blood-clot-mystery.html

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Could COVID-19 Trigger Chronic Fatigue Syndrome in the Young?

Learn more: https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=258832

CDC Coronavirus Guidance for Summer Camps

- ✓ **Guidance for Operating Youth Camps**: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summer-camps.html
- ✓ **Readiness and Planning Tool**: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/camp-planning-tool.pdf
- ✓ **Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People**: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html

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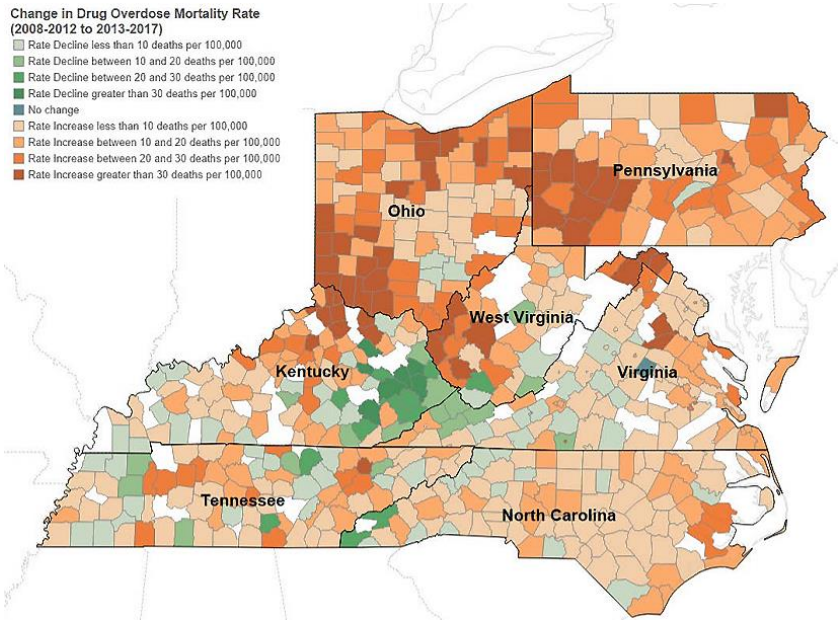
British Woman Dies After Being 'Dropped' on Floor Following Surgery

Was being treated for gall stones. She fell after no one answered a call button. It gets worse...

Learn more: https://www.newsweek.com/woman-dies-dropped-floor-after-surgery-disgusting-jeannette-shields-1595910

Research finds declines in drug-overdose death rates in eight Eastern Kentucky counties and explores the many reasons for it

(KY Health News) A decline in drug-overdose deaths in several Eastern Kentucky counties in the last decade was likely the result of state policies and strategies, stakeholders in the region told researchers for a newly published study.



"The findings of this study are very encouraging, as eight counties in Eastern Kentucky were among the 10 counties nationally with the greatest decline in drug-overdose mortality," Fran Feltner, director of the **University of Kentucky Center for Excellence in Rural Health**, said in a **news release.** "Of the top 20 counties nationally, 14 were in Eastern Kentucky."

The study looked at the two five-year time periods between 2008 and 2017, using data from an opioid mapping tool from the **Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis** in the **National Opinion Research Center** at the **University of Chicago** and drug-overdose death data from the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**'s **National Center for Health Statistics.**

The eight Eastern Kentucky counties with the greatest decline in overdose death rates between 2008-12 and 2013-17 were Clay, Johnson, Floyd, Magoffin, Breathitt, Bath, Powell and Letcher, according to the report.

The researchers from UK and **NORC** noted that the declines in overdose death rates in those Eastern Kentucky counties happened even as overdose rates went up across the nation, in the state as a whole, and in the Appalachian regions of neighboring states such as Ohio and West Virginia.

<Click the headline above to read the full story.>

Related story - More Pot-Linked Poisoning Cases as Edibles' Popularity Booms

(Medicine Net/Health Day News) Newfangled marijuana products -- edibles, concentrates, vapes -- are driving an overall increase in pot-related calls to U.S. poison control centers, a new study shows.

There were more than 11,100 calls related to marijuana use in 2019, up from about 8,200 in 2017, researchers said. More and more of those calls are related to manufactured products that contain distilled amounts of THC, CBD and other chemicals found in cannabis.

Pot plant exposures made up the bulk of calls to centers in 2017, with 7,146 pertaining to marijuana plants and just 1,094 related to manufactured products. But by 2019, calls related to manufactured products totaled 5,503 while pot plant exposure prompted 5,606 calls. More than 81% of calls related to manufactured products came from people using those products on their own, not in combination with alcohol or some other substance.

The findings were published May 24 in the journal *JAMA Network Open*.

Full report: https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=258837

Safe Emergency Response to Chemical Assisted Suicide

KY Emergency Management is offing ***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:

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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)
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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

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USPS says stamp prices will rise this summer undercurrent plan

CBS story: https://www.cbsnews.com/news/postage-stamp-price-58-cents-usps/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a

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.