



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 1, 2021

Memorial Day weekend brings big travel uptick as millions take to the skies for first maskless holiday of pandemic

(Washington Post) [With half of American adults](#) fully vaccinated against the [coronavirus](#), millions are celebrating Memorial Day by taking to the skies, with authorities reporting a surge in air travel as many embark on their first maskless holiday since the pandemic began.

Nearly 2 million people passed through airport security checkpoints Friday, a new daily pandemic record, according to the [Transportation Security Administration](#). About 6 million people were expected to go through airports this weekend, [CBS News](#) reported. Airports, including [Los Angeles International](#), are breaking their 2021 records for daily passenger travel.

More than 37 million Americans are projected to travel 50 miles or more this holiday weekend, an increase of 60 percent compared with this time last year, which registered the lowest number of Memorial Day travelers on record, according to AAA.

Read more: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/05/30/memorial-day-weekend-travel-pandemic/>

As of Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. EDT, the [unofficial COVID-19 toll](#) in the U.S. was 33,264,595 cases and 594,568 deaths, increases of 120,417 and 3,871, respectively, since this time last week

Governor Provides COVID-19 Update & Better Kentucky Plan

(From [Press Release](#)) On Tuesday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced 2,058,029 people have received at least their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in Kentucky. The Governor also announced due to increased vaccinations, senior centers will reopen at full capacity on June 11.

As of 4 PM the Governor reported that there were 137 new cases today, with a positivity rate of 2.50%. There was only one (1) new death reported, and the Governor indicated that they have ended their New Death Audit process with 260 new deaths. That raises the total to 7,067. (See full [Daily Report](#) for more detail.) The Governor also said that his last COVID-19 Update would be June 11th.

There were several other focus areas in today's update, several with their own Press Releases:

- ✓ [Kentucky Plan Includes \\$250 Million to Improve Water Infrastructure](#)
- ✓ [KY Transportation Construction Project Contracts Top \\$1 Billion](#)

Watch YouTube Press Conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9QoVK0Rayg>

[Moderna Applies for Full FDA Approval for its COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

(*The Hill*) Moderna on Tuesday said it is applying for full approval from the Food and Drug Administration for its COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is currently authorized under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), which the FDA has stressed met a very rigorous standard, but applying for full approval is the next step in the process. It could also make it easier for employers, universities and other groups to mandate that people take the vaccine.

As New Hybrid Variant Spreads, [Vietnam Locks Down Largest City](#) **ALL 9-M Residents will be tested!**

Recent patients in Vietnam were infected with a [hybrid of the virus variants first found in India and the UK](#).

WHO Has New Naming System for COVID Variants

It's trying to get away from people referring to 'Indian variant,' 'UK variant,' etc.

Read more: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-57308592>

KDPH Provider Communication for Myocarditis and COVID-19 Vaccine

[The following information was issued May 28th from KY Public Health's Immunization Branch.]

On May 27th, 2021 the [CDC released information and guidance for clinicians](#) related to reported cases of myocarditis and pericarditis following mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna). The CDC and its partners are investigating these reports.

- In most cases, patients who presented for medical care have responded well to medications and rest and had prompt improvement of symptoms.

- Reported cases have occurred predominantly in male adolescents and young adults 16 years of age and older.
- Onset was typically within several days after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination, and cases have occurred more often after the second dose than the first dose.
- CDC continues to recommend [COVID-19 vaccination](#) for everyone 12 years and older given the greater risk of other serious complications related to COVID-19, such as hospitalization, multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), or death.

Clinician Considerations:

- [Report all cases of myocarditis and pericarditis post COVID-19 vaccination to VAERS.](#)
- Consider myocarditis and pericarditis in adolescents or young adults with *acute chest pain, shortness of breath, or palpitations*. In this younger population, coronary events are less likely to be a source of these symptoms.
- Ask about prior COVID-19 vaccination if you identify these symptoms, as well as relevant other medical, travel, and social history.
- For initial evaluation, consider an ECG, troponin level, and inflammatory markers such as C-reactive protein and erythrocyte sedimentation rate.
 - In the setting of normal ECG, troponin, and inflammatory markers, myocarditis or pericarditis are unlikely.
- For suspected cases, consider consultation with cardiology for assistance with cardiac evaluation and management.
 - Evaluation and management may vary depending on the patient age, clinical presentation, potential causes, or practice preference of the provider.
- For follow-up of patients with myocarditis, consult the recommendations from the [American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology](#).
- It is important to rule out other potential causes of myocarditis and pericarditis.
 - Consider consultation with infectious disease and/or rheumatology to assist in this evaluation.
 - Where available, evaluate for potential etiologies of myocarditis and pericarditis, particularly acute COVID-19 infection (e.g., PCR testing), prior SARS-CoV-2 infection (e.g., detection of SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid antibodies), and other viral etiologies (e.g., enterovirus PCR and comprehensive respiratory viral pathogen testing).
- Parent/public information has been created and can be used to address any questions you may receive.

For clinician questions or concerns, please contact Julie Miracle, the KDPH Vaccine Safety Coordinator at 502-564-4478 x4260

COVID ECHO Session
MIS-C, the Pediatric COVID Vaccine
Thursday, June 3, 2021 from 11am-12pm (EST)
 Please register via Zoom: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_h-f74pg_TUW8-T2iZSpMBA
 Please send questions to: scdp.echo@emory.edu

A Vaccine Patch Could Someday Be An Ouchless Option

(NPR) Scientists around the world are working on a way to inject vaccines painlessly. The trick is to make the needles so small. they don't interact with the nerve endings that signal pain.

Read more <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/05/27/1001005379/a-vaccine-patch-could-someday-be-an-ouchless-option>

POSTPONED - CDC Clinician's Call

Evaluating and Caring for Patients with Post-COVID Conditions

This COCA Call was originally scheduled for Thursday, June 3, 2021, but it has been postponed.

CDC will send a new call announcement when this COCA Call is rescheduled.

Over 100 staff sue Houston Methodist over COVID-19 vaccine requirement

Story: <https://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/556114-over-100-staff-sue-houston-methodist-over-covid-19-vaccine>

Less Than Three Months Left for Eligible Kentuckians to Sign Up for Reduced-Cost Health Insurance Coverage

Reduced-cost insurance plans made possible by American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

([From Press Release](#)) To take advantage of reduced- and no-cost plans, eligible Kentuckians – both uninsured and current enrollees – must be properly enrolled through the health insurance marketplace at healthcare.gov.

The deadline to enroll is Aug. 15. More than 35,000 uninsured Kentuckians with incomes greater than 400% of the federal poverty level can sign up for a recently launched health insurance marketplace subsidy. Uninsured Kentuckians with incomes between 150% and 400% of the federal poverty level potentially qualify for additional financial support to reduce out-of-pocket costs for Marketplace premiums. Furthermore, through Aug. 15, 7,100 uninsured Kentuckians with incomes below 150% of the federal poverty level can sign up for free health insurance coverage.

Breaking Cyber News: Ransomware Attack on Major Meat Processor Likely from Russia Administration “assessing” potential impacts on nation’s meat supply.

Learn more: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/06/01/ransomware-attack-meat-company-russia-491494>

Solar winds hackers active again

(CBS) The state-backed Russian cyber spies behind [the SolarWinds hacking campaign](#) launched a targeted spear-phishing assault on U.S. and foreign government agencies and think tanks this week using an email marketing account of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Microsoft said. The effort targeted about 3,000 email accounts at more than 150 different organizations, at least a quarter of them involved in international development, humanitarian and human rights work, Microsoft Vice President [Tom Burt said in a blog post](#) late Thursday.

The New York Times notes that many of the targeted groups are the types that have been critical of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Learn more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/solarwinds-hackers-russia-usaid-microsoft/>

Related NPR story -[What We Know About The Apparent Russian Hack Exploiting A U.S. Aid Agency](#)

Department of Homeland Security Is Investigating Microwave Weapon Attacks

The US Department of Homeland Security is taking a closer look at the alleged incidents of microwave weapon attacks that have plagued US government officials in foreign countries. The department released a memo encouraging personnel to report any “unexplained health incidents” to government officials, according to The Intercept.

The memo suggests that concerns about “multiple symptoms following an unusual auditory or sensory event,” in the past limited to the State Department and CIA, have spread to DHS, an agency unlike the other two in that its operations are primarily domestic (although some of its personnel do operate in foreign countries). Claims of mysterious health problems, mostly neurological, first [originated](#) among several State Department diplomats in Cuba in 2016 — earning the broad range of symptoms the moniker “Havana Syndrome.”

Full story: <https://theintercept.com/2021/05/28/microwave-weapon-havana-syndrome-dhs/>

----- *From [IACP :“The Lead”](#) -----*
US Gun Sales Continue To Rise

(IACP “The Lead”) [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (5/31, Helmore) reports, “Gun sales, which spiked sharply during the early months of the coronavirus pandemic, have continued to increase in the United States, with first-time buyers making up more than one-fifth of Americans who purchased guns.” The Guardian adds, “The development will frustrate and disappoint gun control advocates who point out the huge number of firearms already circulating in American society as well as a seemingly never-ending cycle of mass shootings. A study by the General Social Survey, a public opinion poll conducted by a research center at the University of Chicago, 39% of American households own guns, up from 32% in 2016,” and “separately, research data compiled by the FBI’s National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), background checks that topped 1m a week in March 2020 – the highest since the government began tracking them in 1998 – and continued, with one week in April this year recording a record 1.2m checks.”

NYTimes Analysis: Americans on Lengthy Firearm “Buying Spree.” A [New York Times](#) (5/29, A1, Tavernise) analysis says that “beneath the timeworn political cycle on guns in the United States, the country’s appetite for firearms has only been increasing, with more being bought by more Americans than ever before.” The Times adds, “While gun sales have been climbing for decades – they often spike in election years and after high-profile crimes – Americans have been on an unusual, prolonged buying spree fueled by the coronavirus pandemic, the protests last summer and the fears they both stoked.” During March of 2020, federal background checks exceeded “one million in a week for the first time since the government began tracking them.” Moreover, the purchasing carried on, “through the protests in the summer and the election in the fall, until a week this spring broke the record with 1.2 million background checks.”

Two Dozen States Ask Supreme Court to Take Case In Bid To Reverse New Jersey High-Capacity Magazine Ban

[Fox News](#) (5/28, Shaw) reports online that 24 states “have filed an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to take a case seeking to overturn New Jersey’s ban on high-capacity magazines – arguing that such a ban criminalizes possession of commonly-used firearms and violates the Second Amendment.” In an amicus brief, the states say, “The Amici States the Attorneys General serve are among the forty-three states that permit the standard, eleven-plus capacity magazines that New Jersey has banned...and have advanced their compelling interests in promoting public safety, preventing crime, and reducing criminal firearm violence without a magazine ban such as the one here.”

Along with Arizona and Louisiana, the states signed onto the brief are: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, *Indiana*, Kansas, **Kentucky**, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, *Ohio*, Oklahoma, South Carolina, *Tennessee*, Texas, Utah, *West Virginia* and Wyoming.

----- **Officials Nationwide Worried About Prospect of Violent Summer**

The [Washington Post](#) (5/30) reports that as the US “marks Memorial Day, the unofficial beginning of summer, many officials are concerned that this is a preview of what they could face in cities nationwide in coming months, when the onset of warm weather almost always marks a rise in violent crime,” and “some worry that the violence could be especially pronounced this season as Americans emerge back into society after a year of coronavirus-related shutdowns and restrictions.” The Post adds that at least 12 mass shootings occurred last week “across nine states, killing 11 people and injuring at least 70, according to a database compiled by the Gun Violence Archive, a nonprofit group that tracks such incidents.”

----- *It was a violent Memorial Day Weekend!* -----

First related story – Monday: Dallas Mall Panic

Man banging skateboard at Dallas mall sends shoppers fleeing

DALLAS (AP) — Panicked shoppers rushed out of Dallas mall on Memorial Day after a man banged a skateboard on the ground in the food court and made hand gestures as if he was shooting, police said. “That sound obviously caused a panic,” Dallas Police Chief Eddie Garcia said. “When the crowd started running the individual focused on that and then began doing hand gestures as if he was shooting into the crowd, which then further escalated the situation.”

Garcia said the incident could have resulted in people being trampled, but he didn’t blame those who reported what they heard as a shooting because “there’s a lot of trauma” in the country.

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/article/2c0fef5ff5ccd40868be02e6470882ea/man-banging-skateboard-at-dallas-mall-sends-shoppers-fleeing.html>

Second related story – Early Monday: 2 Dead, 2 Injured in Houston Nightclub Shooting

(Newser) Two men were killed, including the gunman, and two more were injured when a man opened fire in a crowded Houston nightclub early Monday, the [AP](#) reports. Houston police chief Troy Finner said investigators have confirmed the gunman is among the dead, and that he was fatally shot by an off-duty sheriff’s deputy working security at the club, [NBC News](#) reports. “I can tell you right now, it’s a difficult scene—a lot of moving parts,” said Finner, adding that the club was “very crowded” and dark inside.

Read the rest of the story: <https://www.newser.com/story/306813/2-dead-2-injured-in-houston-nightclub-shooting.html>

Third related story – Sunday: 100 bullets fired in mass shooting 2 dead, 20 injured at Florida birthday bash

(NBC News) Early Sunday, three people got out of an SUV and “began shooting indiscriminately into the crowd” outside a “scheduled event” at an establishment on 186th Street, in the Hialeah area west of Miami Gardens, Miami-Dade police said in a statement. The venue was a banquet hall that had been rented out for a concert, [NBC Miami](#) reported.

New security video released by authorities Monday shows three people, who appear to be carrying guns, getting out of a white SUV and walking out of the frame. The people can be seen running back to the vehicle shortly afterward before driving away. Investigators said Monday that they had found and recovered the vehicle submerged in a canal in Golden Glades.

Authorities are offering a \$30,000 reward for information leading to the shooters’ arrests, with an additional \$100,000 for their convictions. Full story: <https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/miami-police-offer-130-000-172300547.html>

***Father of Miami Mass Shooting Victim Interrupts Press Conference shouting ““You killed a good kid”
An “ongoing rivalry” between two groups may have been behind the mass shooting.***

Read more: <http://newser.com/s306807>

TODAY's Breaking Related Story

**2 California firefighters shot, 1 killed by off-duty colleague;
Dispute with coworker is suspected**

(KABC) A Los Angeles County firefighter apparently killed a fellow firefighter, wounded another and then set his house on fire and ended his own life, officials say. The firefighter was apparently involved in an ongoing dispute with a coworker at Fire Station 81 in Agua Dulce, sources tell Eyewitness News.

The suspect, who was off-duty at the time, shot that fellow firefighter at the station just before 11 a.m., and wounded a fire captain who was not believed to be intentionally targeted in the shooting.

The suspect then apparently drove to his own home in Acton, set it on fire and killed himself, sources say. His body was found in a pool outside the home by responding sheriff's deputies.

Full report: <https://abc7.com/fire-station-shooting-agua-dulce-active-shooter-81/10728889/>

Study blames climate change for 37% of global heat deaths

(AP) More than one-third of the world's heat deaths each year are due directly to global warming, according to the latest study to calculate the human cost of [climate change](#).

But scientists say that's only a sliver of climate's overall toll — even more people die from other extreme weather amplified by global warming such as [storms, flooding and drought](#) — and the heat death numbers will grow exponentially with rising temperatures.

Dozens of researchers who looked at heat deaths in 732 cities around the globe from 1991 to 2018 calculated that 37% were caused by higher temperatures from human-caused warming, according to a study Monday in the journal [Nature Climate Change](#).

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/climate-climate-change-science-environment-and-nature-f0b4baded0e335035fdb1ba8c8f65e53>

These fires caused an estimated:



injuries

in property loss

USFA Summer Safety Tips: https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/summer_safety_flyer.pdf

NIMS Alert 19-21:

FEMA Updates 25 Incident Management Team Position Qualifications and Position Task Books

[View Position Qualifications](#)

[View Position Task Books](#)

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.