



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 2, 2021

445 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Kentucky on Wednesday

(WLEX) On Wednesday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced that 445 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Kentucky. After the removal of duplicates, the 445 new cases brings Kentucky's COVID-19 case total to 459,124. The positivity rate in Kentucky continues to remain under 3%. Wednesday's positivity rate was 2.77%. Four new coronavirus-related deaths were also reported, bringing Kentucky's coronavirus-related death total to 7,071. Story link: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/445-new-cases-of-covid-19-reported-in-kentucky-on-wednesday>

COVID-19 vaccine trial for children 6 months to 11 years to take place in Louisville

(WAVE) – A clinical COVID-19 vaccine trial for children ages 6 months to 11 years will take place in Louisville. Norton Children's Research Institute, affiliated with the UofL School of Medicine, will participate in the trial using the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The study in Louisville is one of only 100 sites worldwide. The blind study will look at safety, tolerability and immune response.

For the study, for every two children who receive the Pfizer vaccine one child will not. Parents will then track the child's health in an electronic diary and the children will have at least six in-person visits over a two-year period, some of which will include blood draws, according to Norton Healthcare. After six months, children who received the placebo will be offered the opportunity to receive the Pfizer vaccine.

Parents and caregivers can sign their children up for the trial by [clicking here](#).

WAVE story & video: <https://www.wave3.com/2021/06/02/covid-vaccine-trial-children-months-years-take-place-louisville/>

CIDRAP story

[Study identifies COVID risks for kidney dialysis patients](#)

Symptoms of COVID-19, seasonal allergies similar but not the same

(UPI/Health Day News) You suddenly develop the sniffles. Is it allergies or COVID-19? One expert says whether you have a history of allergies might provide your biggest clue.

"Symptoms such as congestion, sore throat and loss of smell are all common with both seasonal allergies and COVID-19," said Dr. Jonathan Matz, an allergist and immunologist with LifeBridge Health, in Maryland.

"We're not getting much concern from people who have seasonal allergies because their symptoms are predictable year to year," Matz said in a LifeBridge news release.

That means if your runny nose and sore throat consistently occurs at this time of year, you likely have seasonal allergies, he noted.

Along with the predictability of symptoms, another sign of seasonal allergies is an itch in the throat or nose, which is not consistent with COVID-19 symptoms. It's also important to know that fever is typically an indicator of COVID-19, but not of seasonal allergies.

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/06/02/coronavirus-allergies-differences-experts/2031622576009/

The next pandemic is already happening – Targeted disease surveillance can help prevent it

(NewsBreak) As more and more people around the world are getting vaccinated, one can almost hear the collective sigh of relief. But the next pandemic threat is likely already making its way through the population right now. Research by an infectious disease epidemiologist has found that there is a simple strategy to mitigate emerging outbreaks: proactive, real-time surveillance in settings where animal-to-human disease spillover is most likely to occur.

In other words, don't wait for sick people to show up at a hospital. Instead, monitor populations where disease spillover actually happens. Global health professionals have long known that pandemics fueled by [zoonotic disease spillover](#), or animal-to-human disease transmission, were a problem. In 1947, the World Health Organization established a global network of hospitals to [detect pandemic threats](#) through a process called [syndromic surveillance](#). The process relies on standardized symptom checklists to look for signals of emerging or reemerging diseases of pandemic potential among patient populations with symptoms that can't be easily diagnosed.

This clinical strategy relies both on infected individuals coming to [sentinel hospitals](#) and medical authorities who are [influential and persistent](#) enough to raise the alarm.

Learn more: <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/2267985389273/the-next-pandemic-is-already-happening-targeted-disease-surveillance-can-help-prevent-it?s=i3>

**FEMA Staff Available for In-Person Help at Support Centers Following Historic Storms
State, FEMA continue to assist Kentuckians affected by severe flooding**

Read full press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=808>

Allergic to seafood? *Don't eat the cicada!*

Learn more: <https://us.cnn.com/2021/06/02/health/dont-eat-cicadas-fda/index.html>

AG Cameron sues CVS for company's role in opioid epidemic

Read more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/ag-daniel-cameron-sues-cvs-for-companys-role-in-opioid-epidemic>

Another Round of Kids and Guns!

**A 12-year-old boy and 14-year-old girl broke into a home,
found weapons and opened fire on deputies, sheriff says**

(CNN) Deputies in Volusia County, Florida, shot a 14-year-old girl on Tuesday night after she and a 12-year-old boy fled a group home, broke into a house, found multiple guns inside and then opened fire on deputies, according to Sheriff Mike Chitwood. The girl was shot in the abdomen and the arm and is in stable condition, while the boy surrendered and was not injured, the sheriff's office said.

Read more: <https://us.cnn.com/2021/06/02/us/florida-deputies-shooting-teen/index.html>

Largest meat producer getting back online after cyberattack

(AP) The world's largest meat processing company has resumed most production after a weekend cyberattack, but experts say the vulnerabilities exposed by this attack and others are far from resolved. In a statement late Wednesday, the FBI attributed the attack on Brazil-based meat processor JBS SA to REvil, a Russian-speaking gang that has made some of the largest ransomware demands on record in recent months. The FBI said it will work to bring the group to justice and it urged anyone who is the victim of a cyberattack to contact the bureau immediately.

REvil has not posted anything related to the hack on its dark web site. But that's not unusual. Ransomware syndicates as a rule don't post about attacks when they are in initial negotiations with victims — or if the victims have paid a ransom.

The attack targeted servers supporting JBS's operations in North America and Australia. Backup servers weren't affected and the company said it was not aware of any customer, supplier or employee data being compromised.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/jbs-sa-lifestyle-health-coronavirus-pandemic-technology-bf82114d3f54e5be2241bd5f9a0b2639>

***Related story #1 - Hackers breached several of NY City's
Transit Authority computer systems***

(WABC7 NYC) Hackers breached several computer systems of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the nation's largest mass transit agency that daily carries millions of people in and around New York City. The intrusion was discovered in late April when hackers linked to the Chinese exploited security flaws in Pulse Connect Secure, a VPN that allows employees to connect remotely to their employer's network.

Read more: <https://abc7ny.com/mta-hack-computer-nyc-new-york-city/10734358/>

Related story #2 – Massachusetts steamship Authority Hit with Ransomware Attack

New potential security issue from Amazon

On June 8th Amazon Devices will Auto-Enroll in [Amazon Sidewalk](#)

(Arstechnica) If you use Alexa, Echo, or many other Amazon devices, you have only days until you're opted in to an experiment that leaves your personal privacy and security hanging in the balance. On June 8, the merchant, Web host, and entertainment behemoth will automatically enroll the devices in [Amazon Sidewalk](#). The new wireless mesh service will share a small slice of your Internet bandwidth with neighboring Sidewalk-capable devices that don't have connectivity. Sidewalk will also help your Amazon devices to a sliver of bandwidth from other Sidewalk users when you don't have a connection.

By default, a variety of Amazon devices will enroll in the system come June 8. And since only a tiny fraction of people take the time to change default settings, that means millions of people will be co-opted into the program whether they know anything about it or not. The Amazon webpage linked above says Sidewalk "is currently only available in the US." The full list of devices that can act as Sidewalk bridges is Ring Floodlight Cam (2019), Ring

Spotlight Cam Wired (2019), Ring Spotlight Cam Mount (2019), Echo (3rd gen and newer), Echo Dot (3rd gen and newer), Echo Dot for Kids (3rd gen and newer), Echo Dot with Clock (3rd gen and newer), Echo Plus (all generations), Echo Show (all models and generations), Echo Spot, Echo Studio, Echo Input, and Echo Flex. Amazon's decision to make Sidewalk an opt-out service rather than an opt-in one is also telling. The company knows the only chance of the service gaining critical mass is to turn it on by default, so that's what it's doing. Fortunately, [turning Sidewalk off](#) is relatively painless.

Full story: <https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2021/05/amazon-devices-will-soon-automatically-share-your-internet-with-neighbors/>

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.