



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 5, 2021

## Kentucky COVID Update

((KY [Daily Report](#)) There were 369 new cases with a positivity rate of 2.45%. There were five new deaths, for a total of 7,091.

### Over 60% of US adults have at least 1 COVID shot

(CIDRAP) Even if the United States meets President Joe Biden's COVID-19 vaccination goal for first doses by Jul 4, now just a month away, at least 30 states will not hit the 70% mark among their own adult residents. One-dose vaccine coverage hit 63% this week.

And vaccination isn't important for just adults. A *Mortality & Morbidity Weekly Report (MMWR)* study today found that teenage hospitalization rates for COVID-19 have risen from mid-March to April.

Overall, the United States reported 18,991 new COVID-19 cases and 601 deaths yesterday, according to the [Johns Hopkins COVID-19 tracker](#), and the [Washington Post](#) says the 7-day average of daily new cases has fallen by 30%. Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/06/over-60-us-adults-have-least-1-covid-shot>

#### *Related story*

### [CDC says recent increase in hospitalization of young people for Covid-19 shows need for their age group to get vaccinated](#)

(KY Health News) After decreasing early this year, hospitalizations of adolescents for Covid-19 increased during March and April, illustrating the need for them to get vaccinated against the disease, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** reported Friday.

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said, "I am deeply concerned by the numbers of hospitalized adolescents and saddened to see the numbers of adolescents who required treatment in intensive care units or mechanical ventilation. . . . "Much of this suffering can be prevented."

In the 14 states in [the study](#) reported Friday, the rate of Covid-19 hospitalization for youth aged 12 through 17 "peaked at 2.1 per 100,000 [residents] in early January 2021, declined to 0.6 in mid-March, and rose to 1.3 in April," CDC [reports](#). Among those who were hospitalized, nearly a third went into intensive care and 5 percent required mechanical ventilation.

See also: [Hospitalization of Adolescents Aged 12–17 Years with Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 — COVID-NET, 14 States, March 1, 2020–April 24, 2021 \(MMWR\)](#)

### [Why Contact Tracing Couldn't Keep Up With The U.S. COVID Outbreak](#)

(NPR) NPR's latest survey of state health departments with the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security finds many are winding down the contact tracing programs they scrambled to grow last year. More than half of the 36 health departments that responded to the survey in late May had fewer tracers than in December, and the vast majority isn't planning to hire more. With coronavirus infections tapering off in most parts of the country, public health experts said a smaller workforce may be able to keep on top of current outbreaks. But there are some big questions as these programs transition from full-throttle crisis mode to something new. Why, despite furious efforts to ramp up the workforce last year, was the U.S. not able to use testing and contact tracing to control the pandemic? And how can the country be better positioned for the next public health emergency?

### **Global war on ransomware? Hurdles hinder the US response**

ABC News: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/global-war-ransomware-hurdles-hinder-us-response-78102313>

### **Ransomware attacks are closing schools, delaying chemotherapy and derailing everyday life**

(Washington Post) It can feel abstract: A group of organized but faceless criminals hijacking corporate computer systems and demanding millions of dollars in exchange for their safe return. But the impact of these [ransomware](#) attacks is increasingly, unavoidably, real for everyday people.

These crimes have resulted in missed chemotherapy appointments and delayed ambulances, lost school days, and transportation problems. A ransomware attack on [Colonial Pipeline](#) in May led to gas shortages and even dangerous situations caused by panic buying. This past week, hackers compromised the [JBS meat processing company](#), leading to worries about meat shortages or other key food providers being at risk. Last fall, the Baltimore County Public Schools system was [hit with ransomware](#) and forced to halt classes for two days, which were being held virtually.

The recent spate of high-profile ransomware incidents is exactly what cybersecurity professionals have been warning about for years. But it's partially the impact on everyday people — far from the executive suites, cybersecurity companies, or government agencies that regularly fret about the criminal enterprise — that has made the risk more visible. The ripple effects of ransomware can result in everything from mild inconvenience to people losing their lives, and it's only increased in frequency during the pandemic.

Full story: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2021/07/08/ransomware-human-impact/>

[Ransomware attacks could reach 'pandemic' proportions. What to know after the pipeline hack.](#)

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**After 'Exhaustive Search,' a Reveal on Colonial Pipeline Breach**  
**Compromised password was plugged into dormant VPN account to gain access**

Story link: <http://newser.com/s306995>

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**Kentucky's utility companies preparing for 'not if, but when' there is a cyberattack**

(WDRB) Recent cyberattacks have heightened concerns about the security of the nation's infrastructure. A major oil pipeline, a meat processing company and a public transit system have all been hit by hackers or ransomware.

Kentucky's utility companies told lawmakers at a hearing Thursday in Frankfort that a cyberattack on the state's power grid is almost inevitable. "We're planning for not if, but when we have a cyberattack," said Keith Butler, senior vice president and chief security officer of Duke Energy. "Threats we see every day are continuing to increase in frequency and sophistication."

Full story: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/kentuckys-utility-companies-preparing-for-not-if-but-when-there-is-a-cyberattack/article\\_5a6614ca-c4b8-11eb-88d9-23a3614fa818.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/kentuckys-utility-companies-preparing-for-not-if-but-when-there-is-a-cyberattack/article_5a6614ca-c4b8-11eb-88d9-23a3614fa818.html)

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**Trauma surgeon calls for public health solutions to Louisville gun violence**

(WAVE – June 4) - Treating Louisville's gun violence as a CDC-level public health problem could look a lot like the nation's response to the pandemic. Dr. Keith Miller, a UofL trauma surgeon, called attention to Gun Violence Awareness Day by calling for a public health leadership in combatting the escalating casualties in cities like Louisville.

"Historically, in the United States, they (CDC) have just not had the same voice when it comes to gun violence," Miller said in an interview with reporters. "And that's not necessarily a criticism of the CDC or any particular agency specifically. But it's just to say that all these issues and all the partisan nature of the issue gets tied up in this and prevents us from having meaningful discourse in applying the public health framework to this issue."

As of noon on this day, 79 people have been killed in homicides in Louisville Metro. Nearly three times more, 280 people, have been wounded. That means someone is wounded in Louisville at a rate of 1 every 13 hours. The problem is so bad, trauma teams are now looking for ways to keep victims from being shot a second time.

Learn more: <https://www.wave3.com/app/2021/06/04/trauma-surgeon-calls-public-health-solutions-louisville-gun-violence/>

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**5 Months After Capitol Attack, 17 Injured Cops Still Off Work**

Read more: <http://newser.com/s306965>

**Judge Compares AR-15 to Swiss Army Knife in Assault Weapons Ruling**

Read more: <http://newser.com/s307000>

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**FEMA EMI Training Opportunity**  
**E0139 Exercise Design and Development**

July 19-20, 2021

Read more in [Training Opportunity 1663](#).



Register: [shotatamillion.ky.gov](http://shotatamillion.ky.gov)

The KHEREF 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](mailto:Preparedness@kyha.com) (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.