



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 6, 2021



New Type of COVID Vaccine Could Debut Soon

(NPR) A new kind of COVID-19 vaccine could be available as soon as this summer. It's what's known as a [protein subunit vaccine](#). It works somewhat differently from the current crop of vaccines authorized for use in the U.S. but is based on a well-understood technology and doesn't require special refrigeration.

In general, vaccines work by showing people's immune systems something that looks like the virus but really isn't. Consider it an advance warning; if the real virus ever turns up, the immune system is ready to try to squelch it. In the case of the coronavirus, that "something" is one of the proteins in the virus — the spike protein.

The vaccines made by Johnson & Johnson, Moderna and Pfizer contain genetic instructions for the spike protein, and it's up to the cells in our bodies to make the protein itself.

The first protein subunit COVID-19 vaccine to become available will likely come from the biotech company, [Novavax](#). In contrast to the three vaccines already authorized in the U.S., it contains the spike protein itself — no need to make it, it's already made — along with an adjuvant that enhances the immune system's response, to make the vaccine even more protective.

[Protein subunit vaccines](#) made this way have been around for a while. There are vaccines on the market for hepatitis B and pertussis based on this technology.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/06/06/1003328413/new-type-of-covid-vaccine-could-debut-soon>

The CDC's No. 2 Official Says the U.S. Isn't Ready For Another Pandemic

The United States was unprepared for the coronavirus, the response "wasn't a good performance," and there's still "a lot of work to do" to get ready for the next pandemic when it comes. That's the assessment of Dr. Anne Schuchat, the No. 2 official at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who is retiring this summer after 33 years at the agency.

Listen or read more: <https://www.npr.org/2021/06/04/1003172065/anne-schuchat-discusses-her-time-as-the-cdcs-principal-deputy-director>

New England's success against COVID-19 could be a model

(AP) Massachusetts and the rest of New England — the most heavily vaccinated region in the U.S. — are giving the rest of the country a possible glimpse of the future if more Americans get their shots.

COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths in the region have been steadily dropping as more than 60% of residents in all six states have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

The Deep South states of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, in comparison, are the least vaccinated at around 35%, and new cases relative to the population are generally running higher there than in most of New England. Nationally, about 50% of Americans have received at least one shot.

Full story: <https://apnews.com/article/ct-state-wire-coronavirus-pandemic-health-0b72b1d4df9f79d6629546ede29cbd6b>

FEMA opens registration support centers in Eastern Kentucky following record-breaking floods

Learn more: <https://www.wymt.com/2021/06/05/fema-opens-registration-support-centers-eastern-kentucky-following-record-breaking-floods/>

ADHD medications may lower suicide risk among children

(UPI) ADHD medications may lower suicide risk among children with hyperactivity, oppositional defiance and other behavioral disorders, according to a study published Friday in JAMA Network Open.

Researchers at the Lifespan Brain Institute of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania said they conducted the study to address a knowledge gap in childhood suicide risk. The importance, they say, is the potential for informing suicide prevention strategies at a time when suicide among children is on the rise.

According to the CDC, suicide was the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 24 in 2018.

About three in four children in the United States with ADHD use prescription medication, [according to the agency](#), while about 15% receive behavioral therapy and 32% receive both treatments.

Suicide rates are relatively low in preadolescent children, the researchers said, making it difficult to identify factors that may lead to or prevent suicidal tendencies in the age range.

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/06/04/adhd-medications-may-lower-suicide-risk-among-children/788162282843/

Proposed Limits on Public Health Authority Dangerous for Public Health

(NACCHO) In recent months, at least 15 state legislatures have passed or are considering measures to limit severely the legal authority of public health agencies to protect the public from serious illness, injury, and death. Other states may consider such legislation in the future. It is foreseeable that these laws will lead to preventable tragedies. Specifically, this report finds that dissatisfaction and anger at perceived overreaches by governors and public health officials in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has led to an onslaught of legislative proposals to eliminate or limit the emergency powers and public health authority used by these officials. Public health officials are also being threatened personally. The report provides a brief history of public health authority and an overview of the forces seeking to limit public health authority. It offers examples of specific laws that would limit public health authority, and key arguments to counter proposed legislation.

Read more: <https://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/Proposed-Limits-on-Public-Health-Authority-Dangerous-for-Public-Health-FINAL-5.24.21pm.pdf>



S.Korean designer creates 'Third Eye' for 'smartphone zombies'

(Reuters) A South Korean industrial designer has come up with a satirical solution for "smartphone zombies" who can't take their eyes away from their screen long enough to stop themselves walking into a wall or other obstacle.

Paeng Min-wook, 28, has developed a robotic eyeball he has dubbed "The Third Eye", which obsessive mobile phone users can strap to their foreheads so they can browse injury-free on the go.

The device opens its translucent eyelid whenever it senses the user's head has been lowered to look at a smartphone. When the user comes within one to two metres of an obstacle, the device beeps to warn of the impending danger.

Paeng's invention uses a gyro sensor to measure the oblique angle of the user's neck and an ultrasonic sensor to calculate the distance between the robotic eye and any obstacles. Both sensors are linked to an open-source single-board microcontroller, with battery pack.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/technology/skorean-designer-creates-third-eye-smartphone-zombies-2021-06-04/>

Amazon Has Plans to Share Your Internet on June 8

>> Given the security concerns involved, here is a re-rerun from the June 2nd EP Update <<

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 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 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 KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.