



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 7, 2021



Kentucky COVID Update

((KY [Daily Report](#)) There were 36 new cases with a positivity rate of 2.28%. There were six new deaths, for a total of 7,103.

Underlying illness, respiratory infection raise risk for severe COVID in kids

(CIDRAP) Of two new studies on severe COVID-19 in children, the first finds that more than one in four had an underlying medical condition, and the second shows that kids diagnosed as having acute lower respiratory tract infection (ALRI) were over twice as likely to require invasive mechanical ventilation.

Learn more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/06/underlying-illness-respiratory-infection-raise-risk-severe-covid-kids>

More from CIDRAP: US COVID-19 vaccination rates drop to under 1 million a day

EUA Updates for REGEN-COV

On June 3, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued significant updates to the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for [REGEN-COV \(casirivimab and imdevimab\)](#), which is authorized for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in certain adults and pediatric patients. These recent updates include modifications in the authorized dosage (i.e., from 1200mg of casirivimab and 1200mg of imdevimab to 600mg of casirivimab and 600mg of imdevimab), the addition of subcutaneous route of administration as an alternative route when intravenous infusion is not feasible and would lead to delay in treatment, and the addition of a new REGEN-COV co-formulated product in a single vial. **We note that the previous dosing of 1200mg of casirivimab and 1200mg of imdevimab is no longer authorized.** The updated REGEN-COV fact sheet is available on the FDA's website [here](#) and attached. You may also find important prescribing information at this [link](#) and responses to Frequently Asked Questions at this [link](#).

----- *From Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines* -----

Effect of Bamlanivimab vs Placebo on Incidence of COVID-19 Among Residents and Staff of Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities: A Randomized Clinical Trial

(JAMA) This randomized phase 3 clinical trial included 966 participants who were residents and staff at US skilled nursing and assisted living facilities with at least 1 confirmed SARS-CoV-2 index case and who were negative at baseline for SARS-CoV-2 infection and serology, enrolled from August to November 2020. The incidence of COVID-19 infection among those treated with bamlanivimab vs placebo was 8.5% vs 15.2%, respectively, a difference that was statistically significant.

Antibody-laden Nasal Spray Could Provide COVID Protection — and Treatment

(Nature) Since the early days of the pandemic, scientists have been developing antibodies as treatments for COVID-19. Today, several such antibodies are in late-stage clinical trials, and a handful have been approved for emergency use by regulatory agencies in the United States and elsewhere. A nasal spritz of a designer antibody offers strong protection against variants of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 — at least in mice.

FDA Approves Drug to Treat Smallpox

(FDA) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today approved Tembexa (brincidofovir) to treat smallpox. Although the World Health Organization declared smallpox, a contagious and sometimes fatal infectious disease, eradicated in 1980, there have been longstanding concerns that the virus that causes smallpox, the variola virus, could be used as a bioweapon. Because smallpox is eradicated, the effectiveness of Tembexa was studied in animals infected with viruses that are closely related to the variola virus. Effectiveness was determined by measuring animals' survival at the end of the studies. More animals treated with Tembexa survived compared to the animals treated with placebo. FDA approved Tembexa under the agency's Animal Rule, which allows findings from adequate and well-controlled animal efficacy studies to serve as the basis of an approval when it is not feasible or ethical to conduct efficacy trials in humans.

FDA Grants Accelerated Approval for Alzheimer's Drug

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Aduhelm (aducanumab) for the treatment of Alzheimer's, a debilitating disease affecting 6.2 million Americans. Aduhelm was approved using the [accelerated approval pathway](#), which can be used for a drug for a serious or life-threatening illness that provides a meaningful therapeutic advantage over existing treatments. Aduhelm represents a first-of-its-kind treatment approved for Alzheimer's disease.

Full press release: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-grants-accelerated-approval-alzheimers-drug>

Earth's carbon dioxide levels soar to record high despite pandemic

Learn more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/06/07/carbon-dioxide-levels-soar-record-high-despite-covid-19-pandemic/7588333002/>

Disaster Food Benefits Available for Eastern Kentuckians Affected by Recent Floods
Benefits approved for residents, workers from nine counties

On Monday, Gov. Andy Beshear said Eastern Kentuckians in nine counties affected by recent historic flooding may be eligible to apply for disaster food benefits during a seven-day application process that begins today, Monday, June 7.

Gov. Beshear's administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have received approval for Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or D-SNAP. These are benefits for flood-affected residents who lived or worked in the following counties between Feb. 26 and March 14, 2021, which received an Individual Assistance Declaration from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Breathitt, Clay, Estill, Floyd, Johnson, Lee, Magoffin, Martin and Powell.

The commonwealth is also seeking D-SNAP approval from USDA for the other 22 counties that have also received an Individual Assistance Declaration due to flooding.

Full Press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=813>

More than 600 earthquakes have shaken the California-Mexico border since Saturday
the largest registering 5.3

Full CNN story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/05/us/earthquakes-california-mexico-border/index.html>

DHS Budget: FEMA Funding Request Focused on Climate Resilience, Incident Response

(Homeland Security Today) The Federal Emergency Management Agency would see funding increases with a focus on confronting the effects of climate change and building community resilience under President Biden's budget proposal. The \$52.2 billion net discretionary budget request for DHS in fiscal year 2022, which Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said would "provide DHS with the resources we need to keep our country safe, strong, and prosperous," places FEMA at the top of the heap, accounting for a 31 percent share of DHS' \$90.8 billion total budget authority followed by Customs and Border Protection at 18 percent.

[<Read more >](#)

DOJ seizes millions in ransom paid to hackers who shut down Colonial Pipeline

(ABC) The Justice Department on Monday announced it has successfully seized [millions of dollars](#) in cryptocurrency Colonial Pipeline paid to the cyber criminal group DarkSide following last month's [ransomware attack](#) that led the pipeline to briefly shut down its operations, according to a seizure warrant unsealed Monday afternoon.

"Earlier today, the Department of Justice has found and recaptured the majority of the ransom Colonial paid to the DarkSide network in the wake of last month's ransomware attack. Ransomware attacks are always unacceptable -- but when they target critical infrastructure, we will spare no effort in our response," Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco said at a news conference.

Full story: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/doj-seizes-millions-ransom-paid-colonial-pipeline/story?id=78135821>

UK's Well @Work Podcast – Episode 22
Transitioning Back to the Workplace
<https://youtu.be/d35XM1dr5rg>

You can also visit the episode page for the audio version and transcript!

<https://www.uky.edu/ctac/content/wellwork-podcast-episode-22-transitioning-back-workplace>

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.