



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 9, 2021

KY COVID Update for Wednesday

(From [KY COVID Daily Summary](#)) There were 361 new cases reported today, with 67 in persons 18 or under. The positivity rate is 2.06%. There are 279 hospitalized, with 88 in an ICU, and 48 on vents. HPP Region 8 [Eastern KY] is the only region with over 80% ICU capacity in use (82.35%). Region 10 (Southcentral KY), which has been running fairly consistently over 80%, now averaging 75.56%.

There were twelve (12) new deaths recorded, for a total of 7,121.

Enter for a **Shot at a Million** – the state’s vaccine incentive sweepstakes – at shotatamillion.ky.gov.

Unused Johnson & Johnson Covid Doses Are Piling Up as FDA Waits to See if Shelf Life Can Be Extended

(KHN) As vaccine expiration dates loom, states with hundreds of thousands of doses on hand say demand is tanking and there’s no easy way to donate to other states or countries that might want them. The Biden administration is encouraging states to hold on to hundreds of thousands of soon-to-expire covid vaccine doses from Johnson & Johnson, given the possibility that additional data will show the shots are viable beyond their expiration date at month’s end.

State health officials have [strenuously warned](#) vaccine administrators against using expired doses. Now, though, the FDA appears optimistic that the Johnson & Johnson expiration dates — which begin to kick in later this month — could be extended.

The J&J single-dose vaccine lasts three months under refrigeration and two years frozen. Extending the expiration date is seen as a more feasible option for quickly preserving thousands of doses, as opposed to redistributing them to other states or countries, state officials say.

Full story: <https://khn.org/news/article/unused-johnson-johnson-covid-vaccine-doses-expiration-backlog/>

How Do COVID-19 Vaccines Compare?

A MedPage Today side-by-side look at the three vaccines authorized in the U.S.

<p>Company: Pfizer/BioNTech</p> <p>Vaccine Name: BNT162b2</p> <p>MOA: mRNA vaccine</p> <p>Dosing Schedule: Two doses, 21 days apart (30 µg/dose)</p> <p>Efficacy: 95% at least 7 days after dose 2 °C (35 to 77°F)</p> <p>Doses Contracted by U.S.: 300 million</p>	<p>Company: Moderna</p> <p>Vaccine Name: mRNA-1273</p> <p>MOA: mRNA vaccine</p> <p>Dosing Schedule: Two doses, 28 days apart (100 µg/dose)</p> <p>Efficacy: 94.1% at least 14 days after dose 2</p> <p>Doses Contracted by U.S.: 300 million</p>	<p>Company: Johnson & Johnson/Janssen</p> <p>Vaccine Name: Ad26.COV2.S</p> <p>MOA: Adenovirus vector vaccine</p> <p>Dosing Schedule: One dose (two-dose regimen under evaluation)</p> <p>Efficacy: 72% in the U.S. and 66% globally against moderate-to-severe disease; 85% effective against severe disease, 28 days after a single dose</p> <p>Doses Contracted by U.S.: 100 million</p>
---	--	--

Story link: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/special-reports/exclusives/91489>

Pentagon closing majority of COVID-19 mass vaccination sites

(The Hill, June 8, 2021) The Pentagon by the end of Tuesday will shutter all but five of the COVID-19 mass vaccination sites it opened alongside the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as the demand for the shot slows, according to the Department of Defense's (DOD) top spokesman. Earlier this year, as many as 35 mass vaccination sites were operated by thousands of active-duty and National Guard troops, but the number has since dropped to eight, with three of those locations to close by Tuesday's end, Pentagon press secretary John Kirby told reporters. [<Read more >](#)

Dawn O'Connell, President's nominee for ASPR



"HHS should be charged with monitoring and maintaining a resilient and secure medical and public health supply chain and the acting ASPR right now has been leading an interagency effort with the supply chain coordinator at the White House part of the COVID response to oversee this work ... If I am confirmed, a lot of the work that I will do will be to take on what the acting ASPR has been doing and to make sure that we have a secure and resilient, public health emergency and medical supply chain," Ms. O'Connell said during her confirmation hearing.

O'Connell is currently serving as HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra's Senior Counselor for COVID-19. Read the MedPage Today story about **Two HHS Nominees Have Fairly Easy Time at Senate Hearing — Opioid crisis, drug supply chain among senators' concerns:** <https://www.medpagetoday.com/publichealthpolicy/healthpolicy/92996>

----- **Related story follow-up story** -----

Biden Administration Recommends Policy Changes to Secure U.S. Pharmaceutical Supply Chain

(HHS) The White House, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today released a series of policy recommendations to address the vulnerabilities in U.S. pharmaceutical supply chains. Led by FDA and ASPR, the White House [report - PDF](#) and its recommendations have been accepted by President Biden.

HHS will make an initial commitment of approximately \$60 million from the Defense Production Act appropriation in the American Rescue Plan to develop novel platform technologies to increase domestic manufacturing capacity for API. Greater API production domestically will help reduce reliance on global supply chains for medications that are in shortage, particularly during times of increased public health need.

The report reveals the pharmaceutical supply chain as complex, global, and highly influenced by market factors that have led to an increasing reliance on foreign countries to manufacture the medicines, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and key starting materials (KSMs) that serve the American public.

To secure the supply chain, the report's recommendations center on four pillars:

1. Boosting local production and fostering international cooperation;
2. Promoting research and development that establishes innovative manufacturing processes and production technologies to strengthen supply chain resilience;
3. Creating robust quality management maturity to ensure consistent and reliable drug manufacturing and quality performance, and;
4. Leveraging data to improve supply chain resilience.

Learn more: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/06/08/biden-administration-recommends-policy-changes-secure-us-pharmaceutical-supply-chain.html>

Pfizer to test COVID-19 vaccine in larger group of children below 12

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/pfizer-start-large-study-test-covid-19-vaccine-children-below-12-2021-06-08/>

Related story - Single dose of Pfizer COVID vaccine 51% protective, real-world data show ([CIDRAP News Scan](#)) A single, 30-microgram dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine was 51% effective for any SARS-CoV-2 infection and 54% for symptomatic infections, according to a study yesterday in [JAMA Network Open](#).

Study: 1 in 5 physicians highly distressed during first COVID-19 triages

([CIDRAP News Scan](#)) A survey of 164 New York physicians found that one in five were severely distressed during their first COVID-19 triage decisions and last-minute training did not appear to alleviate stress, according to a study yesterday in *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*.

The researchers sent out the online survey Apr 29 to May 1, 2020; on Mar 23, 2020, Gov. Andrew Cuomo had ordered hospitals to increase capacity by 50% because of the expected patient surge. All respondents were

involved in the treatment of at least one COVID patient, and most were also men (59.9%) or working in their usual clinical setting/activity (82.2%).

Half had received just-in-time training (JiTT), and about 70% (115) received clinical guidelines.

On a 10-point scale of distress, the average score overall was 6.1, and 20.7% experienced severe distress—a value of 8 or higher. No significant correlation was seen with JiTT or clinical guidelines, with the average scores for both being 6.0 for those who received such guidance versus 6.2 for those who didn't.

While some significant factors of distress were female gender and fewer years of post-residency practice, the researchers say the strongest predictor of distress was whether physicians believed the triage decision went against their core values (adjusted odds ratio [aOR], 6.33; 95% confidence interval [CI], 2.03 to 19.76) or if they had insufficient skills or expertise (aOR, 2.00; 95% CI, 0.91 to 9.87).

Jun 7 Disaster Med Public Health Prep [study](#)

Fake COVID Vaccine Cards Are Being Sold Online. Using One Is A Crime

NPR story link: <https://www.npr.org/2021/06/08/1004264531/fake-covid-vaccine-cards-keep-getting-sold-online-using-one-is-a-crime>

**White House to Host June 11 Virtual Event – 3 to 4 PM ET
for Hospital and Health System Leaders & Others
on Next Phase of COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout**

To participate in the June 11 event, [please click here](#) at 3 p.m. ET.
A replay of the event will be made available after its conclusion.

**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [June 8th](#) & [June 9, 2021](#)**

[Drop in Convalescent Plasma Use at U.S. Hospitals Linked to Higher COVID-19 Mortality Rate](#) (*JHSPH*) A new study from researchers at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and colleagues suggests a slowdown in the use of convalescent plasma to treat hospitalized COVID-19 patients led to a higher COVID-19 mortality during a critical period during this past winter's surge.

[China is Vaccinating a Staggering 20 million People a Day](#) (*Nature*) For more than a week, an average of about 20 million people have been vaccinated against COVID-19 every day in China. At this rate, the nation would have fully vaccinated the entire UK population in little more than six days. China now accounts for more than half of the 35 million or so people around the world receiving a COVID-19 shot each day.

[Sinovac's COVID-19 Vaccine Gains China Nod for Emergency Use in Kids, Adolescents](#) (*Reuters*) China has approved emergency use of Sinovac Biotech's (SVA.O) COVID-19 vaccine in people aged between three and 17, its chairman Yin Weidong told state TV late on Friday. China's mass vaccination drive, which administered 723.5 million doses of vaccines as of June 3, is currently only open to those aged 18 and above. When Sinovac's vaccine will be offered to younger groups depends on health authorities formulating China's inoculation strategies, Yin told state TV in an live interview.

[Spread of Misinformation About Face Masks and COVID-19 by Automated Software on Facebook](#) (*JAMA*) The dangers of misinformation spreading on social media during the COVID-19 pandemic are known.¹ However, software that allows individuals to generate automated content and share it via counterfeit accounts (or "bots")² to amplify misinformation has been overlooked, including how automated software can be used to disseminate original research while undermining scientific communication.

[New CDC Study Shows mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Reduce Risk of Infection by 91 Percent Among Fully Vaccinated](#) (*Homeland Preparedness News*) A new study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) demonstrated continuing good news for mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, crediting them with reducing the risk of infection by 91 percent for those fully vaccinated by either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines.

[Mixing COVID-19 Vaccines Appears to Boost Immune Responses](#) (*Science*) Faced with short supplies of COVID-19 vaccines and unforeseen side effects, some countries have adopted an unproven strategy: switching shots midstream. Most authorized vaccines require two doses administered weeks or months apart, but Canada and several European countries are now recommending a different vaccine for the second dose in some patients. Early data suggest the approach, born of necessity, may actually be beneficial.

[Delta Variant Accounts for 6 Percent of New U.S. Coronavirus Infections](#) (*Washington Post*) A highly transmissible coronavirus variant first identified in *India* accounts for 6 percent of new infections in the United States, the Biden administration said Tuesday. Yet vaccines appear to be highly effective against this version of the virus that has quickly spread into Great Britain and elsewhere.

[**Related CIDRAP story:** [Delta variant makes up 6% of US COVID-19 cases](#)]

[A Pharmacist Who Deliberately Ruined COVID Vaccine Doses Is Going To Prison](#) (*NPR*) A former pharmacist in Wisconsin who purposefully ruined more than 500 doses of COVID-19 vaccine was sentenced to

three years in prison on Tuesday. Steven Brandenburg, 46, of Grafton, pleaded guilty in February to two felony counts of attempting to tamper with a consumer product. He had admitted to intentionally removing the doses manufactured by Moderna from a refrigerator for hours at Aurora Medical Center in Grafton, located just north of Milwaukee.

[The Promise of Disease Detection Dogs in Pandemic Response: Lessons Learned from COVID-19](#)

(Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness) We explore evidence of their use in infectious and chronic diseases, the training, oversight, resources required for implementation, and potential uses in various settings. Disease detection dogs may contribute to the current and future public health pandemics; however, further research is needed to extend our knowledge and measurement of their effectiveness and feasibility as a public health intervention tool and efforts are needed ensure public and political support.

Scam alert: Imposters pose as FEMA officials to trick grieving family members

(NBC 16, June 8, 2021) Scammers are using a new United States federal program that helps to pay for funeral expenses of people who died from COVID-19 as a chance to steal personal information from bereaved family members. According to the Better Business Bureau, the scam involves someone calling, emailing or texting to say they are from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or another government agency, as part of the official COVID-19 Funeral Assistance program. [Read more >](#)

Breaking News!

Tuesday's Internet Outage Was Caused By **One Customer Changing A Setting, Fastly Says**

(NPR & AP) LONDON — Fastly, the company hit by a major outage that caused many of the world's top websites to go offline briefly this week, blamed the problem on a software bug that was triggered when a customer changed a setting.

The [problem at Fastly](#) meant internet users couldn't connect to a host of popular websites early Tuesday including The New York Times, the Guardian, Twitch, Reddit and the British government's homepage.

"We experienced a global outage due to an undiscovered software bug that surfaced on June 8 when it was triggered by a valid customer configuration change," Nick Rockwell, Fastly's senior vice president of engineering and infrastructure, [said in a blog post](#) late Tuesday.

He said the outage was "broad and severe" but the company quickly identified, isolated and disabled the problem and after 49 minutes, most of its network was up and running again. The bug had been included in a software update that was rolled out in May and Rockwell said the company is trying to figure out why it wasn't detected during testing.

But the [incident highlighted](#) how the much of the global internet is dependent on a handful of behind the scenes companies like Fastly that provide vital infrastructure, and it amplified concerns about how vulnerable they are to more serious disruption.

Full NPR story: <https://www.npr.org/2021/06/09/1004684932/fastly-tuesday-internet-outage-down-was-caused-by-one-customer-changing-setting>

Major International Sting Uses Fake App Developed By FBI To Take Down Organized Crime Groups

Learn more from [Reuters](#) and [AP](#)

Related story #1- Deputy FBI Director Speaks at Press Conference on Colonial Pipeline Ransomware Attack

FBI Deputy Director Paul M. Abbate delivered remarks during a press conference in Washington, D.C., with Department of Justice officials [announcing the seizure of ransom proceeds from the group DarkSide](#) following the Colonial Pipeline network compromise.

Press release: <https://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/fbi-deputy-director-paul-m-abbates-remarks-at-press-conference-regarding-the-ransomware-attack-on-colonial-pipeline>

Related story #2 - CISA launches platform to allow hackers to report flaws in federal tech

(FedScoop) The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has launched a vulnerability disclosure platform (VDP) that will allow federal agencies to identify cybersecurity flaws with the help of ethical hackers. The platform will be available to all civilian agencies overseen by CISA, and is intended to allow government departments to take advantage of the skills of civilian cybersecurity experts, often known as white-hat hackers. [<Read more >](#)

Recent Spate of Mass Shootings Is Among Worst in U.S. History **Five attacks, in which 39 were killed as U.S. re-opened from the pandemic, followed year that saw no such events**

(WSJ – Subscription may be required) A string of mass shootings over the past three months as the U.S. reopened from the pandemic was one of the worst on record, and law-enforcement officials are fearful of more to come. There were five attacks in which four or more people were killed in public places from March through May, matching the highest three-month total going back to 1966, according to the Violence Project, a mass-shooting database run by two criminology professors.

For almost exactly a year, as Covid gripped the country, there were no shootings that killed four or more people in public places, according to the project. Then on March 16, a 21-year-old fatally [shot eight people at spas](#) in the Atlanta area. That attack was followed by mass shootings at a [Colorado supermarket](#), a [Southern California office building](#), an [Indianapolis FedEx](#) facility, and a [San Jose, Calif., railyard](#). A total of 39 people were killed.

Law-enforcement officials and threat-assessment professionals say possible factors behind the recent spate of mass shootings include the growth in public gatherings as the Covid-19 threat has eased, the stress of the pandemic on Americans' mental health and record sales of guns last year.

Read more: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/recent-spate-of-mass-shootings-is-among-worst-in-u-s-history-11623161627>

[Intensifying California Drought Promises 'Very Concerning' Fire Season](#)

(*Washington Post*) California is entering its summer fire season with a high level of flammability. The hottest and most fire-prone months of the year are ahead. Conditions in the state are a striking example of escalating fire potential in the drought-stricken West. How the season unfolds will depend on a number of factors, including where ignitions occur and the duration of summer heat waves.

Related CBS story: ["Mega-Drought" in the West means threat of extreme fire season ahead](#)

Hurricane center waiting for system to emerge; low odds of development

(*Orlando Sentinel*, June 9, 2021) An area of low pressure is forecast to develop over the next couple of days in the southwestern portion of the Caribbean Sea and could later become a tropical depression or storm. The low is expected to emerge off the coast of Costa Rica by the end of the weekend, according to the National Hurricane Center's 2 a.m. update. If it does emerge, it has a 10% chance of becoming a tropical depression or storm in the next five days. [Read more >](#)

Related story #1 - FEMA encouraging safe rooms

(NBC) With another above-average hurricane season expected this year, it's important to keep you and your family safe. "There's nothing more dangerous than being inside your home, where you're around windows and glass, and you know, debris can be flying around, and you and your family are unsafe," said Tiana Suber, A spokesperson for FEMA. [Read more >](#)

For specific measurements and codes of your safe room, you can visit <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/safe-rooms>

Related story #2 - Are Facilities More Vulnerable to Hurricanes This Year?

(Facilities Net) Institutional and commercial have been all but turned upside down in the last year. But just as the COVID-19 pandemic shows strong signs of subsiding in the United States, facility managers must continue to monitor and prepare for a range of emergencies and crises that will test their [facilities' resilience](#). As hurricane season approaches, experts say the country is still not adequately prepared, [according to The Hill](#). They warn that as climate change continues to intensify extreme weather, the United States will need to adopt stronger resilience policies. This year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicted that hurricane season, which started June 1, will be above average, with between six and 10 hurricanes. [Read more >](#)

Engineers design battery to power flying cars

(UPI) -- Engineers at Penn State published plans Monday for a battery prototype they said is capable of powering flying cars. The prototypes include SkyDrive's [SD-03 vehicle](#) that was tested in August, KleinVision's AirCar [that could be for sale](#) as soon as this year and Xpeng Motors' Kiwigogo [vehicle that debuted](#) at last year's Beijing International Automotive Exhibition.

While some prototypes have included wheels, they all incorporate spinning rotors to facilitate takeoff and landing, including the air taxi [shown off last year](#) by Hyundai and [Uber](#), which is basically a small helicopter.

Press release on the study, published [in the journal Joule](#).

Full UPI story link with pictures: https://www.upi.com/Science_News/2021/06/07/flying-cars-battery-requirements/1061623080990/

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.

**Fires can happen anywhere
at virtually any time**

Are You Ready?

17 June, Thursday 2 pm (EDT) [Register Here](#)

Join the EIS Council for this first webinar in the EARTH EX-21 Training Series as they tackle one of the most devastating threats humans face – *uncontrolled fires in a populated area*.

A panel of Fire Service and Emergency Management professionals will share real-world stories and hard lessons learned from some of the most devastating fires in recent memory.

This session will address preparedness measures that can save your life, critical emergency response and emergency management actions, as well as essential evacuation considerations.

Finally, this session will address the critical lifeline issues that underpin restoration. Speakers will include:



- **Robert Lewin** is a CEM and Principle at Resolute Associates. Robert serves as the Director of the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management and the Fire Chief for CAL FIRE/San Luis Obispo County Fire. EOC Director EOC during the Thomas Fire and resulting Montecito Debris Flow. Most recently, he assisted the Fresno County, California EOC on the Creek Fire disaster.

- **Walter English**, CEM, Emergency Manager, City of Fairfax, Virginia. Walter serves as a critical part of the National Capital Region preparedness and response. Walter has experience in dealing with both emergency management and complex catastrophes in an urban environment.

- **Ross Holloway** is a Managing Partner at Utility Response Training Associates. Ross's experience includes his service as the Northwest MAC Group Representative for the Oregon Department of Forestry for the 2020 Oregon Fires. These included the Riverside, Beach Creek, and Holiday Farm fires, the three most extensive in the Labor Day fires in Oregon.

Register

SAVE THE DATE FOR MORE RESILIENCE EVENTS

- **Community Flooding Resilience Webinar Workshop**, July 15, 2pm (EDT) - [here](#)
- **Community Resilience Webinar Workshop**, August 19, 2pm (EDT) - [here](#)
- **EARTH EX-21 [Registration](#)**

[EARTH EX 21](#), which *opens for play worldwide on 1 September and remains open through 31 October 2021*. Our exercise is web-based, self-paced, and available to start and finish any time participants need. This year's exercise is climate change-based and involves two climate-related disasters that participants have to figure out how to deal with the scenario updated interactive media. EARTH EX is perfect for play during COVID-19 as players found in 2020. Players can participate from remote locations using various video conference platforms and the EARTH EX platform, the Battle Rhythm Manager.

Please plan on joining in the annual exercise that many thousands of participants have played! Watch a short video on EarthEx 20 to see what this is all about: <https://vimeo.com/415498592>

NO PREPARATION REQUIRED

- ✓ A locally facilitated, "Come as you are" exercise.
- ✓ For organizations, as an out-of-the-box senior level exercise, it provides an opportunity to examine and rehearse critical executive and operational decisions required before a full operational exercise.
- ✓ For individuals, families and community groups, it will help with basic preparations, and with planning that can help secure and sustain participants during an extreme disaster.

[Mark the Dates – Watch for EarthEx 21 Registration Information](#)