



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 11, 2021

While COVID-19 Remains a Threat, Kentucky is No Longer In Crisis

(From [Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear held his final regularly scheduled COVID-19 briefing today. The Governor lifted the statewide mask mandate for most settings, and ended capacity limits for restaurants, bars and other public venues. The mask mandate for vaccinated Kentuckians has been lifted since May 13. A new [executive order](#) keeps the mask requirement in place only in certain high-risk settings identified by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: public transit, long-term care facilities and health care facilities.

The Governor said he would not yet end the commonwealth's state of emergency because major programs, grants and executive orders that continue to help Kentuckians impacted by COVID-19 would be at risk if it weren't still in place, including a \$96 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for vaccine distribution and administration.

As of today, 2,106,464 people in the commonwealth have received at least their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Kentuckians 18 and older who have been vaccinated for COVID-19 can sign up for three chances to win \$1 million dollars. Those 12 to 17 years old can sign up for 15 chances to win a full scholarship to any Kentucky public college, university, technical or trade school. Winners will be announced Friday, July 2; Friday, July 30; and Friday, Aug. 27. To enter the drawings and for more information, visit ShotAtAMillion.ky.gov. To date, 349,780 Kentuckians have signed up for the \$1 million drawings and 19,579 Kentuckians have signed up for the full tuition scholarship drawings.

There were 237 new cases reported today, with a positivity rate of 2.05%. For more information on cases and hospital capacity, see the [full daily COVID-19 report](#).

Dr. Steven Stack, commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health, said the proof of vaccines' effectiveness is in the data: The state's weekly number of COVID-19 cases has declined 93% since January 2021; the state's number of deaths occurring each week has declined 95% since January 2021; and the state's number of patients who are hospitalized for COVID-19 has declined 83% since January.

----- **HRSA awards \$424 million for rural health clinics' COVID-19 testing and mitigation**

(AHA Today) The Health Resources and Services Administration today awarded \$100,000 each to more than 4,200 rural health clinics to maintain and increase COVID-19 testing; expand access to testing for rural residents; and broaden efforts to mitigate COVID-19's spread in ways tailored to their local communities. HRSA plans to award \$35.3 million in additional funding to eligible RHCs later this summer.

----- **Stop Using Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test**

(FDA) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning the public to stop using the Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test for diagnostic use. The FDA has significant concerns that the performance of the test has not been adequately established, presenting a risk to health. In addition, labeling distributed with certain configurations of the test includes performance claims that did not accurately reflect the performance estimates observed during the clinical studies of the tests. Finally, the test has not been authorized, cleared, or approved by the FDA for commercial distribution or use in the United States, as required by law.

The Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test is also distributed under the names Innova COVID-19 Self-Test Kit (3T Configuration), Innova SARS-CoV-2-Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test (7T Configuration), and Innova SARS-CoV-2-Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test (25T Configuration).

FDA Release: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/safety-communications/stop-using-innova-sars-cov-2-antigen-rapid-qualitative-test-fda-safety-communication>

----- **[Trouble for some US COVID-19 vaccines](#)**

(CIDRAP) The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today said 60 million doses of the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine cannot be used because of possible contamination, according to the [New York Times](#). The vaccines are part of the 170 million vaccines produced at the troubled Emergent BioSolutions plant in Baltimore. Ten million Johnson & Johnson vaccines from the plant will still be useable, the FDA said.

Recording of White House COVID Town Hall Today

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6gIC1Sru8E>

CDC Clinician's Zoom Call
Evaluating and Caring for Patients with Post-COVID Conditions
June 17 at 2 PM ET

Call info and more: https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2021/callinfo_061721.asp

U.S. health officials report higher-than-expected heart inflammation cases following Covid-19 vaccination

(STAT) Federal health officials said Thursday they're seeing rare but higher-than-expected cases of a heart issue called myocarditis among adolescents and young adults who received their second shot of one of the mRNA Covid-19 vaccines.

The data are preliminary and limited, and experts are still trying to determine if there is indeed a link or if there is no connection at all. Officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration also said it was too early to establish a rate for how frequently myocarditis — an inflammation of the heart muscle — might occur, particularly for different age groups. It appears the cases were more common in men than women, though the experts noted that men generally have higher rates of myocarditis. It's also more common in younger adults at a baseline level.

But the presentation to the FDA's vaccines advisory committee echoed other evidence that the mRNA vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech might raise the risk of myocarditis — and perhaps another condition called pericarditis, which is the inflammation of the tissue around the heart — particularly for young men soon after their second shot. Defense Department officials have also flagged the potential connection, while Israeli health officials have found "a possible link between the second vaccine dose and the onset of myocarditis among young men aged 16 to 30."

Learn more: <https://www.statnews.com/2021/06/10/officials-higher-than-expected-heart-inflammation-cases-covid-19-vaccination/>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [June 11, 2021](#)

[G-7 Leaders Are Set To Pledge 1 Billion Coronavirus Vaccines To Other Countries](#) (NPR) World leaders of the Group of Seven are expected to announce today a commitment to share 1 billion of their COVID-19 vaccine resources with the lower income countries struggling to control the spread of the virus. On Thursday, President Biden announced plans for the U.S. to donate 500 million doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine globally. The first 200 million are expected to be distributed this year and the rest will follow in 2022. Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the U.S. make up the G-7.

[Drop in Childhood Vaccinations During Pandemic May Raise Risk of Other Outbreaks when Schools Reopen, CDC Says](#) (Washington Post) Routine childhood vaccinations dropped dramatically during the early months of the coronavirus pandemic, and although they began rebounding last summer as families rescheduled doctors' visits, many children and adolescents are behind on their shots, according to a federal health report released Thursday. The lag might pose "a serious public health threat" of outbreaks of vaccine-preventable illnesses, such as measles and whooping cough that have the potential to derail school-reopenings, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[The Ruthless Hackers Behind Ransomware Attacks on U.S. Hospitals: 'They Do Not Care'](#) (WSJ) A ransomware attack on a national hospital chain nearly brought Las Vegas hospitals to their knees. Another attack in Oregon abruptly shut down alerts tied to patient monitors tracking vital signs. In New York, one county's only trauma center briefly closed to ambulances, with the nearest alternative 90 miles away. Multiple attacks were carried out in recent months against U.S. hospitals, suspending some surgeries, delaying medical care and costing hospitals millions of dollars.

Chinese researchers find batch of new coronaviruses in bats

(CNN) Chinese researchers said Thursday they had found a batch of new coronaviruses in bats including one that may be the second-closest yet, genetically, to the [Covid-19](#) virus.

According to the researchers, their discoveries in a single, small region of Yunnan province, southwestern China show just how many coronaviruses there are in bats and how many have the potential to spread to people. "In total, we assembled 24 novel coronavirus genomes from different bat species, including four SARS-CoV-2 like coronaviruses," the researchers wrote in a [report published in the journal Cell](#).

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/10/health/bats-coronavirus-china-genome/index.html>

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.