



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 15, 2021

Kentucky COVID Update

(KY COVID [Daily Report](#)) There were 290 new cases, with 46 in patients 18 or under. The positivity rate is 2.05%. There were 8 new deaths recorded, for a total of 7,171.

Some Americans Were Infected with COVID in December 2019

(Axios) The National Institutes of Health said Tuesday morning that testing of samples from an ongoing study of Americans show a very limited number of cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection in five U.S. states as early as Jan. 7, 2020.

Is a Deadly Surge of the Delta Variant Headed for the U.S.?

The variant first identified in India is now surging in the U.K.—but experts told The Daily Beast the vaccines are a powerful tool for stopping its spread in the United States.

The so-called Delta variant of the coronavirus, which was first detected in India and [may carry double the risk of hospitalization](#) compared to the Alpha—or U.K. strain—can cause unusual symptoms. Some people have reported hearing loss. Others, severe gastric distress. One Mumbai cardiologist [reportedly treated two COVID-19 patients](#) with blood clots so severe they required amputations of fingers or feet.

The Delta variant has now made its way to more than 60 countries and is currently surging in the U.K., which decided to extend coronavirus restrictions amid the rise in cases. It comprises 6 [percent of COVID-19 cases](#) in the United States, and while the Delta variant's spread in the U.S. is still relatively contained, it's crucial to keep it that way, according to public health experts who spoke to The Daily Beast.

Full story: <https://www.thedailybeast.com/is-a-deadly-surge-of-the-delta-variant-headed-for-the-us>

U.S. sending 1.35 million doses of J&J vaccine to Mexico

(NBC) The United States sent 1.35 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to Mexico on Tuesday morning, according to a White House official, the latest example of the Biden administration's global pandemic response in the battle against [Covid-19](#). The new shipment, which will arrive at Toluca International Airport early Tuesday, comes after the U.S. directed 2.72 million AstraZeneca vaccine doses to Mexico in late March and early April, the official said. Mexico has had nearly 2.5 million coronavirus cases and over 230,000 deaths, according to an NBC News tally.

Story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/u-s-sending-1-35-million-doses-j-j-vaccine-n1270820>

With Temperatures Climbing, Risk of Surface Burns Rises

Doctors warn of danger from pavement, especially

(Newser) Doctors at Arizona and Nevada burn centers are warning of injuries from contact with super-heated roadways and other surfaces as the first extreme heat wave of the year extends across the West. A high-pressure system is expected to push temperatures above 115 degrees this week in Las Vegas and Phoenix. Health officials advised people to be mindful of hot asphalt, sidewalks, and even desert sand, the [AP](#) reports. Elsewhere, heat warnings stretched from California's central and inland valleys to as far north as Montana and Wyoming, where predicted highs of 109 degrees on Tuesday are expected to shatter records. Those northern states should see relief by mid-week, but no such respite is expected for Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and parts of California. National Weather Service excessive heat warnings last through the weekend for those states. The high temperatures will be made worse by the lack of a break in the weather, according to AccuWeather, whose forecasters called it a "rare, dangerous, and deadly" event. That means burn centers are likely to be busy. It doesn't take much time to get a full thickness or third-degree burn when exposed to hot pavement. In all, 13% of the serious burn injuries seen at the burn care center come from hot pavement. Cases start spiking once outside temperatures top 95 degrees.

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/307381/with-temperatures-climbing-risk-of-surface-burns-rises.html>

Related story - Unplanned' outages hit Texas power plants amid soaring temperatures

Learn more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/unplanned-outages-hit-texas-power-plants-amid-soaring-temperatures-n1270827>

FDA adds tubes to collect blood specimens to device shortage list

(AHA Today) The Food and Drug Administration last week added [sodium citrate tubes](#) used to collect blood specimens to its device shortage list and recommended health care providers only use the tubes when medically necessary, among other [conservation strategies](#).

FEMA and FCC Plan August 11 Nationwide Emergency Alert Test

Test Messages Will be Sent to TVs and Radios

Along with Select Cell Phones That Have Opted-in to Receive Test Messages

Learn more: <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20210611/fema-and-fcc-plan-nationwide-emergency-alert-test-aug-11-test-messages-will>

White House unveils strategy to combat domestic terrorism

(Politico) The White House on Tuesday announced a cross-agency strategy to combat domestic terrorism, just two weeks after President Joe Biden promised the upcoming release during his remarks commemorating the Tulsa massacre.

The effort is the culmination of a review, led by the National Security Council, of how the U.S. government has dealt with the growing threat. It reiterates that militia extremists and racially and ethnically motivated violent extremists — predominantly white supremacists — are the most lethal and persistent terrorism threat facing the U.S. Learn more: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/06/15/white-house-strategy-domestic-terrorism-494558?cid=apn>

Reports Suggest US Homicide Spike Will Be Even Worse This Year Than 2020

The [New York Times](#) (6/14, Bosman, Robles, Rojas) reports that in US cities, there is “a crime wave with no signs of ending,” including “a surge of homicides, assaults and carjackings that began during the pandemic and has cast a chill over the recovery.” The Times says “homicide rates in large cities were up more than 30 percent on average last year, and up another 24 percent for the beginning of this year, according to criminologists.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/14, A1, Thebault, Fox, Tran) says, “By almost every measure, 2021 has already been a terrible year for gun violence. Many fear it will get worse. Last weekend alone, more than 120 people died in shootings, according to the Gun Violence Archive.” The Post adds, “Through the first five months of 2021, gunfire killed more than 8,100 people in the United States, about 54 lives lost per day. ... That’s 14 more deaths per day than the average toll during the same period of the previous six years.” According to the Post, “This year, the number of casualties, along with the overall number of shootings that have killed or injured at least one person, exceeds those of the first five months of 2020, which finished as the deadliest year of gun violence in at least two decades.”

U.S. military guns keep vanishing, some used in street crimes

(AP News, June 15, 2021) The Army couldn’t say how its Beretta M9 got to New York’s capital. Until the June 2018 police foot chase, the Army didn’t even realize someone had stolen the gun. Inventory records checked by investigators said the M9 was 600 miles away -- safe inside Fort Bragg, North Carolina. “It’s incredibly alarming,” said Albany County District Attorney David Soares. “It raises the other question as to what else is seeping into a community that could pose a clear and present danger.” < [Read more](#) >

US News Best Hospitals Report

Full report: <https://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals/rankings>

Best Hospitals in Kentucky

Link: <https://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals/area/ky>

U.S. News evaluated 119 hospitals in Kentucky. Seven meet high U.S. News standards and are ranked in the state. U.S. News also ranked Kentucky hospitals in the [Cincinnati](#) metro area, which includes part of Kentucky, and in the [Louisville](#) metro area. The number 1 hospital in Kentucky is University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Hospital. See also [Best Children's Hospitals in Kentucky](#).

Preventing Nurse Suicide:

Free Webinar Aims to Curb Nursing's Shockingly High Suicide Rate

A free, live webinar addressing the risk of suicide among nurses will offer ways to overcome burnout and improve quality of life to nurses, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse educators and other health care professionals.

Preventing Nurse Suicide: The Real Ramifications of the Pandemic is scheduled for Thursday, June 17 from 11 AM ET/10:00 CT, to 12:30 PM ET/11:30 AM CT. It is being offered by PESI, a non-profit provider of continuing education in the fields of health care and mental health.

- [Full Article](#)
 - [Details and Registration](#)
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Supply of opioid antidote naloxone strong during COVID-19

(CIDRAP) The pandemic has been associated with increasing rates of drug overdoses in the United States, with the [New York Times](#) relaying an overall increase of 29% in 2020 over the year prior. Public health professionals point to disrupted healthcare and crisis services, increased drug potency, worsening mental health, and isolation, but what about access to naloxone, a drug that rapidly reverses opioid overdose? While the available answers aren't as conclusive as one might like, it seems the upstream supply chain—the manufacturing part—hasn't seemed to waver for harm reduction centers.

Even before the pandemic temporarily shut down some substance disorder centers, people who could benefit from naloxone could be stymied by the regulations that vary state by state. Some allow clergy to provide naloxone; others don't. Some have more encouraging pharmacies or a greater wealth of harm reduction services.

Read full report: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/06/supply-opioid-antidote-naloxone-strong-during-covid-19>

ASPR's "The Express: June, 2021"

This issue of The Express highlights the following new resources:

- ✓ [Innovations in COVID-19 Patient Surge Management](#)
- ✓ [Infectious Disease TTX Toolkit \(Step-by-Step Implementation Guide\)](#)
- ✓ [The Role of Respiratory Therapists during COVID-19](#)
- ✓ [Be a COVID-19 Vaccine Champion: Webinar Q and A](#)
- ✓ [The Experience of Chaplains during COVID-19](#)

In light of wildfire season, we invite you to check out [Issue 10 of The Exchange](#) that focuses on preparing for and responding to wildfires and planned outages and the wildfire sections in our [Natural Disasters Topic Collection](#). <<[SEE & READ MORE](#)>>

USPS says nearly 6,000 letter carriers attacked by dogs in 2020

(WYMT) As a part of its annual National Dog Bite Awareness Week public service campaign, USPS provided the public with information on what pet owners should and shouldn't do to protect letter carriers.

Read and watch more: <https://www.wyvt.com/2021/06/14/usps-says-nearly-6000-letter-carriers-attacked-by-dogs-2020/>

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.