



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 19, 2021

KY COVID Update

Governor Beshear announces a little over 200 new cases, positivity rate slowly rising

(WYMT) Governor Beshear provided an update on COVID-19 Friday afternoon as the Commonwealth's new case count continues to slow. The governor announced 211 new COVID-19 cases Friday, bringing the state's total case number to 463,337. 42 of Friday's new cases were children 18 and younger. 209 Kentuckians remain hospitalized with 56 in the ICU. 28 patients remain on a ventilator. The state's positivity rate to 2.09%. Gov. Beshear also announced two deaths Friday, all of which were newly reported. This brings the state's death toll to 7,180. Full story: <https://www.wywt.com/2021/06/18/governor-beshear-announces-little-over-200-new-cases-positivity-rate-slowly-rising/>

Related story - Sign-ups growing for Kentucky prizes tied to COVID-19 shots

See more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/sign-ups-growing-for-kentucky-prizes-tied-to-covid-19-shots>

It's not just Delta -- other coronavirus variants worry scientists as well

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/18/health/gamma-variant-spread/index.html>

As COVID-19 crisis ebbs, some seeking 9/11-style commission

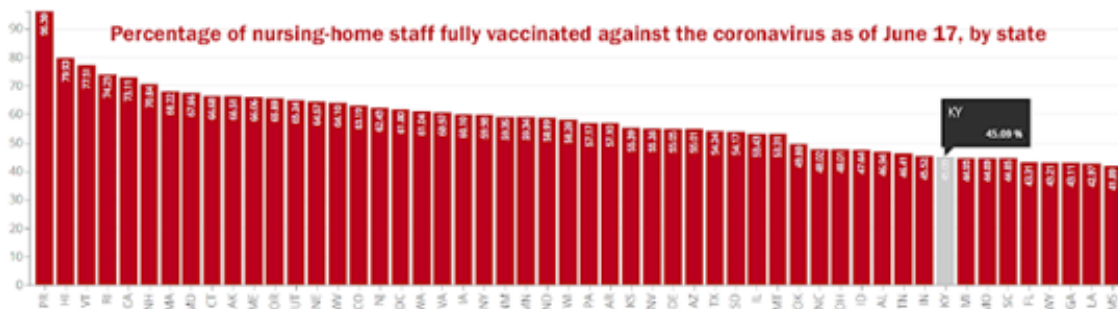
(AP) With more than 600,000 Americans dead of COVID-19 and questions still raging about the origin of the virus and the government's response, a push is underway on Capitol Hill and beyond for a full-blown investigation of the crisis by a national commission like the one that looked into 9/11. It is unclear whether such a probe will ever happen, though a privately sponsored team of public health experts is already laying the groundwork for one.

Its inquiry could include a look at the origins of the virus; early warnings and other communication with foreign governments; coordination among federal, state and local agencies; the availability of medical supplies; testing and public health surveillance; vaccination development and distribution; the uneven effect on minorities; and government relief policies.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/donald-trump-joe-biden-coronavirus-pandemic-government-and-politics-health-213f6931e5414f40af1037697c25559b>

Kentucky ranks low in vaccinations of nursing-home employees

(KY Health News) Employees providing care at Kentucky nursing homes are among the least likely in the country to be vaccinated against the coronavirus, which has killed almost 2,500 people in those nursing homes.



The extent of the problem could be worse, because only about a third of the state's nursing homes have reported vaccination figures to the **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**, which pays most of their costs and regulates them.

The latest update of [the database](#), June 17, showed that 45.09 percent of the health-care employees at reporting nursing homes had been fully vaccinated for the virus. That was ninth lowest among the states.

Sherry Culp, state government's long-term-care ombudsman, [told](#) the **Lexington Herald-Leader**, "My concern is that having staff who are not vaccinated coming into these places every day and working in close proximity with residents could increase the incidence of Covid once again."

Drivers more reckless in pandemic

(CNN) When the coronavirus pandemic shut down the country last year, highways emptied out as many people holed up at home. But those who got behind the wheel engaged in riskier behavior, leading to [the deadliest year for US traffic crashes](#) in over a decade.

More motorists went too fast, failed to buckle up and drove under the influence of drugs and alcohol, according to law enforcement and traffic safety experts.

The outcome was grim. About 38,680 people died in vehicle crashes in the US last year -- the highest number since 2007, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Fatalities also increased among motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians, even as the number of miles driven nationwide [dropped by 13.2% compared to](#) 2019.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/19/us/pandemic-increased-fatal-crashes-trnd/index.html>

EMS directors in Kentucky struggling with staffing shortages

(WYMT/WKYT) Just about every business you go to lately has “help wanted” signs up—it’s a trend across the country and in Kentucky. Turns out, that worker shortage isn’t only affecting businesses. Multiple fire chiefs and EMS directors say they have enough paramedics, but just barely.

“The big challenge is trying to find paramedics. To work. They’re short throughout the state, and throughout the nation if you read everywhere,” said Tim May with Garrard EMS.

Full story: <https://www.wymt.com/2021/06/16/ems-directors-kentucky-struggling-with-staffing-shortages/>

What to do to stay safe around water this summer at the pool or beach

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/19/health/water-safety-swimming-wellness/index.html>

CDC looking into TB outbreak in spinal surgery patients

(CIDRAP [News Scan](#)) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said this week that it's investigating a cluster of tuberculosis (TB) infections in patients who've recently undergone spinal surgery that used a single lot of a bone repair product.

The CDC said patients who underwent spinal fusions or fracture repairs using FiberCel products from a single lot (#NMDS210011) are likely to have been exposed to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The agency is recommending that all patients who received this product lot obtain TB treatment, even if they are asymptomatic.

The manufacturer sent a voluntary recall notice for the product on Jun 2, and as of Jun 10, all unused products in the lot have been sequestered.

The CDC said it is working with the Food and Drug Administration and with health department, hospitals, and surgical centers in the affected states to prevent further patient harm.

Jun 14 CDC [notice](#)

Also in News Scan - Seven countries report more vaccine-derived polio cases

Center for Women and Families addressing gun violence amid investigation by Sex Crimes Unit

Read story: https://www.wdrb.com/community/center-for-women-and-families-addressing-gun-violence-amid-investigation-by-lmpds-sex-crimes-unit/article_5d1d4fa2-cfdb-11eb-8996-470241bd461f.html

For Female Soldiers, Study Finds Higher Risk of Sexual Assault *Texas & KY Bases are on the list of the worst*

(Newser) Female soldiers at Army bases in Texas, Colorado, Kansas, and Kentucky face a greater risk of sexual assault and harassment than those at other posts, accounting for more than a third of all active-duty Army women sexually assaulted in 2018, according to a new Rand Corp. study. The study looked at Army incidents and found that female soldiers at Fort Hood and Fort Bliss, both in Texas, faced the highest risk, particularly those in combat commands or jobs such as field artillery and engineering. And units with more frequent deployments to war also saw higher risk. Other bases with high risk were Fort Campbell in Kentucky, Fort Carson in Colorado, and Fort Riley in Kansas, per the [AP](#). Rand's study provides greater detail on the rates of sexual assault and misconduct across the Army, a chronic problem military leaders have been struggling to combat. Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/307573/for-female-soldiers-texas-bases-are-the-worst.html>

Suicide Prevention: QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) Gatekeeper Training*

When: June 23, 2021 1:00 PM ET

RSVP: https://uky.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9dwQomR9Q22y0_RVEBQoVQ

KSPAN is offering a free QPR Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention to teach lay and professional "gatekeepers" the warning signs of suicide and how to respond.

Feel free to share information about KSPAN with others you feel are interested in injury and violence prevention, we are an open network and welcome all to join KSPAN.

Click [HERE](#) or visit www.safekentucky.org

----- **Overdose Deaths Rose During The War On Drugs, But Efforts To Reduce Them Face Backlash**

(NPR) Researchers know how to curb the risks of overdose and disease among drug users, but policymakers are reluctant to allow public health measures that include needle exchanges and access to safer drugs.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2021/06/19/1006891729/overdose-deaths-rose-during-the-war-on-drugs-but-efforts-to-reduce-them-face-bac>

----- **Red Cross Warns of Severe Blood Shortage**

(HealthDay News) There's a severe blood shortage in the United States due to a recent surge in [trauma](#) cases, organ transplants and elective surgeries, the American Red Cross says. The Red Cross is appealing to Americans to roll up their sleeves and donate blood immediately.

Red cell demand from hospitals with [trauma](#) centers is 10% higher than in 2019, which is five times higher than the growth in demand from other facilities that provide transfusions, according to a Red Cross news release.

Between 20% and 40% of trauma deaths that occur after hospital admission involve massive bleeding. In such cases, saving a life could require hundreds of blood products, depending on injury severity.

Full story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=259572>

***Related story* - 'Severe' blood shortage causes concern at Louisville hospitals**

The Red Cross says low numbers are typical this time of year, but doctors say what's in the bank now is a dangerously low supply.

See and read more: <https://www.wlky.com/article/severe-blood-shortage-causes-concern-at-louisville-hospitals/36732279#>

----- **Kentucky Updating Water Quality Standards**

Learn more: <https://wfpl.org/kentucky-updating-water-quality-standards/>

----- ***Drought out west getting worse* A California reservoir is expected to fall so low that a hydro-power plant will shut down for first time**

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/17/us/california-drought-orville-power/index.html>

----- **Birds Dropping Dead In Jefferson, Boone, Kenton Counties**

(WFPL) Wildlife agencies in a half-dozen states including Kentucky have received reports of sick and dying birds. It's unclear what's causing the deaths, but the birds appear with symptoms that include eye swelling, crusty discharge and neurological problems. The outbreak appears to be distinct from [the salmonella event](#) that occurred earlier this year.

Kentucky's Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has received reports of sick and dying birds in Jefferson, Kenton and Boone counties. Affected species so far include blue jays, common grackles and European starlings. Wildlife agencies have also identified outbreaks in Indiana, West Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia and Washington D.C.

The department is now asking residents in Jefferson, Boone and Kenton counties to stop feeding birds until further notice. Bird feeders and baths are common places for birds to congregate and can increase disease transmission.

The public can file a report and read more about the bird deaths at [this website](#).

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/birds-dropping-dead-in-jefferson-boone-kenton-counties/>

Could a Type of Statin Raise Dementia Risks?

(HealthDay News) Certain [cholesterol](#)-lowering [drugs](#) might speed [dementia](#) in some older adults whose memories are starting to fail, a small, preliminary study suggests.

The researchers found that of 300 older adults with mildly impaired thinking and memory, those using "lipophilic" [statins](#) were more likely to develop [dementia](#) over the next eight years.

Lipophilic [statins](#) include such widely used medications as [simvastatin](#) ([Zocor](#)), [atorvastatin](#) ([Lipitor](#)) and [lovastatin](#) ([Altoprev](#)).

They're considered lipophilic because they are attracted to fat and can cross into many body tissues, including the brain. That's in contrast to hydrophilic statins — like [rosuvastatin](#) ([Crestor](#)) and [pravastatin](#) (Pravachol) — which act mainly in the [liver](#). Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=259494>

New study highlights gaps in privacy policies of health apps

(STAT Morning Rounds) A [new analysis](#) of health apps found inconsistent privacy practices, some of which could be violations of consumers' rights. Researchers looked at information from nearly 20,000 health apps — the majority of which were for health and fitness rather than medical use. The code for nearly 90% of the apps included in the analysis had a way for the app to potentially collect users' data, including the user's location and information about their device. A minority of apps transmitted user information to the internet, and most data collection in these apps involved third parties outside the app makers. Researchers also found that more than 1 in 4 of these apps didn't have an explicit privacy policy, a trend that was higher among medical apps than those for general health and fitness.

Debunking Apple Kill command rumours for iPhone 7 and below – Twitter sparks hearsay

Learn more: <https://www.hitc.com/en-gb/2021/06/16/debunking-apple-kill-command-rumours-for-iphone-7-and-below-twitter-sparks-hearsay/>

Marshall County leaders weigh options on what to do with \$15,000 chairs for the E-911 center *[At this price, does it give neck and back massages?]*

Story: https://www.wpsdlocal6.com/news/marshall-county-leaders-weigh-options-on-what-to-do-with-15-000-chairs-for-the/article_3fea2da4-d09b-11eb-a933-779d7b7e203b.html

HSIN Emergency Services Update

June 1-15, 2021

Below is a list of some of the many information products posted to the Emergency Services community on the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) between June 1-15, 2021. Highlights from June 1-15 include:

- A Joint Standalone Graphic, [Fireworks and Improvised Firework Devices are an Ongoing Threat - June 2021](#), from California State Threat Assessment Center (STAC), California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFD).
- A Private Industry Notification, [Cyber Actors Impersonating Construction Companies to Conduct Business Email Compromises](#), from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Cyber Division.
- Two First Responder's Toolboxes from the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT): [Possible Indicators of Criminal Offenders Mobilizing to Violent Extremism](#) and [Counterterrorism Considerations for Waterfront Locations](#).
- A threat brief, [Ransomware Trends 2021](#), from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Cybersecurity Program.

A report released in May 2021, [Active-Shooter-Incidents-20-Year Review 2000-2019](#), from the FBI Office of Partner Engagement.

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 rbartlett@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.