



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 23, 2021

FEMA opening up individual assistance registration in three Eastern Kentucky counties

(WYMT) The Federal Emergency Management Agency is opening three locations in Eastern Kentucky to help those affected by severe weather register for individual assistance from the federal government. Kentuckians from 31 counties can visit any centers in the state, not just the county they live in.

The locations are:

- Lawrence County Community Center, 180 Bulldog Lane, Louisa, Ky. 41230
- Perry County's Hal Rogers Forum, 100 Bulldog Lane, Hazard, Ky. 41701
- Madison County's Joint Information Center, 558 South Keeneland Drive, Richmond, Ky. 40475

These locations will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on June 24, 25, and 26.

In our area, designated counties include Breathitt, Boyd, Clay, Estill, Floyd, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Powell, Pulaski, and Rockcastle.

Other counties include Anderson, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Greenup, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Warren, and Woodford.

FEMA officials ask that those seeking assistance have the address of the home that was damaged, your current mailing address, phone number, Social Security number, insurance information, total household annual income, bank routing and account numbers, and a description of damage and losses available in order to register.

These locations, dates, and times are subject to change. For more information, you can visit [here](#) or call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362.

Source: <https://www.wymt.com/2021/06/23/fema-opening-up-individual-assistance-registration-three-eastern-kentucky-counties/>

KY COVID-19 Update

(From KDPH [KYCOVID19.ky.gov site](https://www.ky.gov/kycovid19)) There are 210 new cases as of today, with 28 in the 18 or under group. The positivity rate is down to 1.85%. There were two new deaths reported, for a total of 7,196 to date.

As Covid-19 deaths hit record lows, those dying are younger and more disproportionately Black than before

(CNN) Covid-19 deaths have fallen dramatically across the United States -- average daily deaths are less than a tenth of what they were at the peak of the pandemic, according to data from Johns Hopkins University -- but nearly 300 people are still dying of Covid-19 each day in the US.

People 75 and older have accounted for about 57% of all Covid-19 deaths in the US, but the balance was shifted in May, with 59% of deaths among those under the age of 75 for that month, CDC data shows.

Instead, those between the ages of 50 and 64 have represented a significantly larger share of deaths recently. In May, about a quarter of deaths occurred in this age group, compared to 16% of total deaths throughout the pandemic.

And adults under 40 represented about 3% of Covid-19 deaths in May, more than double their share of total deaths since the pandemic began.

Black people have also represented a larger share of Covid-19 deaths recently, as well as lower vaccination coverage, CDC data shows. Throughout the pandemic, Black people have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19, accounting for about 12.5% of the population but more than 15% of total deaths, according to CDC data.

That disparity was even larger in May, with nearly 19% of Covid-19 deaths throughout the month among Black people. In recent weeks, Black people and American Indians have been more than twice as likely as non-Hispanic White people to die of Covid-19, CDC data shows.

Indeed, Black people are the most under-vaccinated racial or ethnic group in the US. More than 45% of the US population is fully vaccinated against Covid-19, but coverage among Black people is less than half of that, at about 22%.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/23/health/covid-deaths-shifting-younger-more-disparities/index.html>

Heart Inflammation in Young Adults After COVID-19 Vaccine Is Rare, CDC Says

(NPR) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says 323 cases of heart inflammation have been verified in people who received the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

The cases of [myocarditis and pericarditis](#) have been seen mostly in teens and young adults between 12 and 39 years old — mostly after the second vaccine dose.

Most people who have experienced this side effect have recovered from symptoms and are doing well, [according to data](#) presented Wednesday at a public meeting of the CDC's [vaccine advisory committee](#). Of the 323 cases, 295 were discharged from the hospital, nine remained hospitalized as of last week and 14 were not hospitalized at all. Outcome data was missing for five of the cases. No deaths have been associated with this side effect.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2021/06/23/1009522605/heart-inflammation-in-teens-and-young-adults-after-covid-19-vaccine-is-rare-cdc->

Experts: mRNA COVID-19 vaccines likely tied to heart inflammation

(CIDRAP) Today during a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a panel of expert advisors to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), discussed rare instances of heart inflammation among mRNA COVID-19 vaccine recipients. The committee agreed the vaccines are likely linked to cases of myocarditis and pericarditis but said the benefits of vaccination outweigh the risks.

The first reports of myocarditis and pericarditis occurred in Israel in January, the experts said, and have followed in all countries using mRNAs. The myocarditis (inflammation of heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the tissues surrounding the heart) associated with vaccines are usually mild and respond well to a course of treatment with non-steroidal anti-inflammatories.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/06/experts-mrna-covid-19-vaccines-likely-tied-heart-inflammation>

No evidence yet to suggest COVID-19 vaccine booster is needed

(NBC) <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/no-evidence-yet-suggest-covid-vaccine-booster-needed-cdc-group-n1272197>

Watchdog: Nursing home deaths up 32% in 2020 amid pandemic

(AP) Deaths among Medicare patients in nursing homes soared by 32% last year, with two devastating spikes eight months apart, a government watchdog reported Tuesday in the most comprehensive look yet at [the ravages of COVID-19](#) among its most vulnerable victims. The [report from the inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services](#) found that about 4 in 10 Medicare recipients in nursing homes had or likely had COVID-19 in 2020, and that deaths overall jumped by 169,291 from the previous year, before the coronavirus appeared.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/nursing-homes-coronavirus-pandemic-pandemics-business-health-f1a44187198ccca1e4311ac72f4f42aa>

Ky. Lawmakers File Bill To Ban Businesses, Schools From Asking About Vaccinations

(WFPL) A group of Republican lawmakers has filed a bill that would ban Kentucky businesses and schools from asking whether employees, students or customers are vaccinated against COVID-19. [The measure](#) would also expand the state's civil rights code, banning businesses from denying services based on someone's "immunization status." The bill would specifically ban businesses from requiring customers to provide documentation that they've been vaccinated as a condition of entering the premises. The legislature will consider the proposal when lawmakers return for the next regular session in January.

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/ky-lawmakers-file-bill-to-ban-businesses-schools-from-asking-about-vaccinations/>

The Pandemic Led to the Biggest Drop In U.S. Life Expectancy Since WWII, Study Finds

(NPR) A new study estimates that life expectancy in the U.S. decreased by nearly two years between 2018 and 2020, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. And the declines were most pronounced among minority groups, including Black and Hispanic people. In 2018, average life expectancy in the U.S. was about 79 years (78.7). It declined to about 77 years (76.9) by the end of 2020, according to [a new study](#) published in the *British Medical Journal*.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2021/06/23/1009611699/the-pandemic-led-to-the-biggest-drop-in-u-s-life-expectancy-since-ww-ii-study-fi>

FBI Director Wray urges companies stop paying ransoms to hackers

(Reuters) FBI Director Chris Wray on Wednesday pleaded with public companies and other hacking victims to avoid paying ransom, saying he fears it will only embolden cyber criminals to ramp up future attacks.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/technology/fbi-director-wray-urges-companies-stop-paying-ransoms-hackers-2021-06-23/>

Ky. Receives Hundreds Of Reports Of Mystery Illness Affecting Songbirds

Learn more: <https://wfpl.org/ky-receives-hundreds-of-reports-of-mystery-illness-affecting-songbirds/>

Hurricane center watching tropical wave east of Caribbean

(*Orlando Sentinel*, June 23, 2021) A tropical wave is knocking on the door of the Caribbean Wednesday morning with low odds of development, according to the National Hurricane Center. The wave was located a few hundred miles east of the Windward Islands, the NHC said in its 8 a.m. update. While disorganized the wave is moving at 5 to 10 mph west-northwest into the Caribbean Sea. <[Read more](#)>

U.S. Has Had Most Wildfires Through June in 10 Years, and We're Headed Into the Peak Months

(*The Weather Channel*, June 22, 2021) The number of large wildfires in the United States so far in 2021 is the most through late June in 10 years, with the most active months usually still to come in what could become a record year for fires. Through June 21, there have been 28,926 large wildfires in the U.S. in 2021, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho. <[Read more](#)>

Related story - EarthEx-21 Exercise Information & Registration Link

See the attached information sheet that outlines the program, the Why, When, Who and What to Expect. This year's themes will be Uncontrolled Fires and Extreme Flooding Events. We have certainly see these threats this past year, and this is a great opportunity to exercise your plans. The EarthEx-21 program follows HSEEP guidelines, and would be a good way to help meet some of your exercise requirements.

One of the 'deadliest plants in North America' is blooming. What to know about poison hemlock

Poison Hemlock can cause blisters if touched or death if eaten

(USA Today) The hazardous poison hemlock is more visible in Ohio this year than ever before, experts say. The plant can be mistaken for Queen Anne's Lace.

Read more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/06/21/poison-hemlock-deadly-weed-blooming-across-ohio-how-spot/7767718002/>

More Police Officers Have Died On The Job So Far This Year Than In 2020.

(NPR) The rate of on-the-job fatalities for police is higher this year than it was at this time in 2020, according to an organization that tracks law enforcement deaths.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund reports [that as of Monday, 151 total deaths were recorded](#) -- an 11% jump over last year. The number includes federal, state, military, tribal and local law enforcement officer deaths.

The largest share of that rise is due to traffic-related fatalities. There have already been 36 officers killed in traffic, compared with 25 at this point last year — a rise of 44%.

Traffic-related deaths include collisions with other vehicles, single-vehicle crashes, motorcycle crashes and incidents in which officers are struck by vehicles.

More Than 300K Gun Purchases Were Blocked Due To Background Checks Last Year

(IACP "The Lead") The [AP](#) (6/22, Whitehurst) reports that "the number of people stopped from buying guns through the U.S. background check system hit an all-time high of more than 300,000 last year amid a surge of firearm sales, according to new records obtained by the group Everytown for Gun Safety." According to the FBI, "The FBI numbers...show the background checks blocked nearly twice as many gun sales in 2020 as in the year before. About 42% of those denials were because the would-be buyers had felony convictions on their records."

[Newsweek](#) (6/22, Strozewski) reports, "According to the data, the rate of barred would-be gun buyers also increased somewhat over the previous two years, from about 0.6 percent to 0.8 percent. That could be in part because many of the people who tried to get guns in 2020 were buying them for the first time and may not have been aware that they were legally barred from owning them, said Adam Winkler, a UCLA law professor specializing in gun policy. 'Some may have a felony conviction on their record and not think about it,' he said."

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.



The world's largest cross-sector resilience exercise focused on individual, organizational, and community resilience.

Why Play EEX-21: EARTH-EX is a free exercise opportunity to self-evaluate levels of preparedness and resilience in the face of real-world Black Sky potential disasters. This year's exercise presents two engaging scenarios that everyone in the world faces – uncontrolled fires and extreme flooding events.

In addition to being a great exercise presented in a virtual environment, EEX-21 will provide unique and valuable training materials and webinars that you can take advantage of before, during, and after the exercise.

When is EEX-21: EARTH EX will be available for play anytime from 1 September through 31 October. You can play multiple functional areas and lanes during that time.

Who Should Play EEX-21: Everyone – there is an Individual and Family Functional Area that is perfect for everyone to participate. Six additional functional areas support in-depth play for organizations, businesses, and government agencies. Within those six areas, thirty-eight unique lanes address nearly all of the functions that make up the modern, highly interconnected, and interdependent world.

What to Expect: EEX-21 is a dynamic, engaging, and thought-provoking tabletop exercise. EARTH-EX uses state-of-the-art video injects and a modern game-like interface to present the situation, new information and facilitate exercise play through the exercise landscape. Play consists of gathering new information, developing courses of action, and making and refining decisions. Players receive all the essential information for their sector and other sectors that can influence the environment. There are two separate phases, one for fire and one for floods. EARTH EX is flexible and adaptable. Organizations can adjust it to meet their needs.

EARTH EX Themes: Each year, EARTH EX advances one or more of the primary Black Sky (prolonged duration power outage) threats to support preparedness and resilience discussions. This year's themes include developing situational awareness, understanding evacuation decisions, supply chain and resource management impacts, and the critical restoration mission.

EARTH EX Evaluation: EARTH EX is a self-assessed, self-evaluated exercise opportunity. Each person or organization will evaluate their level of play and readiness.

EARTH EX Preparation: EARTH EX is a "Come As You Are" opportunity. Several optional training opportunities are part of the EARTH EX series.

Grants and Certificates: EARTH EX follows HSEEP guidelines and is perfect for meeting EMPG exercise requirements. Everyone that completes the exercise and the survey will receive a certificate of completion.

How to Register: Registration is open now - <https://battlerhythm.net/Registration/registerMKI.html?id=17>

For More Information: Contact us at EARTHEX @EISCOUNCIL.ORG

