



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 28, 2021

KY COVID-19 Update for Monday

Today KY Public Health has posted 69 new COVID cases today, with 11 in the 18 or under category. The Positivity Rate is 1.87% There were 2 new deaths logged today.

See more: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/COVID19DailyReport.pdf>

US COVID-19 Numbers

(MedPage Today) As of Monday at 8 a.m. EDT, the unofficial [U.S. COVID-19 toll](#) reached 33,625,385 cases and 603,967 deaths, up over 83,000 cases and 2,100 deaths from a week ago.

White House begins final COVID-19 vaccine push

(CIDRAP) The White House launched a week-long blitz to encourage vaccination against COVID-19 this weekend, 1 week before the Fourth of July holiday, which the president has said will mark the country's independence from the pandemic.

The administration had hoped 70% of Americans over age 18 would have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine by Jul 4, but last week officials said they miss that mark.

Now, top officials from the administration and even celebrities are being used to court what the Associated Press calls the "[moveable middle](#)," roughly 55 million unvaccinated American adults, many under age 30.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [COVID Data Tracker](#) shows that 381,282,720 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been delivered in the United States, and 324,414,371 have been administered, with 153,776,118 Americans fully vaccinated (66.1% of adults have received at least one dose).

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/06/white-house-begins-final-covid-19-vaccine-push>

Six of the state's 61 health departments are losing their directors: pandemic made some of them delay or advance their departure

(KY Health News) Nearly 10 percent of the state's health departments are losing their directors, with five retiring and one resigning. And the 61 district and county health departments are losing other staff due to fatigue and stress of the pandemic. Some of the directors who are leaving say it's due in part to the pandemic; others say it made them stay an extra year. "Many of us did not want to leave during the height of the Covid response," said Dr. Kraig Humbaugh, Commissioner of the **Lexington-Fayette County Health Department**.

Sara Jo Best, president of the **Kentucky Health Departments Association**, said the pandemic has caused exhaustion, stress and depression among many public-health employees and has likely contributed to retirements.

The state **Department for Public Health** declined to provide the number of employees or the names of the directors who are retiring without an open-records request. Best provided the names of directors who are leaving by Aug. 1, the most popular date for state workers; some are already gone, due to accumulated vacation and sick time. Besides Humbaugh, the retiring directors are **Lake Cumberland District Health Department** Executive Director Shawn Crabtree; **Northern Kentucky Health Department District** Director of Health Dr. Lynne Saddler; **Graves County Health Department** Director Noel Coplen; and **Ashland-Boyd County Health Department** Public Health Director Maria Hardy. Kayla Bebout, public health director at the **Christian County Health Department**, is resigning, effective July 16.

State Health Commissioner Steven Stack [told](#) Jack Brammer of the **Lexington Herald-Leader** that he knew there always has been public criticism of government, but dissent from sound medical advice took "an emotional toll" on him as he and Gov. Andy Beshear tried to save lives. [\[Click the headline above for the full story.\]](#)

CDC Research in MMWR

Symptoms of Depression, Anxiety, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Suicidal Ideation Among State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Public Health Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic

(Summary from STAT Morning Rounds) *Over half of public health workers have recently struggled with at least one mental health condition including depression, anxiety, PTSD, or suicidal ideation, per new [CDC research](#). More than 26,000 local, state, tribal, and territorial health workers were surveyed earlier this spring about their mental health over the past two weeks. Mental health worsened as both weekly hours worked and the percentage of time devoted to the pandemic increased; transgender or nonbinary people and anyone under 29 years of age faced the highest prevalence of symptoms. A fifth of respondents reported they felt bullied, threatened, or harassed because of their work. While research has been devoted to health care workers' mental*

health during the Covid-19 pandemic, the authors write that there has been limited data on public health workers, who are similarly vulnerable.

FDA updates patient and provider fact sheets for mRNA COVID-19 vaccines; revises bronchoscope reprocessing safety recommendations

([AHA Today](#)) The Food and Drug Administration June 25 formally updated its patient and provider fact sheets for the [Moderna](#) and [Pfizer](#) COVID-19 vaccines to include warnings about the increased risk of heart inflammation in patients.

FDA also revised its [safety recommendations](#) for bronchoscope reprocessing. The agency now recommends health care facilities and staff consider sterilization over high-level disinfection when reprocessing. Other requests include not using damaged devices or those that have failed a leak test and performing preventive maintenance and proper inspection of bronchoscopes.

Pfizer, Moderna vaccines likely to provide lasting immunity, WashU study finds

(KSDK) The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines will likely provide lasting immunity to COVID-19, according to findings from a new study by the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

Both vaccines were authorized for emergency use and employed mRNA technology, which has never been used before in FDA-approved vaccines. Both vaccines performed well in clinical trials, and both have been widely credited with reducing disease, but there have been concerns over how long immunity induced by the new vaccine technology will last, [WashU said in a news release](#).

Now, a study from WashU School of Medicine researchers, published June 28 in the journal Nature, found evidence that the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines induce an immune response that is "both strong and potentially long-lasting," the release said.

According to the study, those who received the Pfizer vaccine four months prior still had "germinal centers" in their lymph nodes producing immune cells against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Read full story: <https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/vaccine/washu-covid-vaccine-study-immunity/63-f5826490-d91f-4b22-a16c-9dd0efd6a3c0>

RELATED: [Does COVID lead to lasting antibody protection? Answer lies in bone marrow, WashU study finds](#)

Climate Change Could Expand Spread Of Flesh-Eating Parasites In The U.S.

(NPR) Americans, it turns out, can be exposed to flesh eating Leishmania parasites without leaving the country. While reported cases of leishmaniasis contracted in the U.S. are currently negligible, they may soon be on the rise: As climate change pushes rodent and sand fly habitat northward, scientists caution that in the future, an increasing number of U.S. residents could be exposed to different varieties of the flesh-eating parasite.

While Leishmania parasites are present in about 90 countries, the symptoms of an infection vary by strain. Some strains of Leishmania parasites can be life-threatening. The one currently present in the U.S., Leishmania mexicana, induces milder symptoms and over time, can heal on its own. But if doctors fail to recognize it, or overreact to it, damages caused by wrong therapies and unnecessary toxic systemic medication can cause more harm than the disease itself.

Every year, between 1.5 to 2 million people worldwide contract leishmaniasis, and around 70,000 die from it, mostly in poor rural areas. The most dangerous Leishmania strains, such as infantum and donovani, don't just eat a person's skin, they also infect the liver, spleen, and bone marrow, leading to death if not treated.

Drugs like miltefosine and amphotericin B, used to cure these strains of Leishmaniasis, are expensive or toxic, and not much funding goes into researching and developing better treatments. In 2007, the World Health Organization added leishmaniasis to the list of neglected tropical diseases, which mainly affect the world's poor and do not receive much attention.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/06/25/1009885640/flesh-eating-parasites-may-be-expanding-their-range-as-climate-heats-up>

CDC Leishmaniasis site: <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/leishmaniasis/index.html>

Terri Montgomery Schoebel Retiring from Lexington VA

Terri Montgomery has announced that she is retiring on June 30th as the Emergency Manager for Lexington VA Medical Center. Terri is also the Chair of the Bluegrass Health Care Coalition, and has been an Emergency Preparedness leader in Central Kentucky. We wish her well.

[Nearly All US COVID-19 Deaths Now Preventable](#) (*CIDRAP*) For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began in earnest in March of 2020 in the United States, nearly all of the deaths recorded in recent weeks were preventable, occurring in unvaccinated Americans. According to an Associated Press analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data from May, only about 150 of the more than 18,000 COVID-19 deaths in May were in fully vaccinated people, or less than 1%. This translates to 5 deaths per day attributed to fully vaccinated Americans experiencing breakthrough infections, and roughly 300 deaths per day in the unvaccinated.

[Monkeypox Cases Rise to Three in North Wales](#) (*Outbreak News Today*) Public Health Wales and Public Health England have confirmed they are monitoring three cases of imported Monkeypox identified in North Wales. The first case was acquired overseas, and all three cases are members of the same household. All cases were admitted to a hospital in England, where two currently remain. The index case has made a full recovery, does not present an infection risk and has been discharged, it is confirmed.

[FDA Authorizes Drug for Treatment of COVID-19](#) (*FDA*) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the drug Actemra (tocilizumab) for the treatment of hospitalized adults and pediatric patients (2 years of age and older) who are receiving systemic corticosteroids and require supplemental oxygen, non-invasive or invasive mechanical ventilation, or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). Actemra is not authorized for use in outpatients with COVID-19.

[BARDA Expands Collaboration with Moderna on COVID-19 Vaccine Trials for Children](#) (*Homeland Preparedness News*) Under an expanded agreement with Moderna, Inc., the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) announced this week that it will provide program management support and up to \$144 million for the Phase 2/3 clinical trial of its COVID-19 vaccine on children. Also known as KidCOVE, the trial will take on approximately 7,000 children between six months and 12 years old.

[Biden Has Proposed a New Agency to Turbocharge Medical Treatments. But There's a Fight Over Where It Should Live](#) (*Washington Post*) There's at least one proposal left over from the Trump administration that President Biden is set on reviving: the creation of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). Under the administration's debut budget proposal, the National Institutes of Health would receive \$6.5 billion to launch an agency modeled after the military's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).



Please reserve **August 11-12, 2021** for the **2021 Kentucky Harm Reduction Summit** that will be held virtually via Zoom from 9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. (EDT) each day, with an hour for lunch, networking, and exhibitor sessions.

Continuing Education credit will be provided for the following healthcare professionals:

- Attorneys (CLE)
- Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors (CADC)
- Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES)
- Community Health Workers (CHW)
- Emergency Medical Services Workers (EMS)
- Nurses (ANCC)
- Pharmacists (ACPE)
- Physicians (AMA)
- Registered Environmental Health Specialists/Registered Sanitarians (REHS/RS)
- Social Workers (ASWB ACE)

Enduring Materials with continuing education credit: <https://www.cecentral.com/hrs-2020>

Harm Reduction Summit Article: <https://kiprc.uky.edu/sites/default/files/2020-11/KyOD2A%20Happenings%20-%20Vol%201%20Issue%202.pdf> #KYHarmReduction

Info: <https://kiprc.uky.edu/events/2021-kentucky-harm-reduction-summit>

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.