



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 30, 2021

Major US Cities Brace for Violence Over July Fourth Weekend

[ABC News](#) (6/28, Hutchinson) reports, "Within 2 and 1/2 hours on Sunday, two people were killed and 17 were wounded in a pair of mass shootings in Chicago. A rash of shootings in Philadelphia since Friday left two people dead and 19 injured. And in New York City's Times Square, a tourist was hurt when he was hit by an errant bullet after a fight allegedly erupted between street vendors." ABC News adds, "As police investigated the incidents of gun violence that broke out over the weekend in major cities across the nation, law enforcement officials are bracing for more violence during the Fourth of July holiday."

----- *Related story*

DHS Warns of Domestic Terror Attacks Ahead of El Paso, Charlottesville Anniversaries

[Politico](#) (6/29, Swan) reports that according to a recent intelligence bulletin, the Department of Homeland Security is warning "its law enforcement partners about concerns about violent attacks in the lead-up to the anniversaries of two domestic terror attacks." Politico quotes the bulletin as saying, "While violent extremists typically have not conducted attacks on dates they perceive as significant, DHS continues to review publicly available social media for explicit threats of violence in the lead-up to anniversaries of DVE [domestic violent extremist] attacks, including the 2019 El Paso shooting on 3 August and the 2017 Charlottesville car attack on 12 August."

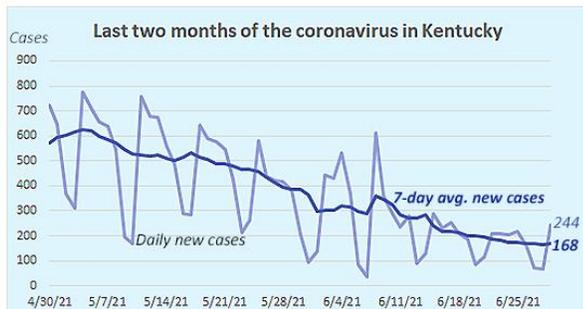
----- KY COVID-19 Update for June 29

([KDPH Daily Report](#)) There were 244 new cases, with 47 in the 18 or younger group. The positivity rate was 1.88%. There were five new deaths, for a total of 7,217 to date.

What Doctors Should Know About Delta

[MedPage Today info](#) with the latest on transmissibility, virulence, vaccine efficacy, and more

----- **The pandemic isn't over: Virus activity in Kentucky is picking up as the more contagious Delta variant spreads across the country**



(KY Health News) After three weeks of pretty steady decline, coronavirus activity in Kentucky is picking up a little. The state reported 244 new cases of the virus Tuesday, the most in almost two weeks, and that raised the seven-day rolling average to 168 cases per day. Except two days when the average rose by one case, it had declined every day for three weeks. The share of Kentuckians testing positive for the virus is also increasing slightly. Over the last seven days, it has been 1.88 percent; that 7-day figure has risen the last four days, after bottoming at 1.79% last Friday.

In Kentucky in the last seven days, an average of 10,235 people per day have been vaccinated for the virus. That's well below the approximately 18,000 in mid-May and far below the 40,000 in mid-April. Of the state's eligible population, those 12 and older, 58% have received at least one dose of a vaccine. Among the total population, it's 49.4%, and the fully vaccinated share is 43.4%.

The Delta variant has hospitalized many younger people in rural areas of some other states, including Missouri. Hospitalizations for Covid-19 ticked up in Kentucky on Tuesday, reaching 176 after a year-long low of 169 the day before. Daily Covid-19 hospitalizations dropped below 400 in mid-May, below 300 in early June and below 200 about a week ago.

----- US COVID-19 cases rise, likely due to Delta variant

(CIDRAP) After weeks of substantial decreases, COVID-19 cases are beginning to rise again in the United States, likely due to infections caused by the highly transmissible Delta variant (B.1.617.2). The increase is seen most prominently in Southern and Western states, and communities with low vaccination rates.

According to data from the [Washington Post](#), new daily cases in the United States have risen by 14.8% over the past 7 days, with significant increases in Nevada (55%), Wyoming (18%), Missouri (20%), and Arkansas (55%). New daily deaths still fell by 0.7% over the past week, and COVID-related hospitalizations fell by 4.7%.

The United States reported 15,083 new COVID-19 cases and 150 deaths yesterday, according to the Johns Hopkins COVID-19 [tracker](#). In total the United States has confirmed 33,645,904 cases of COVID-19, including 604,279 deaths—the most recorded deaths in the world.

Poll shows Americans ready to celebrate July 4th - Four in 10 Americans say celebrating the Fourth of July feels risky this year, about half as many as a year ago, according to the latest [Axios/Ipsos poll](#). Fifty-five percent of respondents say they're wearing masks all or some of the time when they leave the home, the lowest number since April 2020.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/06/us-covid-19-cases-rise-likely-due-delta-variant>



Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, hospitals and health systems have forged new—and often non-traditional—partnerships to meet the needs of their patients and communities. The American Hospital Association's new *Joining Hands for Greater Impact* series will highlight how hospitals' innovative partnerships have enabled them to respond to the pandemic. Learn more about the series in [this blog post](#) by Priya Bathija, AHA's vice president of strategic initiatives.

Mark your calendar:

[Addressing COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy in Your Community](#)
[July 15, 2021, at 1 p.m. ET](#)
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Individuals may be reluctant to get the COVID-19 vaccine for many reasons. One way hospitals and health systems can increase vaccination rates for their patients, employees and communities is to focus on why people are hesitant. Kaiser Permanente and the California Testing Task Force did just that and produced an eye-opening report that examined what drives attitudes toward vaccines and describes archetypes of vaccine-hesitant individuals. Understanding the roots of vaccine hesitancy allows health care organizations to tailor their vaccine communication strategies to their specific communities.

During this webinar, the authors of a report discuss the various archetypes of hesitant populations and strategies for communicating with them based on their particular mindset and attitude. A second panel discussion among a clinician, strategist and community health professional, will explore how different health care professionals can apply these strategies directly to their work.

Speakers:

David Grandy, Vice President, Delivery System Design & Innovation, Kaiser Permanente

Caroline Franz, System Designer, Office of Transformation, Kaiser Permanente

Tom Hanenburg, Senior Vice President, Hospital System Operations, Kaiser Permanente

Marcos Pesquera, System Vice-President, Community Benefit, Health Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, CHRISTUS Health

Alan Shoebridge, Director, Marketing and Communication, Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System

Moderator: Diane Weber, Executive Director, [Society for Health Care Strategy and Market Development](#), American Hospital Association

[Coronavirus FAQ: I'm Vaccinated And Confused. Do I Need To Mask Up Or Not?](#)

(NPR) Do vaccinated people still need to wear masks? If so, when? Don't toss your masks out just yet! As the more transmissible Delta variant takes hold, and some countries are reinstating precautions, even vaccinated people may want to mask up in certain situations. "People cannot feel safe just because they had the two doses. They still need to protect themselves," Dr. Mariangela Simao, World Health Organization assistant director-general for access to medicines and health products, told reporters on June 25.

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [June 29, 2021](#) and [June 30, 2021](#)

[Covid-19 Made America's Long-term Care Crisis Impossible to Ignore](#) (Vox) The vast majority of Americans want to age in their home and community, spending their twilight years in a familiar and comfortable setting. But the choice is not always their own. The US long-term care system — such as it is — is broken. Hundreds of thousands of Americans are on waiting lists for home-based care. More than 40 million people report that they have cared for a loved one over 50 without any pay in the last year. The United States ranks near the bottom of developed economies in the number of older adults who receive long-term care at home. Meanwhile, America's nursing homes are staffed by overwhelmed and underpaid workers, and for-profit takeovers of those facilities have led to worse care for patients.

[Kim Jong Un Says A Lapse In COVID Protocols Caused A 'Grave Incident'](#) (NPR) North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un has publicly railed at senior officials, saying their failure to properly implement policies required to fight the pandemic had caused a "grave incident." But he didn't say exactly what the incident was, nor did he contradict the country's official line, which is that it has not had a single COVID-19 infection so far. Given the

rudimentary state of North Korea's health care system, and its history of fighting pandemics, experts doubt that claim.

[Moderna Says Vaccine Works Against Delta Variant, As WHO Warns of Global Spread](#) (*Washington Post*)

The coronavirus vaccine developed by U.S. biotech firm Moderna is effective against the highly contagious delta variant, the company said in a release Tuesday, offering some hope even as the World Health Organization warned that the variant has spread to at least 96 countries. Moderna said blood samples from fully vaccinated individuals produced antibodies against multiple variants and researchers measured only a "modest reduction in neutralizing titers" against the particularly virulent delta, first identified in India.

[Los Angeles Urges Everyone to Mask Up Because of Delta Variant — Even the Vaccinated](#) (*Washington Post*)

Los Angeles County public health authorities are urging unvaccinated and vaccinated people alike to don masks again inside restaurants, stores and other public indoor spaces because of the growing threat posed by the more contagious delta variant of the novel coronavirus.

[Why No One Is Sure If Delta Is Deadlier](#) (*The Atlantic*)

The coronavirus is on a serious self-improvement kick. Since infiltrating the human population, SARS-CoV-2 has splintered into hundreds of lineages, with some seeding new, fast-spreading variants. A more infectious version first overtook the OG coronavirus last spring, before giving way to the ultra-transmissible Alpha (B.1.1.7) variant. Now Delta (B.1.617.2), potentially the most contagious contender to date, is poised to usurp the global throne.

[The COVID pandemic's lingering impact on clinical trials](#) (*Nature*)

"It's like time stopped," says Emilia Bagiella, a clinical trial statistician at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. When Bagiella left work one day in early March 2020, she hadn't fully grasped how long it would be until she came back. "See you in a couple of weeks, when this is over," she told her co-workers. But even though the reality of the pandemic had not fully hit her, a thought crossed her mind: "What's going to happen to all of these clinical trials?"

[Patients with Alpha and Beta COVID-19 Variants Less Likely to Be Asymptomatic, Despite No Increase in Viral Load](#) (*Global Biodefense*)

Although two SARS-CoV-2 variants are associated with higher transmission, patients with these variants show no evidence of higher viral loads in their upper respiratory tracts compared to the control group, a Johns Hopkins School of Medicine study found. This study was performed at Dr. Heba Mostafa's research laboratory, which has been performing large scale whole genome sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 for the State of Maryland and contributing data to the national publicly available surveillance figures. The researchers investigated B.1.1.7 (Alpha), the variant first identified in the UK, and B.1.351 (Beta), first identified in South Africa, to evaluate if patients showed higher viral loads, and consequently increased shedding and transmissibility.

[Covid-19 Contact Tracers Race Against Delta Variant in the U.S.](#) (*Wall Street Journal*)

Andrea Valencia worked the phone furiously day after long, dark day this past January, racing to reach people around Richmond, Va., who had tested positive for Covid-19. As many as 500 new cases were being reported daily in the area. She and colleagues at the local public-health department had only a few minutes to spend on each one—if they could reach the person at all. They didn't have time to help people to isolate or quarantine, or make sure that they did. Now, with just 10 or so new Covid-19 cases coming in each day, the team is aiming to stop the virus in its tracks, the 35-year-old public-health investigator said. She calls every person who is reported as a positive case, as well as their close contacts, and urges them to isolate or quarantine. She also offers help.

[12 lessons Covid-19 Taught Us About Developing Vaccines During a Pandemic](#) (*STAT News*)

The extraordinary drive to develop Covid-19 vaccines was like a moonshot — and like that fabled acceleration of space exploration science, it delivered. Just a little over six months after the first Covid vaccines were authorized for use, nearly 3 billion vaccine doses have been administered around the globe.

[Lakes Are Losing Oxygen—and Their Inhabitants Are in Danger](#) (*Wired*)

Though the lake seemed full of life, the water had been changing. It was taking on a brownish hue, and its surface was warming. Most of all, the lake was running low on dissolved oxygen, a key indicator of its health.

'I've never seen it this bad':

Blood banks plead for donations as US blood shortage hits critical levels

Read more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2021/06/23/blood-banks-urge-donations-us-blood-supply-drops-demand-increases/5312985001/>

Walmart launching its own low-cost insulin for diabetes patients

(USA Today) Walmart will launch its own [brand of insulin](#), which the retailing giant says will "revolutionize the [access and affordability](#)" of diabetes treatments. In a statement Tuesday, Walmart said it will offer analog insulin vials and FlexPens for administering doses through its ReliOn brand.

The retailer claims its insulin options will save customers between 58% to 75% compared to branded products.

Full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2021/06/29/walmart-brand-insulin-diabetes-treatment-low-cost-reliion/7793698002/>

New Law Prevents Kentucky OSHA from Adopting “Stricter” Safety Standards

(Fisher Phillips) Starting on July 2, 2021, Kentucky’s state labor cabinet will no longer be allowed to adopt safety standards more stringent than what federal law requires, as state law will now run parallel to federal workplace safety statutes. Here’s what Kentucky employers need to know about this new law and how it might impact your business. If you operate a business in Kentucky, you’re probably familiar with the Kentucky Labor Cabinet’s Department of Workplace Standards, Division of Occupational Safety and Health Compliance (KOSH). It’s the state agency responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Act, which aims to ensure that employers provide a safe working environment to their employees. Kentucky is one of 28 states authorized by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to operate its own occupational safety and health program. Kentucky is also one of the few states that have chosen to adopt stricter safety standards – but that’s soon going to change.

Thanks to H.B. 475, signed into law on March 29 and taking effect on July 2, all original provisions of the state safety law will be deleted. In its place will be a new section of the Act (KRS Chapter 338) to prohibit KOSH or its secretary from adopting or enforcing any occupational safety and health administrative regulation that is more stringent than the corresponding federal provision. Currently, most states rely on federal OSHA programs and therefore follow federal regulations. The new law brings Kentucky in line with most other states, ensuring that the state’s OSHA-related regulations are no more stringent than those set by the federal government.

Read more: <https://www.fisherphillips.com/news-insights/new-law-prevents-kentucky-osha.html>

Emergency Departments Are a Dangerous Workplace

(MedPage Today) At one university medical center located in a mid-sized American city, nearly all emergency department (ED) workers responding to a survey said they’d been verbally abused, and about one-third reported physical assaults. And most of the time, the victims shrugged off physical attacks without filing formal reports with administrators or the police, and sometimes not even mentioning it to colleagues.

"Multiple respondents voiced a sense of resignation that violence is an unavoidable or expected part of the job and that reporting it would not lead to meaningful change," the group wrote in [Annals of Emergency Medicine](#). Still, the investigators said research is needed to clarify ED workers' reluctance to file formal reports of workplace violence, and suggested that a "multidisciplinary, multipronged approach including individual, institutional, and systems-based strategies is needed."

The study is far from the first to report [high rates of verbal abuse and violence targeting ED personnel](#). Nor is it unique in indicating that [workers typically don't report incidents](#) to the authorities. What sets the UNC study apart is that Shenvi and colleagues let respondents describe the attacks and their reactions in their own words, analyzing the responses qualitatively rather than strictly through numerical data. (One such account, however, did appear several years ago in the same journal -- from a Massachusetts physician who told of being [punched in the face by a patient's mother](#).)

Read more: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/emergencymedicine/emergencymedicine/93339>

New ASPR Sworn In

(AABB) Dawn O’Connell was sworn in as the country’s fourth [Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response \(ASPR\)](#) on Tuesday following Senate confirmation by a [voice vote](#) on June 24. As ASPR, O’Connell is the principal advisor to Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Xavier Becerra on public health emergencies. Her office will lead the nation in preventing, responding to and recovering from the adverse health effects of manmade and naturally occurring disasters.

Prior to her confirmation, O’Connell served as Becerra’s senior counselor for COVID-19. She previously held roles as director of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovations’ (CEPI) United States office, as the executive director for CEPI’s Joint Coordination Group, and as a senior counselor to HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell during the Obama Administration.

Source: <https://www.aabb.org/news-resources/news/article/2021/06/29/dawn-o-connell-sworn-in-as-new-aspr>

Related story - [New Report Calls for ASPR Reforms, Greater Interagency Coordination](#)

(*Homeland Preparedness News*) A new policy brief released this week by U.S. Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) assessed the role of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) during the COVID-19 pandemic and concluded that reforms are necessary both within the agency and beyond to improve federal pandemic response.

Federal Judge Blocks Implementation of West Virginia Needle Exchange Law

In online coverage, [West Virginia Public Broadcasting](#) (6/28, Mistich, Leffler) reports, “A federal judge in West Virginia has issued a temporary restraining order” that blocks the implementation of a new law in that state. The

law, scheduled to take effect on July 9, "would put strict restrictions on needle exchange programs." Monday's restraining order comes after the American Civil Liberties Union of West Virginia (ACLU-WV) filed a lawsuit that alleges the law would violate the US Constitution. The order was welcomed by ACLU-WV Legal Director Loree Stark, who stated, "This harmful, constitutionally flawed bill should never be allowed to take effect. Harm reduction saves lives."

West Coast Heat Has Killed Dozens And Hospitalized More In Canada And The U.S.

(NPR, June 30, 2021) Authorities said at least six deaths in Washington and Oregon could be due to the heat wave that began in the region on Friday. Temperatures in Portland topped at least 116 degrees on Monday after at least three days of record-high temperatures. The area is now cooling off, according to the National Weather Service, but the heat left its mark. <[Read more](#)>

Related story - What is a heat dome? Extreme temperatures in the Pacific Northwest, explained (CBS News, June 29, 2021 - The most extreme heat wave ever recorded in the Pacific Northwest continues to shatter records for another day. Millions of people are currently under excessive heat warnings — many of them sweltering through triple-digit temperatures without air conditioning in a region that usually enjoys mild summers. <[Read more](#)>)

Gas stations are running out of gas ahead of the holiday weekend

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/28/business/gas-station-outages/index.html>

Student's Drowning Due in Part to Carbon Monoxide

([Newser – Cincinnati](#)) A University of Cincinnati soccer player who drowned last month was apparently impacted by carbon monoxide, with [WKYC](#) reporting very high levels of it were detected in her blood. Allyson Sidloski, 21, died May 22 at Ohio's East Fork State Park. [Cincinnati.com](#) quotes Deputy Coroner Russell Uptegrove as writing in a June 17 opinion, "It is my opinion, based on the autopsy findings and the information available to me at the time of the autopsy that the cause of death is drowning and the contributory cause of death is carbon monoxide intoxication. Sidloski, who was named a TopCat scholar in multiple semesters for achieving a 4.0 GPA, had reportedly been hanging on to a swim platform attached to a boat when she disappeared. [Cleveland.com](#) reports she most likely inhaled the fumes then. She wasn't wearing a life jacket. Ohio Department of Natural Resources Lt. Michael Sterwerf tells [WLWT](#) that odorless carbon monoxide is a concern for his colleagues and other boaters, as engine exhaust can be common by some lake decks and docks. "If we're tied up to something, one of us will get a headache and we'll be like, we're getting carbon monoxide sickness is what we are getting." As WLWT explains, "the gas denies the body of oxygen, leading to disorientation. That leads to drowning." A [GoFundMe campaign](#) started by Sidloski's family stated, "We would like to help her legacy live on by creating scholarships in her name. No flowers please." It had a goal of \$5,000; nearly \$110,000 has been raised as of this writing. (Read more [drowning](#) stories.)

DHS Announces Expansion of the Securing the Cities Program

([DHS Press Release](#)) The Department of Homeland Security's Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office (CWMD) announced the expansion of its Securing the Cities (STC) program to two additional metropolitan regions, Boston and New Orleans. This expansion will assist these regions with building capabilities to detect, analyze, and report nuclear and other radioactive materials.

The STC program seeks to reduce the risk of a successful deployment of radiological or nuclear weapons against major metropolitan areas in the United States. Through STC, DHS provides radiological and nuclear detection equipment, training, exercise support, and operational and technical subject matter expertise through cooperative agreement grants. The initial awards are \$2 million to both Boston and New Orleans to fund planning and analysis. Future grants will enable these cities to work with CWMD to build robust capabilities. Areas surrounding the core urban centers will be included in the program as well.

July 15 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am PST

IMA Webinar Broadcast: Food Defense: Securing the Food Sector - Threats & Vulnerabilities

Presented by InfraGard Los Angeles | Contact: IGLATraining@infragardlosangeles.org

What is Food Defense? Food Defense is the prevention of both intentional and unintentional contamination of the food supply. The FBI works with its State, Local, Tribal, and Food Sector Private Industry Partners to attempt to reduce vulnerability to intentional contamination, helping to investigate and mitigate the effects of intentional adulteration. Why target the food supply? Deliberate contamination could cause significant consequences: Physical, economic, psychological, and political. Even an ineffective attack could cause significant economic and psychological damage. This briefing will increase understanding of law enforcement's

role and existing partnerships in food defense, and engage private industry stakeholders to implement improved information sharing, in an effort to secure the food supply chain from producer to consumer. [Click to register.](#)

Global Resilience Commission Future Educational Offerings

The **Global Resilience Commission (GRCom)** Webinar Series is a free forum on current resilience topics discussed by leading experts. The relevant and informative discussions can help build knowledge needed to develop courses of actions addressing these new challenges.

Join the next conversation on July 28, 2021 entitled, [Climate Change: near term resilience opportunities](#). The webinars are scheduled for 11:00 O'clock (EDT).

For more information about our monthly series of webinars, go to: grcom.eiscouncil.org

ADDITIONAL DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

25 August, Wednesday - Critical Infrastructure – Integrating Cross-Sector Resilience Requirements and Solutions

30 September, Wednesday - Community Resilience: Building and Maintaining Resilience Initiatives for Progress

27 October, Wednesday – New Energy Elements for Resilience: Green Energy, Fuels and Policy

17 November, Wednesday – Securing the Economy and Financial Markets: Resilience Requirements and Solutions

15 December, Wednesday - Building Resilience Based on Shared Threats– Supply Chain through Security Best Practices

NIMS Alert 24-21:

FEMA Seeks Public Feedback on Two Urban Search & Rescue Resource Types

This 30-day national engagement period **will conclude at 5:00 p.m. EDT on July 29, 2021**. These resource typing documents enhance the interoperability and effectiveness of mutual aid by establishing baseline qualifications for [Urban Search & Rescue Logistics and Medical Specialists](#). This facilitates the sharing of deployable US&R resources at all jurisdictional levels.

To provide comments on the draft documents, complete the feedback form and submit the form to FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on July 29, 2021.

NIMS Alert 25-21:

FEMA Seeks Public Feedback on Five Mass Care Resource Typing

FEMA's National Integration Center is seeking public feedback on [three Mass Care Resource Typing Definitions and two Job Title/Position Qualifications](#). This 30-day national engagement period **will conclude at 5:00 p.m. EDT on July 29, 2021**.

To provide comments on the draft documents, complete the feedback form and submit the form to FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on July 29, 2021.

**Update on KY HPP
Regions & HCCs**

Note: HCCs will now be referred to by their name in all guidance and publications. The HCC region numbers will generally be for internal use only and correspond to Public Health Emergency Preparedness Regions and Regional Response and Coordination Center (RRCC) Operations.

Do you have what it takes to be a Regional Readiness and Response Coordinator?

Kentucky's HPP is currently hiring for the HERA and Western KY HCCs Planned future expansion of RRC staff in the Appalachia and Eastern KY HCCs. Full or part-time considered, please contact Kenneth.Kik@ky.gov and send resume if interested joining our Team

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.