



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 1, 2021

## KY COVID-19 Update

([KY Daily Report](#)) There were 351 new cases recorded on June 30th, with 65 new cases 18 and under. The positivity rate was 1.92%. There were three more new deaths, for a total of 7,220.

There are 180 patients hospitalized with COVID, 51 in an ICU and 21 on a vent. Regions 8 and 10 have ICU Capacity in use over 80%. Region 8 is at 84.56% and Region 10 is 93.33%.

### ----- ***Is Kentucky's "Shot at a Million" working?***

Story link: <https://www.wyvt.com/app/2021/06/30/is-gov-beshears-shot-million-increasing-number-vaccinations/>

### ----- **mRNA vaccines ease breakthrough COVID; Novavax helps block variant**

(CIDRAP) The few adults who receive a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine but still become infected have a milder, shorter illness and lower viral RNA loads than their unvaccinated peers, finds a real-world US [study](#) yesterday in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The journal also features a UK [study](#) confirming that the Novavax vaccine offers 90% overall effectiveness and protects against the highly transmissible and potentially more deadly Alpha (B.1.1.7) SARS-CoV-2 variant.

Read more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/07/mrna-vaccines-ease-breakthrough-covid-novavax-helps-block-variant>

### ----- **Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [July 1, 2021](#)**

**Ethical Considerations of Offering Benefits to COVID-19 Vaccine Recipients** (*JAMA*) Entry into a million-dollar lottery for getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is Ohio's offer to adults. Teens who get vaccinated receive a lottery ticket for state college tuition, room, board, and more. Other states are offering gift cards. Now many employers are offering rewards for COVID-19 vaccination. Businesses ranging from Krispy Kreme and Sam Adams beer to the Cincinnati Reds have announced discounts or prizes for vaccinated individuals. Are these benefit programs ethical? Are they useful? Are they better than mandates?

**85 Teens, Staffers Get Coronavirus at Summer Camp That Didn't Require Masks or Check Vaccine Status** (*Washington Post*) More than 80 teens and adults have tested positive for the coronavirus after attending a central Illinois summer camp that didn't check their vaccination status or require masks indoors, state health officials said. All the campers and staffers at Crossing Camp in Rushville, Ill., were eligible for the shots, the Illinois Department of Public Health said in a statement this week, but officials knew of "only a handful of campers and staff receiving the vaccine." In total, 85 people who attended the summer camp in mid-June were infected, most of them teens, according to the health department. One unvaccinated young adult was hospitalized, officials said.

**CDC Probes How People Contracted a Dangerous Infection Found in the Tropics — Without Leaving the U.S.** (*Washington Post*) three states have launched investigations alongside the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to discover how three more people in the United States contracted the rare and serious illness this year without traveling to the tropical climates where the infectious bacteria naturally occur. Public health officials in Texas, Kansas and Minnesota, with the CDC, are probing melioidosis cases involving two adults and one child, according to a health advisory issued by the CDC on Wednesday. One person was hospitalized in March and died of the infection. The other two were diagnosed in May, with one of them still in the hospital more than a month later. None of the people infected this year had recently traveled outside the country.

**Investigational Malaria Vaccine Gives Strong, Lasting Protection** (*NIAD*) Two U.S. Phase 1 clinical trials of a novel candidate malaria vaccine have found that the regimen conferred unprecedentedly high levels of durable protection when volunteers were later exposed to disease-causing malaria parasites. The vaccine combines live parasites with either of two widely used antimalarial drugs—an approach termed chemoprophylaxis vaccination. A Phase 2 clinical trial of the vaccine is now underway in Mali, a malaria-endemic country. If the approach proves successful there, chemoprophylaxis vaccination, or CVac, potentially could help reverse the stalled decline of global malaria. Currently, there is no vaccine in widespread use for the mosquito-transmitted disease.

### ----- **Boyle Co. health leaders warning pet owners of rabies cases in dogs**

Story: <https://www.wyvt.com/2021/06/30/boyle-co-health-leaders-warning-pet-owners-rabies-cases-dogs/>

Related story - [Rabid bat discovered in residential area of Oldham County](#)

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**KY Hiring Regional Readiness Coordinators**

**HERA South:** <http://gohire.org/job/healthcare-coalition-and-response-coordinator-hccrrc-kdph-southern-region/>

**West:** <http://gohire.org/job/job-title-healthcare-coalition-readiness-and-response-coordinator-hcc-rrc-kdph-western-ky-area/>

Address questions to: Ken Kik, Kentucky Public Health's HPP Manager at [Kenneth.Kik@ky.gov](mailto:Kenneth.Kik@ky.gov)  
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**[Baptist to share Madisonville hospital with Deaconess, which now also has hospitals in Henderson and Morganfield](#)**

(KY Health News) Starting Sept. 1, the hospital in Madisonville will be jointly operated by **Baptist Health**, which has owned it for nine years, and **Deaconess Health System Inc.** of Evansville, which recently added two nearby Kentucky hospitals.

The joint operation will include physicians' offices and outpatient facilities in Madisonville, Powderly, Dawson Springs, Princeton and Hopkinsville. Deaconess operates seven hospitals in Southern Indiana and **recently took over** the former Methodist hospitals in Henderson and Morganfield.

The hospital will be called **Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville** and get "initial capital investments of more than \$50 million" in surgical suites, the emergency room and the cancer-care facility, a press release said.  
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**US Agencies issue first set of surprise medical billing regulations**

([AHA Today](#)) The departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Treasury late this afternoon released "Part 1" of [regulations](#) implementing the No Surprises Act. The interim final rule addresses several provisions in the law, including the ban on balance billing for certain out-of-network services; the notice and consent process that some providers may use to bill patients for out-of-network services; how patient cost-sharing must be calculated; and a complaint process for any potential violations.

The regulations address a number of key issues for hospitals and health systems, including how services provided post-stabilization will be handled and how these regulations interact with state laws. Notably, the departments discuss at length coverage rules for emergency services and reinforce health plans' obligation to cover emergency services consistent with the prudent layperson standard.

While the interim final regulations are effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, most provisions are applicable beginning Jan. 1, 2022. Stakeholders have 60 days to submit comments to the departments. Other provisions in the No Surprises Act are expected to be addressed in future regulations.  
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**FDA no longer authorizes non-NIOSH respirators, respirator decontamination**

([AHA Today](#)) The Food and Drug Administration yesterday [revoked](#) its emergency use authorizations for all disposable respirators lacking National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health approval, and for decontamination and bioburden reduction systems used to extend the use of disposable respirators.

In a [letter](#) to health care providers, FDA said providers should no longer use these crisis capacity strategies based on the increased domestic supply of NIOSH-approved respirators. It said the change also was consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's updated [recommendations](#) for maximizing the supply of N95 respirators and the [Emergency Temporary Standard](#) recently published by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

In May, FDA [recommended](#) providers transition away from using disposable respirators not approved by NIOSH and decontamination or bioburden reduction to extend the use of disposable respirators due to increased supply of NIOSH-approved respirators.  
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**Historic Northwest heat wave may have killed hundreds**

([AP News](#), July 1, 2021) - Hundreds of deaths in Canada, Oregon and Washington may have been caused by the historic heat wave that baked the Pacific Northwest and shattered all-time temperature records in usually temperate cities. Oregon health officials said late Wednesday more than 60 deaths have been tied to the heat, with the state's largest county, Multnomah, blaming the weather for 45 deaths since the heat wave began Friday. <[Read more](#)>

**[Related story - For ED Docs, Heat Wave Adds to Strain Wrought by COVID](#)**

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](mailto: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.