



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 2, 2021

Fireworks Safety Tips

(WBKO) During this holiday weekend, thousands of fireworks will be set off in south-central Kentucky. When used correctly and responsibly, fireworks can be fun and entertaining, but when in the wrong hands they can be dangerous and potentially deadly.

WBKO News spoke with the Bowling Green Fire Department and they shared tips on how to keep you and your family safe this holiday weekend.

"First and foremost, you need to check with your local city ordinances to make sure that you are setting off fireworks during the designated dates and times. Besides that, you want to make sure that you are at least 200 feet from any structure. So whether that be a home or your car, just make sure that there's that safe distance between the firework being ignited and the building," said Katie McKee with the Bowling Green Fire Department.

"Keep a bucket of water beside you that way, in case there is any kind of mishap, you can put the firework out with the bucket of water and even after the firework has gone off, it's always safe to put that firework in water. Just let it absorb as much water as possible so that way when you throw it away, there's no risk of that igniting in your trash can later on," said McKee. "You also don't want to have any children lit fireworks, make sure that it is a responsible adult at all times around those fireworks."

McKee always being aware of fireworks is important as fireworks can sometimes be unpredictable.

Full story: <https://www.wbko.com/app/2021/07/02/bowling-green-fire-department-shares-firework-safety-tips/>

Fireworks deaths spiked in 2020 during pandemic lockdowns

(UPI/HealthDay News) The [COVID-19](#) pandemic likely played a role in the 50% increase in deaths from fireworks in the United States last year, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission says. Many public fireworks displays were canceled last summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That led many people to light rockets, sparklers and firecrackers in their own backyards, the agency said.

The result: At least 18 fireworks-related deaths occurred in the United States in 2020, compared to 12 reported in 2019. And about 15,600 people were treated in hospital emergency departments for fireworks injuries in 2020, compared with about 10,000 in 2019. Of those 18 deaths, eight of the victims had used alcohol or drugs beforehand.

Young adults aged 20 to 24 had the biggest spike in emergency department visits for fireworks-related injuries, with 17 injuries per 100,000 people in 2020 versus 2.8 per 100,000 people in 2019.

Firecrackers were the leading cause of ER-treated fireworks injuries, followed by sparklers. The body parts most often injured were hands and fingers, at 30%, followed by the head, face and ears at 22% and the eyes at 15%. Burns were the most common fireworks-related injury treated in the ER at 44%.

Full story: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/07/01/coronavirus-fireworks-deaths-study/2931625145105/

Gov. Beshear Congratulates First Winners in Kentucky's 'Shot at a Million' Vaccine Incentive Drawing

The Governor encouraged Kentuckians to get vaccinated, enter for final two drawings

Press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&pId=853>

COVID-19 Update

(KY [Daily Summary](#)) On July 2nd there were 172 new cases recorded, with 41 new cases 18 and under. The positivity rate went up slightly to 2.09%. There were six new deaths reported.

Beshear says he'll wait for full-week data on virus case numbers to determine need for more action

Read more: <http://kyhealthnews.blogspot.com/2021/07/beshear-says-hes-wait-for-full-week.html>

CIDRAP News

[20 states reach 70% COVID-19 vaccination goal](#)

UPI Analysis: COVID-19 has dropped from top killer in U.S. to 7th since January

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/07/02/coronavirus-vaccination-reduced-deaths-since-january/8641625192625/

'Very much a change': Some COVID symptoms now look different from past cases

(NBC) Doctors are beginning to notice Covid-19 cases that look more like a very bad cold, especially in areas of the country where the highly contagious delta variant is quickly spreading.

While shortness of breath and other lung issues remain among the most worrisome Covid-19 symptoms, it appears upper respiratory complaints — marked by congestion, a runny nose and headache — may be increasing.

The potential shift in symptoms is not to say that the illness should be brushed off as just a cold. Respiratory droplets emitted from coughs and sneezes can infect other, more vulnerable, people. And cases that start off mild can worsen and become more serious.

Full story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/common-cold-or-covid-upper-respiratory-symptoms-are-growing-more-n1272685>

J&J Covid-19 vaccine lasts at least 8 months, protects against Delta variant

(CNN) The Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine provides immunity that lasts at least eight months, and it appears to provide adequate protection against the worrying Delta variant, the company said in a statement Thursday night.

"Current data for the eight months studied so far show that the single-shot Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine generates a strong neutralizing antibody response that does not wane; rather, we observe an improvement over time," Dr. Mathai Mammen, head of research and development at J&J's Janssen vaccine arm, [said in a statement](#).

The company said one dose of the vaccine elicits both a lasting antibody response and generates immune cells called T-cells that last eight months, also.

Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna have both said their two-dose vaccines are protective for at least six months and researchers at Washington University in St. Louis reported earlier this week that their studies of vaccinated volunteers indicate protection from the vaccines should last much longer than that-- even for years. They did not test the J&J vaccine. Learn more; <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/01/health/johnson-vaccine-delta-variant/index.html>

Myocarditis detailed in 30 patients after mRNA COVID vaccines

(CIDRAP) Two recent reports in *JAMA Cardiology* describe 30 patients with myocarditis, or inflamed heart muscles, less than a week after receiving either a Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. While these events may indicate a higher prevalence of myocarditis than expected, both reports note their rarity.

The researchers of the larger report, which described myocarditis in 23 US military men, noted that in the same period, the US Military Health System vaccinated more than 2.8 million people with mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccines. For the second study, the four identified cases of myocarditis at Duke University Medical Center were among more than 560,000 people estimated to have received two doses of an mRNA vaccine in the six surrounding counties.

The [23 US military men](#) (median age, 25) all received mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccines from Jan 1 to Apr 30, with 16 receiving Moderna and 7 receiving Pfizer 4 days prior to symptom onset. All had severe chest pain as well as 10- to 400-fold increased cardiac troponin levels, which indicates heart damage. Three had been infected with COVID-19 prior to vaccination and had symptoms after their first dose, while the rest had symptoms after their second. None of the patients had findings consistent with infectious, ischemic, or autoimmune etiologies.

As of the time of writing, 16 patients' symptoms resolved within 1 week, while the rest still have some chest discomfort. Learn more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/06/myocarditis-detailed-30-patients-after-mrna-covid-vaccines>

WHO: COVID Variant Is Driving a New Wave in Africa

(Newser) Driven by the delta variant, a new wave of coronavirus is sweeping across the African continent, where new cases, hospital admissions, and deaths are increasing. Case numbers are doubling every three weeks in Africa, according to the World Health Organization. South Africa is leading the surge, with more than 20,000 new cases reported Friday, per the [AP](#). That has increased South Africa's total to 1.9 million confirmed cases and 66,323 confirmed deaths. It represents more than 30% of the 5.5 million cases reported by Africa's 54 countries, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Read more: <https://www.newser.com/story/308121/who-covid-variant-is-driving-a-new-wave-in-africa.html>

WHO Says West Should Recognize Chinese Vaccines

<http://newser.com/s308102>

Pandemic daycare closures linked to 600K lost jobs among U.S. moms

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/06/30/coronavirus-daycare-closure-moms-quit-jobs-study/8611625015853/

Hurricane Elsa Could Complicate Surfside Search Efforts

(NPR) Hurricane Elsa is expected to hit Florida early next week. Officials have begun preparations for potential impact as teams work at the condo site looking for those who remain unaccounted for.

Story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/live-updates-miami-area-condo-collapse/2021/07/02/1012593731/hurricane-elsa-could-complicate-surfside-search-efforts>

There's Been a Big Drop in the Number of Missing From the Surfside Condo Collapse

(NPR) As search and rescue efforts at the site of the Surfside, Fla., condo collapse stretch into day nine, officials have said that the number of confirmed fatalities has risen to 20, while the number of people unaccounted for has dropped from 145 to 128.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava told reporters Friday that one of the two fatalities recovered overnight was the 7-year-old daughter of a firefighter for the city of Miami.

The number of people who have been accounted for has grown to 188, officials also confirmed Friday. In many cases, detectives followed leads regarding individuals who were unaccounted for but then reached them and discovered they were safe.

They even discovered additional family members who were safe and who could have been in the building, and added them to the tally of accounted for individuals.

Story link: <https://www.wuft.org/nation-world/2021/07/02/theres-been-a-big-drop-in-the-number-of-missing-from-the-surfside-condo-collapse/>

Miami condo collapse highlights urgent need to adapt to rising seas

(Nat. geographic) Though climate change-related factors were probably not behind the partial collapse of the Florida beachside building, other properties are vulnerable to rising seas.

Learn more: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/miami-condo-collapse-highlights-urgent-need-to-adapt-to-rising-seas>

Hospital Prices Must Now Be Transparent. For Many Consumers, They're Still Anyone's Guess

(NPR) A colonoscopy might cost you or your insurer a few hundred dollars — or several thousand, depending on which hospital or insurer you use.

Long hidden, such price variations are supposed to be available in stark black and white under a Trump administration price transparency [rule](#) that took effect at the start of this year. It requires hospitals to post a range of actual prices — everything from the rates they offer cash-paying customers to costs negotiated with insurers.

Many have complied.... But some hospitals bury the data deep on their websites or have not included all the categories of prices required, according to industry [analysts](#). A [sizable minority](#) of hospitals have not disclosed the information at all.

While it's still an unanswered question about whether price transparency will lead to overall lower prices, KHN took a dive into the initial trove of data to see what it reveals. Click the link to see five takeaways from the newly public data and tips for how you might be able to use it to your benefit.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/07/02/1012317032/hospitals-have-started-posting-their-prices-online-heres-what-they-reveal>

What is a heat dome?

Deadly hot weather descends on Pacific Northwest.

(Nat. Geographic) In a swath that stretches across the Pacific Northwest, [13 million people](#) are sweltering under an extreme heat wave that has shattered records in Portland and Seattle, boosting temperatures in both cities well above 100 degrees Fahrenheit over the weekend and into this week.

A “heat dome” trapping the heat wave over the region has sent many without home air conditioning to emergency shelters to keep safe from the intense heat, which can be deadly. The heat is expected to persist into mid-week.

A heat dome is effectively what it sounds like—an area of high pressure that parks over a region like a lid on a pot, trapping heat. [Research from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA) shows they are more likely to form during La Niña years like 2021, when waters are cool in the eastern Pacific and warm in the western Pacific. That temperature difference creates winds that blow dense, tropical, western air eastward. Eventually that warm air gets trapped in the jet stream—a current of air spinning counterclockwise around the globe—and ends up on the U.S. West Coast.

Full story: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/heat-dome-deadly-hot-weather-descends-on-pacific-northwest>

As Climate Change Worsens Wildfires, FEMA Denies Most California, Oregon Claims

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2021/07/01/1010897265/as-western-wildfires-worsen-fema-is-denying-most-people-who-ask-for-help>

Instant water disinfectant 'millions of times more effective' than commercial purification

(UPI) -- The creators of a new instant water disinfectant, made using only hydrogen and the surrounding air, claim their invention is "millions of times more effective" at ridding water of viruses and bacteria than commercial purification methods.

In addition to revolutionizing municipal water cleaning, the inventors of the novel technique suggest their disinfectant can help safely and cheaply deliver potable water to communities in need.

Around the world, an estimated 780 million people are without reliable access to clean water, and millions more experience water scarcity at least once a month.

The technique -- described Thursday [in the journal Nature Catalyst](#) -- uses a catalyst of gold and palladium to instantly turn hydrogen and oxygen into hydrogen peroxide, a common disinfectant.

Full story: https://www.upi.com/Science_News/2021/07/01/wales-instant-water-disinfectant/7311625156929/

U.S. phone companies must begin using tech to block illegal robocalls

(UPI) For Americans who are tired of receiving robocalls, help may be on the way Wednesday.

A robocall is precisely what it sounds like -- an automated recording at the other end of the line promoting or selling something. Often times, it's an illegal scam. And federal regulators are starting to get tough with them.

Beginning Wednesday, major U.S. phone providers -- including AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile and Comcast -- are required by the Federal Communications Commission to implement technology known as STIR/SHAKEN to prevent rampant spam calls.

Over the first five months of this year, Americans have received about 22 billion robocalls and are on pace to see 52 billion by the end of the year, according to [robocall blocker YouMail](#).

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2021/06/30/robocalls-fcc-deadline/9561625019063/

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 added or deleted, 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.