



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 3, 2021

### **As The Death Toll Rises, Demolition of the Collapsed Florida Condo Is Set For Sunday**

(AP) Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said Saturday two more bodies were found in the rubble of [a collapsed condo building](#), bringing the number of confirmed dead to 24. The number of people who remain unaccounted for in the collapse was 124.

A top Miami-Dade fire official, meanwhile, told family members of people missing in the rubble that demolition workers planned to bring down the remainder of the building on Sunday. Worries have intensified over the past week that the damaged structure could come tumbling down on its own, endangering the crews below and complicating the search for victims.

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/live-updates-miami-area-condo-collapse/2021/07/03/1012869269/collapsed-florida-condo-surfside-demolition-starts-sunday>

### **Related story - Condo Tower 5 Miles From Surfside Collapse Is Evacuated**

(Newser) As [investigations continue](#) into why and how the Champlain Towers South condo crumbled in Surfside last week, officials are turning an eye toward other older high-rises in South Florida and around the state. Now, after a suggested audit by the Miami-Dade County mayor of all buildings 40 years or older, the city of North Miami Beach has shut down one of its own, ordering the evacuation of a 156-unit condo complex just 5 miles from Champlain Towers, reports the [AP](#). Per a city release, the 10-story Crestview Towers Condominium, built in 1972, had been found in January to be electrically and structurally unsafe, and so, "in an abundance of caution, the city ordered the building closed immediately and the residents evacuated for their protection," City Manager Arthur H. Sorey III says. A "full structural assessment" of the complex, which had reported millions of dollars in damages from 2017's Hurricane Irma, will be carried out to help officials decide what to do next, he adds.

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/308139/condo-tower-5-miles-from-surfside-collapse-is-evacuated.html>

### **A "Colossal" Ransomware Attack Hits Hundreds Of U.S. Companies**

(NPR/AP) A ransomware attack paralyzed the networks of at least 200 U.S. companies on Friday, according to a cybersecurity researcher whose company was responding to the incident.

The REvil gang, a major Russian-speaking ransomware syndicate, appears to be behind the attack, said John Hammond of the security firm Huntress Labs. He said the criminals targeted a software supplier called Kaseya, using its network-management package as a conduit to spread the ransomware through cloud-service providers. Other researchers agreed with Hammond's assessment.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2021/07/03/1012849198/ransomware-cyber-attack-revil-attack-huntress-labs>

### **U.S. administers nearly 330 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines**

(Reuters) The United States has administered 329,970,551 doses of COVID-19 vaccines in the country as of Saturday morning and distributed 383,067,560 doses, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Saturday. Those figures are up from the 328,809,470 vaccine doses the CDC said had gone into arms by July 2 out of 382,636,520 doses delivered.

The agency said 182,109,860 people had received at least one dose while 156,982,549 people are fully vaccinated as of Saturday. The CDC tally includes two-dose vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech, as well as Johnson & Johnson's one-shot vaccine as of 6:00 a.m. ET on Saturday.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-cdc/u-s-administers-nearly-330-million-doses-of-covid-19-vaccines-cdc-idUSKCN2E90J4>

### **Unvaccinated people are "variant factories"**

(CNN) Unvaccinated people do more than merely risk their own health. They're also a risk to everyone if they become infected with coronavirus, infectious disease specialists say. That's because the only source of new coronavirus variants is the body of an infected person.

"Unvaccinated people are potential variant factories," Dr. William Schaffner, a professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, told CNN Friday.

"The more unvaccinated people there are, the more opportunities for the virus to multiply," Schaffner said.

If a mutant version is successful enough, it becomes a variant. But it has to replicate to do that. An unvaccinated person provides that opportunity.

Read full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/03/health/unvaccinated-variant-factories/index.html>

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## **Another KY Coal Plant To Retire, But The Pollution Remains**

(WFPL) A power plant in Western Kentucky with a history of polluting groundwater is planning to phase out coal after four decades of operation. It's the seventh coal-fired power plant to close in the state since 2019.

The plant's owner, Big Rivers Electric Corporation, says they have to stop burning coal at Robert D. Green generating station by June 1, 2022, in order to comply with environmental regulations, according to a Public Service Commission [order](#) from June.

In its place, the non-profit, member-owned cooperative plans to retrofit two generators to burn natural gas at a price tag of more than \$45 million.

Read more: <https://wfpl.org/another-ky-coal-plant-to-retire-but-the-pollution-remains/>

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## **11 suspects now in custody following armed standoff off I-95 in Massachusetts, police Claim to be from a group that does not recognize laws**

(NBC Boston) A group of heavily armed men allegedly refused to comply with police Saturday morning north of Boston, prompting I-95 to be closed and shelter-in-place orders for residents of Wakefield and Reading. Police lifted the shelter-in-place orders shortly after the suspects were taken into custody. Police said the men said they were traveling from Rhode Island to Maine for "training."

There were eight to 10 men outside their vehicles, and the trooper noticed they were wearing "tactical or military style" uniforms, including tactical vests and body cameras. Some of them had long rifles, others pistols or some combination of both. A trooper asked the men for their driver's and firearms licenses, and the men said they didn't have them.

Full story: <https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/armed-men-in-standoff-shut-i-95-in-mass-shelter-in-place-for-wakefield-reading/2421271/>

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](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.