

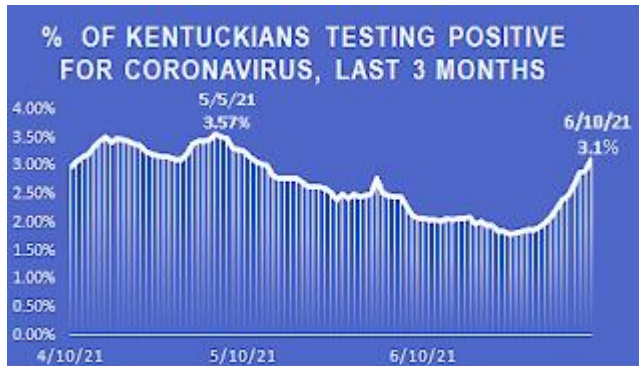


Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 10, 2021

Seven-day average of new coronavirus cases jumps 15.3% in one day; positive-test rate is above 3% for first time in nearly 3 months

(KY Health News – Al Cross) Kentucky firmly joined the ranks of states with rising number of coronavirus cases Friday, as the seven-day average of daily new cases jumped more than 15 percent.

Also, the share of Kentuckians testing positive for the virus exceeded 3 percent for the first time in almost three months, suggesting that state officials are right when they say the much more contagious Delta variant of the virus is becoming predominant in the state, just as it is in the nation as a whole.



The state reported 379 new cases of the virus Friday, raising the seven-day rolling average to 226 per day. That is 15.3% higher than the previous day's average, 196, and the highest average since June 15.

Another way of measuring new cases, the infection rate, also rose to the highest since June 15. Over the last seven days, the state has reported 4.75 cases per 100,000 residents.

Counties with rates at least double the statewide rate on Friday were Livingston, 26.4; Martin, 16.6; Muhlenberg, 15.9; Woodford, 15.5; Carter, 14.9; Hopkins, 14.4; Robertson, 13.6; Grayson, 11.9; Larue, 10.9; Grant,

10.3; Henderson, 9.8; Hickman, 9.8; Marshall, 9.6; Laurel, 9.6; Graves, 9.6; Hardin, 9.5; and Boyd, 9.5.

Hospitalizations for the Covid-19 disease have also increased. Kentucky hospitals reported 228 Covid-19 patients Friday, 68 of them in intensive care and 36 of those on mechanical ventilation. In the last seven days, hospitalizations have averaged 206 per day; in the previous seven days, it was 186. Four weeks ago, it was 235.

Deaths, the lagging indicator of the pandemic, remain low. The state reported two more Covid-19 deaths Friday, raising Kentucky's toll to 7,255. Deaths are averaging around four per day over the last one or two weeks.

<Click the headline to read the full story.>

CDC: Vaccinated students can skip masks in fall

(UPI) -- Students in grades K-12 who have been vaccinated against [COVID-19](#) can go without masks at school this fall, according to new [guidelines](#) released Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Their classmates who have not had their shots, however, still should wear masks, the CDC said.

The new guidelines, which are recommendations and not requirements, come after the CDC cleared the COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna for use in children ages 12 and older in May.

Full story: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/07/09/coronavirus-cdc-guidelines-school-masks/3481625844064/

Related – [CDC Corona Virus “What’s New?” Extracts](#)

- 7/9/21 [EARLY RELEASE: SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 \(Delta\) Variant COVID-19 Outbreak Associated with a Gymnastics Facility — Oklahoma, April–May 2021](#)
- 7/9/21 [EARLY RELEASE: Acceptability of Adolescent COVID-19 Vaccination Among Adolescents and Parents of Adolescents — United States, April 15–23, 2021](#) □ 7/9/21 [COVID-19 Science Update released: July 9, 2021 Edition 97](#)
- 7/9/21 [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten \(K\)-12 Schools](#)
- 7/9/21 [COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs](#)
- 7/9/21 [Science Brief: Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 schools](#)

CDC, FDA contradict Pfizer on COVID-19 vaccine booster

(CIDRAP) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) late yesterday contradicted vaccine makers Pfizer-BioNTech on their assertion that people who received the two-dose mRNA vaccine will likely need a third booster dose of vaccine within 6 to 12 months of initial administration.

Pfizer said it was working on developing a new mRNA vaccine that targets rising variants of concern, including Delta (B1617.2). They also said initial small trial results show a third booster dose of the current vaccine raised antibodies to variants, including Delta and Beta. [Pfizer-BioNTech [press release from yesterday](#).]

CDC and FDA issued their own [statement](#): "Americans who have been fully vaccinated do not need a booster shot at this time," the federal agencies said. "We continue to review any new data as it becomes available and will keep the public informed. We are prepared for booster doses if and when the science demonstrates that they are needed." Full article: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/07/cdc-fda-contradict-pfizer-covid-19-vaccine-booster>

JAMA Study: Vaccination linked to COVID-19 decline in healthcare workers

([CIDRAP story](#)) In Orange County, California, COVID-19 vaccination in healthcare personnel (HCP) was connected with a 94% reduction in HCP cases 3 weeks after second doses of mRNA-based vaccines were administered, according to a *JAMA Network Open* research letter yesterday.

The researchers included 10,188 HCP from the University of California Irvine Health, the only academic medical center in the county, and tracked COVID-19 infections from Nov 1, 2020, to Mar 31, 2021. Participants were screened daily for COVID symptoms and fever and were tested if positive. In addition, about 250 asymptomatic HCP were tested per week up to Dec 13, after which 500 per week were tested. COVID-19 vaccinations began Dec 16. **Jul 8 JAMA Netw Open [study](#)**

**US DOJ Warns of Fake Flyers/Postings/Cards
Regarding the Use of Face Masks and the ADA**

(From KHA COVID Update) On June 30, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division **Eric Dreiband** reiterated that cards and other documents bearing the Department of Justice (DOJ) seal and claiming that individuals are exempt from face mask requirements are fraudulent.

Inaccurate flyers or other postings have been circulating on the web and via social media channels regarding the use of face masks and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these notices included use of the Department of Justice seal and ADA phone number.

A hospital in Bowling Green has reported at least one person trying to use a lanyard and laminated card with the DOJ seal and details described in the warning above as their reason not to have to wear a mask in the hospital.

An example of the card with lanyard is sold on Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Mask-Exemption-Card-and-Lanyard/dp/B091Z4Z2WX>).

The ADA does not provide a blanket exemption to people with disabilities from complying with legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operations.

Full DOJ Press Release: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/department-justice-warns-inaccurate-flyers-and-postings-regarding-use-face-masks-and>

**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [July 9, 2021](#)**

[Guidance for Health Care Leaders During the Recovery Stage of the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Consensus Statement](#) (*JAMA Network Open*) In this consensus statement, 32 coauthors from 17 countries with expertise in various aspects of health leadership, health care, public health, and related fields outline 10 imperatives to guide leaders through recovery from the emergency stages of the pandemic. Key leadership capabilities and reflection questions are presented to guide leaders and to structure performance reviews. Leaders who most effectively implement this framework are ideally positioned to address urgent needs and inequalities in health systems and to cocreate a culture within their organizations that best serves its people.

[Reduced Sensitivity of SARS-CoV-2 Variant Delta to Antibody Neutralization](#) (*Nature*) Variant Delta was resistant to neutralization by some anti-NTD and anti-RBD mAbs including Bamlanivimab, which were impaired in binding to the Spike. Sera from convalescent patients collected up to 12 months post symptoms were 4 fold less potent against variant Delta, relative to variant Alpha (B.1.1.7). Sera from individuals having received one dose of Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccines barely inhibited variant Delta.

[Efficacy of Portable Air Cleaners and Masking for Reducing Indoor Exposure to Simulated Exhaled SARS-CoV-2 Aerosols — United States, 2021](#) (*CDC MMWR*) A simulated infected meeting participant who was exhaling aerosols was placed in a room with two simulated uninfected participants and a simulated uninfected speaker. Using two HEPA air cleaners close to the aerosol source reduced the aerosol exposure of the uninfected participants and speaker by up to 65%. A combination of HEPA air cleaners and universal masking reduced exposure by up to 90%.

[New York City Subway System Adds Chemical, Biological Threat Sensors as Part of Major Safety Collaboration](#) (*Homeland Preparedness News*) In an effort to keep transportation safe without slowing the flow of traffic, the New York City subway system, together with a series of collaborators in the federal, academic, and

private sectors, is rolling out a testbed and series of biosensors to scan for chemical and biological threats. The sensors come from the Chemical and Bio-Defense Testbed (CBT), a partnership project started by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T). They are part of a technology known as Biowatch, which can detect and determine pathogens through DNA analysis over the course of between 12-36 hours.

The Rise of 'ARPA-everything' and What It Means for Science (*Nature*) US President Joe Biden's administration wants to create a US\$6.5-billion agency to accelerate innovations in health and medicine — and revealed new details about the unit last month. Dubbed ARPA-Health (ARPA-H), it is the latest in a line of global science agencies now being modelled on the renowned US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), whose work a generation ago laid the foundation for the modern Internet. With more DARPA clones on the horizon, researchers warn that success in replicating DARPA's hands-on, high-risk, high-reward approach is by no means assured.

OSHA extends comment deadline for COVID-19 ETS, releases inspection and enforcement procedures

([AHA Today](#)) As [urged](#) by the American Hospital Association (AHA), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration [said](#) it will extend to Aug. 20 the deadline for submitting comments on its COVID-19 health care emergency temporary standard. The original deadline for comments was July 21.

OSHA last month published an ETS for occupational exposure to COVID-19 that requires health care employers to take certain steps to protect their workers in settings where suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients are treated. The ETS is effective immediately, and employers must comply with most provisions as of July 6, and with the physical barriers, ventilation and training requirements by July 21.

The AHA last week urged OSHA to delay by six months its compliance dates for implementing the ETS to give hospitals and health systems time to implement the policy's many new requirements. In a [letter sent to AHA](#), OSHA said it would not extend the compliance dates. OSHA also responded to a number of other issues AHA raised in its letter.

Meanwhile, OSHA also has released its [field inspection and enforcement procedures](#) for enforcing the ETS.

Magnitude 6 earthquake near California-Nevada border felt hundreds of miles away

(NBC) The quake shortly before 4 p.m. Thursday was centered south of Lake Tahoe near Walker, a rural community of a few hundred households in the eastern Sierra Nevada. No major damage or injuries were reported, authorities said. <[Read more](#) >

Poll Finds Concerns About Crime, Gun Violence Top Americans' Worries

(From [IACP "The Lead"](#)) [USA Today](#) (7/8, Page, Lee) reports, "Concerns about crime and gun violence have surged to the top of issues that worry Americans, a new USA TODAY/Ipsos Poll finds, but attitudes about how to respond reflect the repercussions of the nation's debate over racial justice." USA Today adds, "Nearly two-thirds of those surveyed said violent crime has worsened in the United States over the past year, and nearly a third have seen it rise in their communities. While they expressed trust in their local police, however, the classic call to get tough on crime has been tempered by broad concerns about law enforcement tactics and the equality of the criminal justice system. In the survey, 7 in 10 supported increasing police department budgets; 77% said they would like additional police officers deployed on street patrols. But 62% also said some of the police budgets should be used to fund community policing and social services. And 81% endorsed a mandate that police-involved shootings be investigated by a separate and independent authority."

Related story - US Cities Increasing Street Police Presence Amid Rise In Deadly Road Rage Incidents

[NBC News](#) (7/8, Burke) reports, "Recent high-profile reports of road rage incidents, some of which resulted in death, have led law enforcement agencies across the country to ramp up police presence and plead with motorists to practice safe driving." NBC News adds, "In Irving, Texas, police requested the public's help after a man was recorded on video firing 17 shots at a car during a suspected road rage incident. In video shared by Irving police, the man is seen standing outside his white BMW while he shoots at a burgundy Chrysler 200. The man fires 13 rounds before he puts the gun in his car and grabs a second firearm. He then fires four more shots before he gets in the car and flees." According to NBC News, "Road rage violence has become such a concern in Dallas that the police department is increasing law enforcement presence on freeways and will act against drivers caught committing aggressive acts. A police spokesman said Thursday that over the last year, there have been 445 violent offenses motivated by road rage."

TEEX Educational Offering
**Medical Countermeasures: Point of Dispensing (POD), Planning
and Response (MGT-319) Course**
*At the Kentucky Emergency Services Conference in Louisville, KY
September 8th and 9th, 2021*

This course is a guide for local health officials and their partners to coordinate plans to provide mass distribution of medical countermeasures in response to a large-scale public health incident. The course focuses on planning considerations, recommendation to achieve the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) 48-hour standard for Mass Prophylaxis, and the local community's Mass Prophylaxis and Point of Dispensing (POD) site preparedness. The course material is applicable to pandemic influenza, bio-terrorism, and other public health emergencies.

This program is sponsored by the Kentucky Emergency Management Association and the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, and will be delivered by the **National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC), Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)**, at Texas A&M University a member of National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC). Register online at: <https://bit.ly/KESCCourseSelection>
Address questions to William R. Turner, Campbell Co EM at wturner@campbellcountyky.org

Global Resilience Commission
Community Flood Resilience Workshop
July 15 @ 2 PM ET

The Threat Is Real. Floods can occur with little or no warning anywhere on the globe.
Are you Ready? Is your family? Is your organization? Do you know how and when to evacuate? Are you prepared to be part of the restoration?

A dynamic and crucial webinar on one of the most universal and devastating threats we all face – community flooding at an unprecedented level. In just that last several years we have seen back-to-back 100 year and 500-year floods. Coastal erosion and sea level rise is predicted to change our communities. We need to be prepared.

Experts with firsthand recent knowledge of the dangers that climate change driven flooding can cause will address:

- The New Climate Driven Flood Threat
- Preparedness Measures
- Subject Matter Expert Discussion
- Community Lifelines
- Evacuation Considerations
- Restoration Priorities
- Organizational Priorities and Responsibilities

Register

2021 KY Harm Reduction Summit
August 11th and 12th

(Online live streamed conference)

Registration is NOW OPEN: <http://www.cecentral.com/HRS>

- Please note that **"Exclusive items** will be mailed to the first 500 registered participants."

We have a very exciting agenda and are looking forward to meeting with you *virtually* via **Zoom** in August!!!

Contact Kyndall Raburn, Public Health Associate, at (502) 892-8022 or at kyndall.raburn@ky.gov if you have any questions.

Note: There is no charge for attending this two-day, virtual conference.

Cybersecurity: Fallout continues from biggest global ransomware attack

Read more: <https://news360.com/article/559470963>

Related: [NPR: Scale, Details Of Massive Kaseya Ransomware Attack Emerge](#)

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.