



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 12, 2021

First nerve agent rockets destroyed at Blue Grass Army Depot

(WKYT) The first M55 rockets containing [VX nerve agent](#) were destroyed at the [Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant](#) (BGCAPP) on July 9. It marks the fourth of five chemical weapons destruction campaigns to begin at the [Blue Grass Army Depot](#) (BGAD).



Under the observation of trained operators, automated equipment will disassemble nearly 18,000 rockets and drain the chemical agent. The agent will be [neutralized](#) by mixing it with water and caustic to produce hydrolysate. After the agent is confirmed destroyed, the hydrolysate will be pumped to holding tanks to be processed later at an off-site disposal facility. The drained rocket warheads will be containerized and destroyed in a [Static Detonation Chamber](#) unit located on the depot. The rocket motors will be placed on pallets and safely transported to Anniston, Alabama, to be

destroyed in a Static Detonation Chamber unit.

Read more: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/07/12/first-nerve-agent-rockets-destroyed-blue-grass-army-depot/>

New infections rising almost 50% across US

(USA Today) The U.S. averaged 19,455 new COVID-19 cases per day over the last seven days, a 47.5% increase from the previous week, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. And 43 states saw an increase in cases last week from the week before, a sign that the pandemic endures in the United States. Hospitalizations are rising again. Deaths, a lagging indicator, also appear ready to start climbing. More than 99% of deaths are now among people who have not been vaccinated, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports.

Dr. Jennifer Nuzzo, with the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, says two-thirds of counties with sustained increases in new infections are in states with low vaccine coverage.

Full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2021/07/12/covid-vaccine-variant-masks-delta-pfizer-boosters/7932182002/>

Rural Ky. areas, some hospitals seeing rise in COVID-19 cases

(WKYT) As the percentage of new COVID cases caused by the Delta variant continues to grow, not all regions are being impacted the same.

Learn more: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/07/12/rural-ky-areas-some-hospitals-seeing-rise-covid-19-cases/>

Save the Date – Next KDPH COVID Update Webinar

July 27 @ 11:30 AM ET

Register now: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2133279473565102604>

Johnson & Johnson Linked To Neurological Disorder In Rare Cases

(NPR) The Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine has been linked to an extremely rare neurological disorder, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Of the more than 12 million vaccine doses administered in the U.S., there have been around 100 reports of people developing Guillain-Barré syndrome.

In light of the newly documented risk, the Food and Drug Administration has updated the label of the vaccine to include a new warning: "Guillain-Barré Syndrome Reports of adverse events following use of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine under emergency use authorization suggest an increased risk of Guillain-Barré syndrome during the 42 days following vaccination."

Guillain-Barré can cause numbness in the extremities and lead to full-body paralysis in the most severe cases, but most people recover. Of the 100 or so cases reported in relation to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, most were men age 50 and older who developed the syndrome around two weeks after getting vaccinated, according to the CDC. The organization's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is set to meet and discuss the matter at a later date.

Source: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/07/12/1015366005/johnson-johnson-vaccine-is-linked-to-neurological-disorder-in-extremely-rare-cas>

Researchers say contracting two variants of COVID-19 is rare, but can happen

(UPI) Researchers are saying the case of a Belgian woman who was found to have been suffering from two variants of [COVID-19](#) at the time of her death is evidence that such a double infection can occur.

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/07/12/belgium-covid-19-variants/194162611600/

Flu shot may help prevent severe COVID-19

UPI/HealthDay: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/07/12/coronavirus-flu-shot-prevent-severe-disease-study/5581626114049/

Wildfires blaze across western states as heatwave shatters records

(The Guardian) Firefighters are working in extreme heat to contain a number of wildfires raging across the US west, with the largest burning in [California](#) and Oregon, as another heatwave bakes the region and puts strain on power grids.

The Beckwourth Complex, which is the largest wildfire of the year in California, was raging along the [Nevada](#) state line and has burned about 140 square miles (362 sq km) as of Monday morning. State regulators have asked consumers to voluntarily “conserve as much electricity as possible” to avoid any outages starting in the afternoon.

In [Oregon](#), the Bootleg Fire exploded to 240 square miles as it raced through heavy timber in the Fremont-Winema national forest, near the Klamath county town of Sprague River. The fire has put pressure on the power grid of neighbouring California, disrupting service on three transmission lines providing up to 5,500 megawatts of electricity to the state. Hundreds of residents in the Klamath Falls area are under mandatory evacuation orders.

And in south-east Washington state, a wildfire has grown to almost 60 square miles while in [Idaho](#), Governor Brad Little has mobilized the national guard to help fight fires sparked after lightning storms swept across the drought-stricken region.

Read full story: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/jul/11/northern-california-wildfire-heatwave>

**10 Most, Least Stressed US Cities
Cleveland needs to “take a chill pill”**

Louisville is #55; Lexington is #142

([Newser](#)) It's been a tough 16 months, and stress levels have been high—though in some cities across the country, that stress has been tougher to contend with than in others. [WalletHub](#) wanted to see which places have been dealing with things best (and which not so much), so it looked at 182 of America's most populated cities, examining more than three dozen metrics in four main categories: work stress, which covers everything from how many hours people put in on the job per week to commute times and unemployment rates; financial stress (i.e., household income, debt, and poverty rates, among other factors); family stress, including separation and divorce rates, as well as the cost of child care; and, high on everyone's mind over the past year-plus, health and safety stress, which looks at COVID cases and deaths, as well as suicide rates, the share of adults who aren't in the best of health, and how much binge drinking is going on. Cleveland is the most stressed city in America, per WalletHub's findings, while South Burlington in Vermont is the least.

See full list WalletHub: <https://wallethub.com/edu/most-least-stressed-cities/22759>

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.