Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation
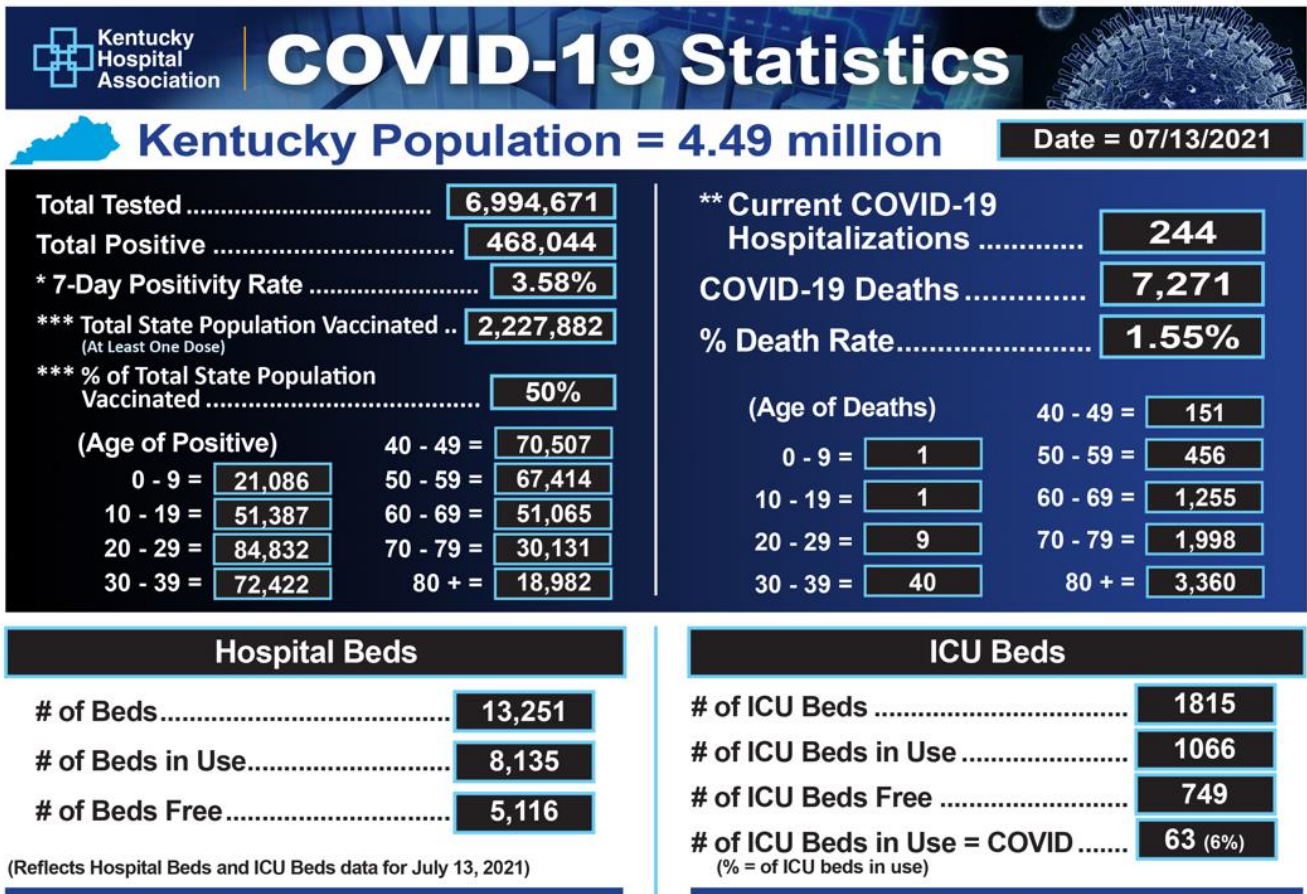# Emergency Preparedness Update
for July 14, 2021

Ky. coronavirus numbers are about double what they were 15 to 18 days ago, Vaccinations have dropped by almost half

([KY Health News/Al Cross](#)) The coronavirus is coming back in Kentucky. The state reported 470 new cases Tuesday, raising the seven-day rolling average by 20 percent in one day, to 331. The average is more than double what it was 15 days ago. The share of Kentuckians testing positive for the virus is the last seven days is 3.58 percent, double what it was 18 days ago. It has increased each day since.

The statewide infection rate over the last seven days is 6.97 per 100,000 residents, more than double its low of 3.13, recorded 16 days ago. Counties with rates more than double the state rate are Carter, 25.6; Livingston, 24.9; Webster, 22.1; Hopkins, 22.1; Martin, 20.4; Muhlenberg, 20.1; Laurel, 17.1; Pike, 16.8; Woodford, 16.6; Clay, 16.5; Pulaski, 15.2; and Whitley, 15. Carter's number put a red county on the state map for the first time in four weeks.

Just over half of Kentucky's total population has received one dose of vaccine; 44.4% are fully vaccinated. Of the eligible population 12 and up, 59% **have been vaccinated**. Over the last seven days, about 5,300 Kentuckians per day have been vaccinated; that is a little more than half the rate of two weeks ago.

[*Check KY COVID-19 Daily Report for the latest*: https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/COVID19DailyReport.pdf]

Kentucky Hospital Association | COVID-19 Statistics

Kentucky Population = 4.49 million   Date = 07/13/2021

Total Tested	6,994,671
Total Positive	468,044
* 7-Day Positivity Rate	3.58%
*** Total State Population Vaccinated (At Least One Dose)	2,227,882
*** % of Total State Population Vaccinated	50%

(Age of Positive)

Age	Count	Age	Count
0 - 9 =	21,086	40 - 49 =	70,507
10 - 19 =	51,387	50 - 59 =	67,414
20 - 29 =	84,832	60 - 69 =	51,065
30 - 39 =	72,422	70 - 79 =	30,131
		80 + =	18,982

** Current COVID-19 Hospitalizations	244
COVID-19 Deaths	7,271
% Death Rate	1.55%

(Age of Deaths)

Age	Count	Age	Count
0 - 9 =	1	40 - 49 =	151
10 - 19 =	1	50 - 59 =	456
20 - 29 =	9	60 - 69 =	1,255
30 - 39 =	40	70 - 79 =	1,998
		80 + =	3,360

Hospital Beds

# of Beds	13,251
# of Beds in Use	8,135
# of Beds Free	5,116

(Reflects Hospital Beds and ICU Beds data for July 13, 2021)

ICU Beds

# of ICU Beds	1815
# of ICU Beds in Use	1066
# of ICU Beds Free	749
# of ICU Beds in Use = COVID (% = of ICU beds in use)	63 (6%)

NOTES: All data is cumulative except for hospitalization and bed data, which reflects data for the date of the report. Total cases and deaths include both confirmed and probable.
* For positivity rate calculation, please visit: https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/Positivityrateexplanation.pdf
** Includes all current COVID-19 patients, including ICU patients.
*** The data for Total State Population Vaccinated and Percentage of Vaccinated in KY is prepared by the CDC. The data contained herein is provisional and subject to change as necessary. Administration data is reported to CDC as received by the vaccine administration providers. The "total state population vaccinated" count includes doses administered in the State of Kentucky. To view the full vaccination report please view Workbook: KY Public Facing Dashboard.

Data Sources:
Kentucky Department for Public Health and WebEOC

CIDRAP: **Several states report spikes in COVID-19 cases**

Tennessee Stops ALL Vaccine Outreach for Youth

(Nashville Tennessean) The Tennessee Department of Health will halt all adolescent vaccine outreach – not just for coronavirus, but all diseases – amid [pressure from Republican state lawmakers](#), according to

an internal report and agency emails obtained by the Tennessean. If the health department must issue any information about vaccines, staff are instructed to strip the agency logo off the documents.

The health department will also stop all COVID-19 vaccine events on school property, despite holding at least one such event this month. The decisions to end vaccine outreach and school events come directly from Health Commissioner Dr. Lisa Piercey, the internal report states.

Additionally, the health department will take steps to ensure it no longer sends postcards or other notices reminding teenagers to get their second dose of the coronavirus vaccines. Postcards will still be sent to adults, but teens will be excluded from the mailing list so the postcards are not "potentially interpreted as solicitation to minors," the report states.

These changes to Tennessee's vaccination strategy, detailed in a COVID-19 report distributed to health department staff on Friday, then reiterated in a mass email on Monday.

Read more: https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/health/2021/07/13/tennessee-halts-all-vaccine-outreach-minors-not-just-covid-19/7928701002/

Related – American Academy of Pediatrics on Tennessee Vaccination Situation
Statement: https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2021/aap-statement-on-the-termination-of-dr.-michelle-fiscus/

Doctor-delivered COVID messages may boost protective steps
(CIDRAP) A *JAMA Network Open* study today describes successful deployment of a video tool to improve COVID-19 knowledge, beliefs, and risk-reduction behaviors of Black and White adults. In the randomized clinical trial, a team led by Harvard Medical School researchers randomly assigned a video message about COVID-19 to 18,233 Black and White adults with less than a college education recruited from Aug 7 to Sep 6, 2020. The goal was to assess whether the messages would increase coronavirus knowledge, information seeking, and protective behaviors if they were tailored to Black adults.

Full story: https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/07/doctor-delivered-covid-messages-may-boost-protective-steps
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Emergency Medicine's Original Sin
The misperception that paramedics are merely ambulance drivers is everyone's problem.
(The Atlantic) The job of providing emergency medical services, or EMS, often resembles medical detective work, with limited clues, no specialists to consult, and very little, if any, of the sophisticated equipment available to doctors and nurses. But even though emergency medics—a catchall term used throughout this story for paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and emergency medical responders—handle tens of millions of calls in the United States each year and make life-altering decisions for their patients every day, they remain all but excluded from institutional medicine. "You're basically like a glorified taxi," says Sarayna McGuire, a Mayo Clinic emergency physician who has studied pre-hospital health care.

The misconception that emergency medics provide transportation, not medicine, leaves them to cope with all sorts of indignities. Read more: https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2021/07/paramedics-not-just-ambulance-drivers/619395/

Kentucky is receiving $12,143,672 for 47 small rural hospitals
The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA's) Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) yesterday provided states $398 million from the American Rescue Plan Act to distribute to 1,540 small rural hospitals for COVID-19 testing and mitigation. Contact your State Office of Rural Health, State Department of Health for additional information.

HRSA SHIP website: https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/07/13/hhs-provides-398-million-to-small-rural-hospitals-for-covid-testing.html
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Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from July 13 and July 14, 2021
Estimating Under-recognized COVID-19 Deaths, United States, March 2020-May 2021 using an Excess Mortality Modelling Approach (*Lancet Regional Health: Americas*) In the United States, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) deaths are captured through the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System and death certificates reported to the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS). However, not all COVID-19 deaths are recognized and reported because of limitations in testing, exacerbation of chronic health conditions that are listed as the cause of death, or delays in reporting. We estimated that 766,611 deaths attributable to COVID-19 occurred in the United States from March 8, 2020—May 29, 2021. Of these, 184,477 (24%) deaths were not documented on death certificates.

NIAID to Create New Antiviral Drug Discovery Centers for Pathogens of Pandemic Concern (*Global Biodefense*) The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) is seeking applications to establish the Antiviral Drug Discovery (AViDD) program of multidisciplinary Centers focused on discovery and

development of antivirals against coronaviruses (CoVs) and one or more select RNA viruses with pandemic potential. Each Center will encompass a multi-project multidisciplinary research platform that employs innovative virology, biochemistry, structural biology, medicinal chemistry, genomics and/or systems biology approaches to identify and select essential virus-specific targets for discovery and development of antivirals against CoVs.

Are Latent Viruses Causing Long Covid-19 Symptoms? Patient Groups Push for Testing *(Wall Street Journal)* More long Covid-19 patients are pushing to investigate what they believe is fueling some of their debilitating long-term symptoms: dormant viruses that have been reactivated by the coronavirus. An estimated 10% to 30% of all Covid-19 patients suffer from symptoms weeks and months after first getting the illness, including many young, previously healthy people whose initial Covid-19 cases were mild. Symptoms can include brain fog, fatigue, shortness of breath, racing heart beat and an inability to tolerate physical or mental exertion.

Evaluation of the Effects of Remdesivir and Hydroxychloroquine on Viral Clearance in COVID-19 (*Annals of Internal Medicine*) No significant differences were seen between treatment groups in mortality during hospitalization. There was a marked decrease in SARS-CoV-2 load in the oropharynx during the first week overall, with similar decreases and 10-day viral loads among the remdesivir, HCQ, and SoC groups. Remdesivir and HCQ did not affect the degree of respiratory failure or inflammatory variables in plasma or serum.

FDA Adds Warning About Rare Reaction to J&J COVID-19 Vaccine *(Associated Press)* U.S. regulators on Monday added a new warning to Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine about links to a rare and potentially dangerous neurological reaction, but said it's not entirely clear the shot caused the problem. The Food and Drug Administration announced the new warning, flagging reports of Guillain-Barre syndrome, an immune system disorder that can causes muscle weakness and occasionally paralysis. Health officials described the side effect as a "small possible risk" for those getting the shot.

J&J, AstraZeneca Explore Covid-19 Vaccine Modification in Response to Rare Blood Clots *(Wall Street Journal)* Johnson & Johnson , AstraZeneca PLC and the University of Oxford, along with outside scientists, are conducting early-stage research into whether potential modifications of their Covid-19 vaccines could reduce or eliminate the risk of rare but serious blood clots associated with the shots, according to people close to the process. Fast-developing clues into how the clots form—driven in part by independent scientists in Europe, the U.S. and Canada—are boosting hopes of identifying the cause and possibly re-engineering AstraZeneca's shot by next year, according to some of these people. It is too early to know whether either shot can be modified, or whether doing so would make commercial sense, these people say.

Wildfires Threaten Homes, Land Across 10 Western States *(Associated Press)* Wildfires that torched homes and forced thousands to evacuate burned across 10 parched Western states on Tuesday, and the largest, in Oregon, threatened California's power supply. Nearly 60 wildfires tore through bone-dry timber and brush from Alaska to Wyoming, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. Arizona, Idaho and Montana accounted for more than half of the large active fires. The fires erupted as the West was in the grip of the second bout of dangerously high temperatures in just a few weeks.

Related story - Oregon wildfire becomes biggest in the nation, burning over 200,000 acres
(CBS News, July 14, 2021) - A wildfire raging in Oregon is currently the largest fire in the nation, burning more than 201,000 acres across the state, officials said Tuesday. The Bootleg Fire started in Klamath County on July 6, forcing officials to place more than 100 homes under mandatory evacuation orders. <Read more >

Critical Microsoft Patches

Microsoft has released updates to address multiple vulnerabilities in Microsoft software. The updates fix 9 zero-days and 117 flaws with 13 classified as critical, one as moderate and 103 as important. A remote attacker can exploit some of these vulnerabilities to take control of an affected system. The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Agency (CISA) encourages users and administrators to review Microsoft's July 2021 Security Update Summary and Deployment Information and apply the necessary updates.

Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Rises in Medicaid Recipients

(MedPage Today) Opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment increased in Medicaid recipients from 2014 to 2018, data from 11 different state programs showed. The proportion of people with opioid use disorder who received buprenorphine (Buprenex), methadone, or naltrexone (Revia) increased from 47.8% to 57.1% across that period in the exploratory serial cross-sectional study by Julia Donohue, PhD, of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health and colleagues.

Individual states varied widely in use of these medications, but the lower end of the range increased from 35.3% to 45.7% from 2014 to 2018 while the upper end stayed fairly steady at around 74%, Donohue's group reported in *JAMA*. Full report: https://www.medpagetoday.com/psychiatry/opioids/93546

CDC: Drug overdose deaths up 29.4% in 2020

rug overdose deaths in the United States rose 29.4% in 2020 to an estimated 93,331, including 69,710 involving opioids, according to preliminary data released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's up from a 5% increase in 2019. The data shows changes in overdose deaths by drug category and state.

Domestic Preparedness Journal Feature
Start or Restart VOADs/COADs During the Preparedness Phase

Volunteer and community organizations active in disaster (VOADs/COADs) operate best by using their four C's: cooperation, coordination, collaboration, and communication. Emergency managers can build or strengthen this whole community capability in their own jurisdictions through public-private partnerships (PPPs), by performing the four E's – empower, endow, educate, and entrust.

The concept of government utilizing PPPs in support of events, incidents, emergencies, disasters, catastrophes, etc. is not new to emergency management. When planning the readiness actions needed across the entire disaster phase cycle (preparedness/protection/prevention, response, recovery, and mitigation), jurisdictions need to incorporate whole-community support of both their Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) as well as their Recovery Support Functions (RSFs), including their mission areas and core capabilities).

The U.S. federal government supports and encourages this through both the National Response Framework and the National Disaster Recovery Framework. Governments at their own jurisdictional levels are ultimately responsible to their citizens for disaster response and recovery (as well as preparedness/protection/prevention and mitigation). As the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) describes it, "The approach is locally executed, state managed, and federally supported." Some level of government entity is responsible for each of the ESFs and RSFs, even if it defaults to the local Office of Emergency Management (OEM):

Full article with Case Studies: https://www.domesticpreparedness.com/preparedness/start-or-restart-voads-coads-during-the-preparedness-phase/

Don't forget CERT!
EMS Professionals and the CERTification of Volunteers

Story link: https://www.domesticpreparedness.com/healthcare/ems-professionals-and-the-certification-of-volunteers/