



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 16, 2021

Governor Beshear announces more than 500 cases of Covid-19 on Thursday

(WYMT) (WYMT) – On Thursday, Governor Andy Beshear provided an update on COVID-19 in the Commonwealth, as the states positivity rate continues to increase. The governor announced 564 new COVID-19 cases Thursday, bringing the state's total case number to 469,214. 117 of Thursday's new cases were children 18 and younger. 264 Kentuckians remain hospitalized with 65 in the ICU. 33 patients remain on a ventilator. The state's positivity rate remains at 4.04%. Gov. Beshear also announced five deaths Thursday, all newly reported. This brings the state's death toll to 7,281.

Link: <https://www.wyvt.com/2021/07/15/governor-beshear-announces-more-than-500-cases-covid-19-thursday/>

CDC director says coronavirus outbreak 'becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated'

(WLEX) The director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said the coronavirus outbreak "is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated."

During a White House COVID-19 Response Team briefing on Friday, Dr. Rochelle Walensky said the CDC reported more than 33,000 new cases in the U.S. on Thursday and the nation's 7-day average is about 26,300 cases per day, an increase of nearly 70% from the prior 7-day average. She said the 7-day average of hospital admissions is about 2,790, an increase of about 36% from the prior 7-day period.

"And, after weeks of declines, 7-day average daily deaths have increase by about 26% to 211 per day," said Walensky. The CDC director added later that "over 97% of people who are entering the hospital right now are unvaccinated."

Full story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/national/coronavirus/cdc-director-says-coronavirus-outbreak-becoming-a-pandemic-of-the-unvaccinated>

Health Misinformation on COVID Costs Lives, Surgeon General Warns *Communities, health professionals, and tech companies must step up to help*

(MedPage Today) Preventing the spread of misinformation about COVID-19 is a matter of life and death, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, MD, MBA, said Thursday. "Health misinformation has cost us lives," Murthy said at a White House press briefing. "While it often appears innocuous on social media apps, retail sites, or search engines, the truth is that misinformation takes away our freedom to make informed decisions about our health and the health of our loved ones. During the COVID 19 pandemic, health misinformation has led people to resist wearing masks in high-risk settings. It's led them to turn down proven treatments and to choose not to get vaccinated."

Murthy, who said he has lost 10 relatives to the coronavirus, issued a [Surgeon General's advisory](#) on Thursday about misinformation. Full story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/publichealthpolicy/publichealth/93597>

Just 12 People Are Behind Most Vaccine Hoaxes on Social Media, Research Shows

NPR Podcast or story to learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/13/996570855/disinformation-dozen-test-facebooks-twiters-ability-to-curb-vaccine-hoaxes>

HHS Provides \$398 Million to Small Rural Hospitals for COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation

(HRSA) Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provided \$398 million in funding through the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) to 1,540 small rural hospitals for COVID-19 testing and mitigation. [Read the release.](#)



Vaccines for Kids Under 12 Are Still Months Away FDA – Emergency approval could come midwinter

(Newser) Coronavirus vaccines for children under 12 are still months away, with emergency authorization for at least one vaccine expected by midwinter and full approval likely coming soon afterward, a Food and Drug Administration official says. The official tells [NBC](#) that many families are hesitant because no COVID vaccine has received full approval instead of emergency authorization so they hope to reach that step quickly. The official says the FDA is seeking up to six months of follow-up data from vaccine trials among under-12s, compared to the two months required for trials in adults. Pfizer and Moderna began vaccine trials in under-12s in March. Full story: <http://newser.com/s308640>

JAMA Peds Retracts Much-Hyped Masks Study

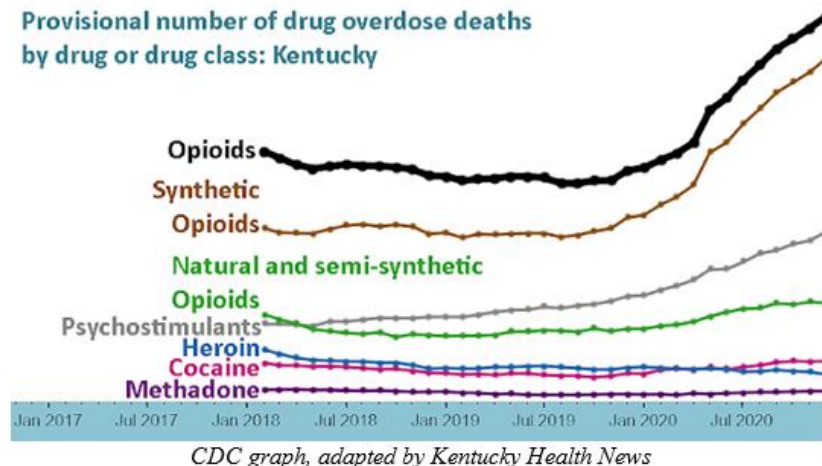
Controversial study had numerous problems, journal says

Read story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/93609>

FDA no longer authorizes use of non-NIOSH-approved or decontaminated disposable respirators

(FEMA InfoGram) On June 30, [the FDA announced the revocation of Emergency Use Authorizations \(EUs\)](#) for imported, non-NIOSH-approved respirators as well as decontamination and bioburden reduction systems. This impacts all health care personnel, including emergency medical services personnel. The revocation of these EUs was due to the increase in domestically manufactured, NIOSH-approved N95s available throughout the country.

Provisional number of drug overdose deaths by drug or drug class: Kentucky



On April 9, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued [a letter to health care personnel and facilities](#), recommending a transition away from crisis capacity conservation strategies, such as decontaminating disposable respirators for reuse.

Early in the public health emergency, there was a need to issue EUs for non-NIOSH-approved respirators as well as decontamination and bioburden reduction systems to disinfect disposable respirators.

Those conditions no longer exist.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, NIOSH has approved more than 875 respirator models or configurations, with some of these manufactured by approximately 20 new, domestic NIOSH-approval holders. There are now more than 6,400 total respirator models or configurations on the NIOSH-certified equipment list.

The FDA recommends that health care agencies consider redistributing current inventory of non-NIOSH-approved respirators to non-health care settings for non-medical use (for example, construction), and to other countries in need.

The FDA also recommends agencies increase inventory of available NIOSH-approved respirators, including:

- N95s and other disposable filtering facepiece respirators (FFRs).
- Elastomeric respirators, including new elastomeric respirators without an exhalation valve that can be used in an operating room.
- Powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs).

If you have questions about respirators or decontamination systems, you can contact the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's [Division of Industry and Consumer Education \(DICE\)](#). DICE develops educational resources for the FDA website to help the medical device industry understand FDA regulations and policies. (Source: [FDA](#))

WHO warns of 'strong likelihood' of new, possibly more dangerous variants

(ABC) The World Health Organization warned Thursday that the surging [COVID-19 pandemic](#) in many parts of the world increases the likelihood that new, potentially dangerous variants may emerge in the future.

"The pandemic is nowhere near finished," said Professor Didier Houssin, chair of the WHO Emergency COVID-19 Committee. The global surge in new cases has highlighted the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic. Currently, there are four variants of concern, labeled by the WHO using the Greek alphabet. The most recent, the delta variant, which was first detected in India, has been identified in more than 111 countries and is now responsible for [nearly 60% of all cases](#) in the U.S. As the virus continues to spread, new variants might emerge in the future that may be even more challenging to control, the WHO warned.

Full story: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/warns-strong-likelihood-possibly-dangerous-variants/story?id=78872737>

[Kentucky had second highest percentage increase in drug-overdose deaths in 2020, with biggest jump after pandemic hit](#)

(KY Health News) Drug overdose deaths in Kentucky rose 54 percent in 2020, the second highest rate of increase in the nation, according to a new federal report. The preliminary data from the **Centers for Disease**

Control and Prevention shows Kentucky had 2,104 overdose deaths in 2020, up from 1,369 in 2019. A CDC graphic (click on headline above) shows the total of Kentucky overdose deaths in the previous 12 months increased every month since September 2019, but there was a marked increase when the pandemic began. The biggest jump happened in May 2020, with an increase of 146 deaths over the previous 12-month period. The report also includes data about drug-overdose deaths by drug or class of drugs. In Kentucky, it shows that opioids and synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, were the two main contributors for overdose deaths in 2020, with opioids involved in 1,710 of the deaths and synthetic opioids involved in 1,523 of them.

Ending the HIV Epidemic: 40 Years of Progress

(HRSA) While biomedical advancements in HIV prevention and treatment have led to significant progress in reducing HIV/AIDS-related deaths and new infection rates, HIV/AIDS [continues to persist](#) in the United States—with significant disparities across ethnic and racial lines.

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) published a blog post about the history of HIV, the progress that has been made in addressing the HIV epidemic, and the potential impact that the federal government's recent investments in [Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.](#) will have.

This ASTHO [blog post](#) was supported by a cooperative agreement with HRSA.



U.S. Reaches Highest Level of Wildfire Activity as Fires Destroy Homes, Prompt New Evacuations

(*The Weather Channel*, July 16) The U.S. is now in the highest category of wildfire activity due to dozens of blazes in the West that are threatening and destroying homes and being fueled by relentless drought and heat. The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) declared Wildland Fire Preparedness Level 5 (PL 5) on Wednesday, which makes more federal resources available for firefighting efforts. Criteria to reach this level include large, complex wildfires burning across several geographic areas with the potential to exhaust national firefighting resources. It also means that at least 80% of the country's wildland firefighting crews and management teams are already deployed. [<Read more >](#)

Related story - The largest wildfire in the US is only 7% contained as more evacuations take place



(CNN) The Bootleg Fire, the largest wildfire in the United States this year, has scorched more than 240,000 acres since it first started 10 days ago in southern Oregon, according to the latest report from InciWeb.

That means the blaze has spread around 24,000 acres per day on average, or just over 1,000 acres every single hour. That's an area larger than the area of Central Park each hour, or a rate of a football field burned every 5 seconds for 10 days, CNN meteorologist Brandon Miller said.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/16/weather/western-us-wildfires/index.html>

White House Convenes US Mayors to Discuss Crime-Fighting Strategies

The [AP](#) (7/15, Jaffe) reports, "The Biden administration on Thursday convened the first meeting of its community violence intervention collaborative, a group of mayors and administration officials that will share best practices and work closely with the federal government to reduce gun violence." The White House "has touted its investments in these programs as one of the ways it is working to reduce gun violence and combat crime, as Republicans are increasingly looking to use a nationwide increase in violent crime as a political cudgel against Democrats ahead of next year's midterm elections. According to details shared first with The Associated Press, Thursday's meeting...included the mayors of 10 cities involved in the 15-city collaborative: Atlanta; Chicago; Baltimore; Los Angeles; Philadelphia; Newark, New Jersey; Miami-Dade County, Florida; St. Paul, Minnesota; Washington, D.C.; and Austin, Texas." The mayors "will continue to meet biweekly throughout the summer, and monthly into the fall, to share best practices."

Louisville ranks in top 10 of cities with homicide increases during COVID-19 pandemic

([WAVE](#)) – Louisville had one of the United States' highest increases in homicide rates during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a study. The study, released Wednesday by WalletHub, ranked Louisville seventh on the list overall, but **first in the change of homicides per capita in 2021 vs 2020.**

WalletHub ranked New Orleans first on the list; Cincinnati is #2. To view the full list, [click here.](#)

Flood me once, shame on me. Flood me twice, shame on FEMA?

(Grist, July 16) Over the last 20 years, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, has failed to enforce a law that would have made U.S. cities and towns more resilient to the impacts of climate change, according to a recent federal investigation by the Office of Inspector General in the Department of Homeland Security. The law, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, required that FEMA write regulations and create policies to encourage communities to prepare for natural disasters and rebuild their infrastructure after emergency events so it is more resilient, taking measures such as improving storm water management or strengthening buildings against earthquakes. <[Read more](#) >

DHS S&T Partnership Brings Next-Generation Incident Command System to a Wider Response Community

(Homeland Security Today, July 15) The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) is joining forces with the nonprofit Beacon NGO to advance open source software capabilities for public safety. Under a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA), Beacon NGO will analyze open source code for S&T's Next-Generation Incident Command System (NICS) and deliver it to a larger emergency response community. Beacon NGO will engage directly with responders to develop a strategy to ensure the information-sharing platform meets their operational needs. <[Read more](#) >

DHS, DOJ Launch First One-Stop Ransomware Resource at StopRansomware.gov

(Homeland Security Today, July 15) As part of the ongoing response, agencies across the U.S. government announced new resources and initiatives to protect American businesses and communities from ransomware attacks. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), together with federal partners, have launched a new website to combat the threat of ransomware. [StopRansomware.gov](#) establishes a one-stop hub for ransomware resources for individuals, businesses, and other organizations. The new StopRansomware.gov is a collaborative effort across the federal government and the first joint website created to help private and public organizations mitigate their ransomware risk. <[Read more](#) >

DHS S&T showcases research and technology for resilience against pandemics, natural disasters and threats

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [Science and Technology Directorate](#) (S&T) has convened U.S. government (USG) research organizations to showcase research and development accomplishments through their four-part series, [Whole-of-Government Virtual R&D Showcase](#). The theme, "Unifying Research to Work for You," addresses how DHS S&T and [its partners](#) are moving research from the lab into the world.

The Whole-of-Government Virtual R&D Showcase demonstrates how USG researchers are addressing challenges facing our critical infrastructure and lifeline services. Topics cover cross-sector collaborations in the following areas: COVID-19 threat characterization and assessment, disaster resilience, evolving threats, safeguarding public transit, virus detection, drone operations, aviation security, and the convergence of advanced technologies.

The four series in the Showcase are:

Series 1, [Enhancing Public Health Security and Resilience](#).

Series 2, [Building Resilience and Innovation Equity](#).

Series 3, [Mitigating Evolving Threats and Understanding the Convergence of Breakthrough Technologies](#).

Series 4, [Building Whole-of-Government R&D Partnerships](#).

Each series features several expert panel discussion videos, an e-book, and additional resources related to the series topic. Series 1 and 2 are now available. Series 3 and 4 will become available on July 26 and August 9, respectively, when exclusive content is unlocked on those dates.

This event is free and there is no registration required. All content for each series will be available on the site until November 2021.

To learn more, see the [Whole-of-Government Virtual R&D Showcase informational flyer](#) and [website](#). You can also follow DHS S&T on Twitter at @DHSSciTech for news and announcements. (Source: [DHS S&T](#))

CDC EPIC Exchange:

[Hidden Gems: CDC COVID-19 Resources You Might Not Know About](#)

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.