



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 19, 2021

CDC Confirms U.S. Case of Monkeypox in Dallas

(NETEC) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [confirmed a case of human monkeypox in Dallas, Texas on July 15, 2021](#) in an individual who traveled from Nigeria on Delta Airlines. The CDC is working



with the air carrier and state and local health officials in Texas to reach those who may have been in contact with the patient during two flights: from Lagos, Nigeria, to Atlanta on July 8, with arrival July 9; and Atlanta to Dallas Love Field Airport on July 9. Public health authorities said they have identified and are contacting individuals who were in direct contact with the patient.

The [National Emerging Special Pathogen Training and Education Center](#) (NETEC) and its partners from the 10 Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (RESPTC) remain ready to support the global response to emerging special pathogens such as monkeypox.

NETEC recommends following the three steps within the “Identify, Isolate, and Inform” strategy [as outlined by the CDC](#). Hospital and ambulatory staff members should screen all patients with travel histories, exposure, or clinical symptoms that might suggest the person could have or have been exposed to someone with Monkeypox. To access relevant resources for monkeypox preparedness, [visit the NETEC Resource Library](#).

On the NETEC website we provide a quick list of transmission precautions, PPE, waste, and other medical countermeasures. (Read the full article [HERE](#).)

CDC Monkeypox Site: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>

CDC Press Release: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0716-confirmed-monkeypox.html>

Bats test positive for rabies in Jefferson, Oldham counties

Read more: <https://www.wave3.com/app/2021/07/17/bats-test-positive-rabies-jefferson-oldham-counties/>

Gov. Beshear, Dr. Stack Provide Update on COVID-19 Delta Variant in Kentucky *Unvaccinated Kentuckians should wear masks indoors when not in their home*

([Press Release](#)) Today, Gov. Andy Beshear and Dr. Steven Stack, commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health, provided an update on the COVID-19 delta variant, a highly contagious strain that is spreading in the commonwealth.

The Governor and Dr. Stack encouraged unvaccinated Kentuckians and Kentuckians in jobs that require consistent contact with the public to take additional precautions, including:

- ✓ All unvaccinated Kentuckians should wear masks indoors when not in their home;
- ✓ Kentuckians at higher risk from COVID-19 due to pre-existing conditions should wear masks indoors when not in their home;
- ✓ Vaccinated Kentuckians in jobs with significant public exposure should consider wearing a mask at work; and
- ✓ All unvaccinated Kentuckians, when eligible, should be vaccinated immediately.

Dr. Stack discussed recent outbreaks that have occurred in other states, accelerated by the delta variant, including incidences in Illinois, Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Missouri. Vaccines appear to be [highly effective](#) against the delta variant. However, hospitalizations have surged more than 30% in the past two weeks and more than 80% in Nevada, Mississippi, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Nationwide, 97% of COVID-19 related hospitalizations are among those who have not yet been vaccinated.

“The delta variant is so contagious it will infect most unvaccinated people,” [said Dr. Scott Gottlieb](#), the former commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). “It is going to be the most serious virus they will get in their lifetime in terms of the risk of putting them in the hospital.”

The Governor said to date, 2,248,235 Kentuckians have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Sixty-one percent of Kentuckians 18 or older have been vaccinated, but only 51% of Kentuckians age 40 to 49, 46% of Kentuckians age 30-39 and 36% of Kentuckians age 18 to 29.

Related story - CDC under pressure to revisit guidance as key pediatric group calls for masks in schools

The AAP departs from federal guidance, calls for universal masking in schools

ABC News story: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/cdc-pressure-revisit-guidance-pediatric-group-calls-masks/story?id=78925393>

US COVID-19 cases up 140% in past 2 weeks

(CIDRAP) With rising US COVID-19 cases, recommendations and mandates for masks are starting to pop up across the country, and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) today updated its recommendations for the upcoming school year, advising masks for everyone older than 2 years regardless of vaccination status.

Overall, US cases are up 140% in the past 2 weeks according to the [New York Times tracker](#). Hospitalizations and deaths have increased by 34% and 33%, respectively. And the federal government is continuing its battle against COVID-19 vaccine misinformation and urging people to get vaccinated.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/07/us-covid-19-cases-140-past-2-weeks>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [July 19, 2021](#)

Southeast Asian Countries Struggle To Contain A Devastating Third Wave Of COVID-19 (NPR) A devastating third wave of the coronavirus pandemic is hitting several countries in Southeast Asia as the delta variant takes hold in the region, leading to record levels of infections and death. Southeast Asian countries such as Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand had avoided such large-scale outbreaks previously. Now, they're struggling to contain fresh outbreaks, even as Indonesia and Myanmar are battling low vaccination rates, limited oxygen supplies and overcrowded hospitals. Health care experts say health care systems in both countries are on the brink of collapse.

Cats Are Better Than Dogs (at Catching the Coronavirus) (New York Time) Dr. Ly, a veterinary and biomedical researcher at the University of Minnesota, knew that humans were the primary driver of the pandemic. But he also knew that many people loved to kiss and cuddle their pets, in sickness and in health. He wondered: How transmissible was SARS-CoV-2 to humankind's best friends? So he pitched an idea to his wife, Yuying Liang, a researcher in the same department who leads the lab with him, to test cats and dogs for antibodies, which would reveal past infection to the virus. The result of those antibody tests, published recently in the journal Virulence, suggest that household cats are more susceptible than dogs to a SARS-CoV-2 infection. The new study supports recent research that it may be "fairly common" in households where people test positive for SARS-CoV-2 for cats and dogs to become infected, too.

Legislation Protecting Full-time jobs of FEMA Reservists Advances Senate (Homeland Preparedness News) A bill seeking to prevent Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Reservists from losing full-time employment when aiding community disaster response advanced the U.S. Senate last week. U.S. Sens. Gary Peters (D-MI) and Rob Portman (R-OH) introduced the Civilian Reservist Emergency Workforce Act, which the lawmakers indicated would extend employment protections to FEMA Reservists, ensuring the ability to maintain full-time employment when fulfilling reservist duties.

60 treated after "chemical incident" at Six Flag Water Feature in Texas

(Newser) A chemical leak at a Houston-area water park left dozens suffering from minor skin irritation and respiratory issues Saturday, authorities said. Per the [AP](#), 29 people were taken to local hospitals following the incident at Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Splashtown in Spring, the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office tweeted. Thirty-nine others declined to be taken to a hospital after undergoing decontamination procedures. [KPRC-TV](#) reports that some of those who became sick were children, including a 3-year-old who was hospitalized in stable condition.

The chemicals involved included hypochlorite solution and 35% sulfuric acid, officials said. "The safety of our guests and team members is always our highest priority and the park was immediately cleared as we try to determine a cause," Hurricane Harbor Splashtown spokesperson Rosie Shepard said in a statement, according to news outlets. "Out of an abundance of caution, the park has been closed for the day." Authorities are investigating the cause of the incident, which they said was contained to one attraction at the park.

Link: <https://www.newser.com/story/308696/29-hospitalized-after-chemical-leak-at-texas-water-park.html>

Dangerous Conditions Complicate Wildfire Fight in Western US

(VOA News, July 19) Erratic winds and parched Oregon forests added to the dangers for firefighters on Monday as they battled the largest wildfire in the U.S., one of dozens burning across several Western states. The destructive Bootleg Fire was considered one of the largest in modern Oregon history and was burning more

than 1,210 square kilometers, an area about the size of Los Angeles. The blaze just north of the California border was 25% contained. <[Read more](#)>

Multiple people, including firefighter, ambulance crew, shot in series of Arizona attacks

(Phoenix – July 18) A string of attacks in Arizona [ended Sunday afternoon with five people shot](#), including one fatality, and the suspect critically wounded by a police officer, authorities said.

A 35-year-old man is accused of opening fire on an ambulance crew around 3:45 p.m. Sunday, Tucson police Chief Chris Magnus told news outlets.

Tucson Fire crews were sent to extinguish a house fire while a team of medics were responding to a medical emergency at a park for an unrelated call, police spokesperson Sgt. Richard Gradillas told The Arizona Republic.

The suspect also is allegedly drove to the nearby house fire and shot at firefighters and neighbors trying to douse the flames, the chief said. One neighbor was fatally shot in the head. A firefighter was shot in the arm, and another bullet grazed a neighbor's head. The firefighter was released from the hospital and in "good condition," according to a [tweet from the Tucson Fire Department](#).

Full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/07/19/tucson-shooting-firefighter-ambulance-crew-shot-arizona-attacks/8010697002/>

It was a rough weekend across the country...

MA number of people killed, dozens injured in separate shootings

Gunfire erupted in Houston, Philadelphia, Portland, Oregon, Sacramento, California, and Washington, D.C.

Youngest victim was 6 years old

Read more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/4-dead-22-injured-separate-shootings-across-america-n1274282>

Four Chinese Nationals Working with the Ministry of State Security Charged with Global Computer Intrusion Campaign Targeting Intellectual Property and Confidential Business Information, Including Infectious Disease Research

([US DOJ Press Release](#)) A federal grand jury in San Diego, California, returned an indictment in May charging four nationals and residents of the People's Republic of China with a campaign to hack into the computer systems of dozens of victim companies, universities and government entities in the United States and abroad between 2011 and 2018.

The conspiracy's hacking campaign targeted victims in the United States, Austria, Cambodia, Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, Norway, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Targeted industries included, among others, aviation, defense, education, government, health care, biopharmaceutical and maritime. Stolen trade secrets and confidential business information included, among other things, sensitive technologies used for submersibles and autonomous vehicles, specialty chemical formulas, commercial aircraft servicing, proprietary genetic-sequencing technology and data, and foreign information to support China's efforts to secure contracts for state-owned enterprises within the targeted country (e.g., large-scale high-speed railway development projects). At research institutes and universities, the conspiracy targeted infectious-disease research related to Ebola, MERS, HIV/AIDS, Marburg and tularemia.

Related story – US and Allies Issue Statement on Chinese Malicious Cyber Activity

Release: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/19/the-united-states-joined-by-allies-and-partners-attributes-malicious-cyber-activity-and-irresponsible-state-behavior-to-the-peoples-republic-of-china/>

US probes rash of health incidents among diplomats in Vienna

Some of the symptoms are similar to those first reported by U.S. diplomats and spies in Havana, [Cuba](#), in 2016 and 2017.

Learn more: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/us-probes-rash-health-incidents-diplomats-vienna-7889661>

Don't buy that beach-front house until you read this one....

Moon 'wobble,' climate change seen as driving coastal flooding in 2030s

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/moon-wobble-climate-change-seen-driving-coastal-flooding-2030s-2021-07-16/>

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.