



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 21, 2021

## **Texas hospital reports its 1st case of lambda COVID-19 variant** *The lambda variant was first detected in Peru in December 2020.*

(ABC) A major Texas hospital system has reported its first case of the lambda COVID-19 variant, as the state reels from the [rampant delta variant](#). Houston Methodist Hospital, which operates eight hospitals in its network, said the first lambda case was confirmed Monday.

The lambda variant was first detected in Peru in December 2020, according to the World Health Organization and makes up 81% of COVID-19 cases sequenced in the country since April 2021, according to a June [WHO](#) report. Currently, WHO designates lambda as a ["variant of interest."](#)

Full story: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/texas-hospital-reports-1st-case-lambda-covid-19/story?id=78943641>

## **Johnson & Johnson vaccine much less effective against delta variant, new study says**

(NY Post) The one-shot coronavirus vaccine from Johnson & Johnson is much less effective against the [Delta variant](#) than it is against the original version of COVID-19, according to a [new study posted online](#) Tuesday. The study, which examined blood samples in a laboratory setting and has not yet been peer-reviewed, suggests that anyone who received the J&J vaccine may need to receive a second shot as the variant [continues to spread](#) across the US.

"The message that we wanted to give was not that people shouldn't get the J&J vaccine, but we hope that in the future, it will be boosted with either another dose of J&J or a boost with Pfizer or Moderna," study leader Nathaniel Landau, a virologist at NYU's Grossman School of Medicine, [told The New York Times](#).

Read full story: <https://nypost.com/2021/07/21/johnson-johnson-covid-19-vaccine-less-effective-against-delta-variant-study-suggests/>

## **Kentucky reports first day with over 1K new COVID-19 cases in months**

(WKYT) Governor Beshear reported 1,054 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, bringing the state total to 471,669 cases. The governor says the state is seeing a 5.71% positivity rate. Of Tuesday's new cases, 217 are in kids 18 or younger. This marks the highest single-day case number since March 11, which was 1,211. The last day we had more than 1,000 was April 7, which was 1,028.

There were three new COVID-19 related deaths reported on Tuesday, which brings the state total to 7,304.

Source: <https://www.wkyt.com/2021/07/20/kentucky-reports-first-day-with-over-1k-new-covid-19-cases-months/>

## **Related CIDRAP Story - Delta COVID-19 variant now 83% of US cases**

Story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/07/delta-covid-19-variant-now-83-us-cases>

## **GAO gives 15 new pointers on pandemic recovery, readiness**

(CIDRAP) In its [seventh report](#) about the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) yesterday made 15 recommendations around topics such as program integrity and preparedness for future public health emergencies.

"GAO's recommendations, if effectively implemented, can help improve the government's ongoing response and recovery efforts as well as help it to prepare for future public health emergencies," the authors write.

Previous reports have included 72 recommendations, 16 of which are fully in place right now, according to the report. The relevant government agencies have agreed with 57 of the actions, and most are in the process of being executed.

A few of GAO's other recommendations looked at the country's ability to combat future public health emergencies. For instance, the report re-emphasized a key recommendation from its January report: to engage with non-federal stakeholders and Congress and develop a supply chain strategy before the next pandemic, particularly for personal protective equipment such as respirators, masks, and gloves. Since then, however, GAO says HHS has not developed any framework to start this process.

Another example involves the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), which GAO says is currently defined as a "short-term stopgap buffer" during emergencies

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/07/gao-gives-15-new-pointers-pandemic-recovery-readiness>

## **Lexington hospitals, doctor's offices feeling pinch of national nurse shortage**

Story: <https://www.wkyt.com/2021/07/20/lexington-hospitals-doctors-offices-feeling-pinch-national-nurse-shortage/>

**More than 1.5 children globally lost a parent or other family caregiver during the pandemic**

(STAT) More than 1.5 million children have lost a parent, grandparent, or other family caregiver during the Covid-19 pandemic. [These estimates](#) were compiled using Covid-19 mortality data from March 2020-April 2021 in the 21 countries that account for more than 75% of Covid deaths.

Source Lancet story: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)01253-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)01253-8/fulltext)

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**CDC monitoring more than 200 people in the U.S. for possible monkeypox exposure**

(STAT) More than 200 people across 27 states [are being monitored](#) for monkeypox after they came in contact with a U.S. resident who contracted the infection in Nigeria and traveled to the U.S., according to health officials. Although rarely seen in people, monkeypox is caused by a virus that is related to smallpox, which remains the only human virus to be eradicated. Monkeypox causes less severe illness than smallpox, but is still quite dangerous. The CDC said that the fatality rate for the strain of monkeypox seen in this recent case — in a man who flew from Lagos, Nigeria, to Atlanta and then Dallas — is about 10%. State and local health authorities are working with the CDC to monitor the individuals until late this month. No additional cases have thus far been identified.

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**FDA Warns Doctors, Consumers on Contaminated Chantix  
— Latest drug found with cancer-causing nitrosamines**

Learn more: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/primarycare/smoking/93651>

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**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines  
Extracts July 20, 2021**

[SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Effectiveness in a High-Risk National Population in a Real-World Setting](#) (*Annals of Internal Medicine*) Among 54 360 persons who tested positive and 54 360 propensity score–matched control participants, the median age was 61 years, 83.6% were male, and 62% were White. Median body mass index was 31 kg/m<sup>2</sup> among those who tested positive and 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> among those who tested negative. Among those who tested positive, 9800 (18.0%) had been vaccinated; among those who tested negative, 17 825 (32.8%) had been vaccinated. Overall vaccine effectiveness 7 or more days after the second dose was 97.1% (95% CI, 96.6% to 97.5%). Effectiveness was 96.2% (CI, 95.5% to 96.9%) for the Pfizer–BioNTech BNT-162b2 vaccine and 98.2% (CI, 97.5% to 98.6%) for the Moderna mRNA-1273 vaccine. Effectiveness remained above 95% regardless of age group, sex, race, or presence of comorbidities.

[The Life Cycle Of A COVID-19 Vaccine Lie](#) (*NPR*) Misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines can appear almost anywhere: From an uncle's social media post to a well-trusted news commentator. But where does it come from and why do some myths spread further than others?

[States are Sitting on Millions of Surplus Covid-19 Vaccine Doses as Expiration Dates Approach](#) (*STAT News*) Millions of unused Covid-19 vaccines are set to go to waste as demand dwindles across the United States and doses likely expire this summer, according to public health officials. Several state health departments told STAT they have repeatedly asked the federal government to redistribute their supply to other countries, many of which are facing a third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. Officials in Washington have rejected those requests, citing legal and logistical challenges.

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**Feature Article: As Drone Popularity and Potential Risk Soars,  
So too does S&T Preparedness**

(US DHS) In the last few years, drones have flown over, and in some cases landed within, restricted areas across our country—with notable incidents in our nation's capital. In 2015, a quadcopter crashed on the grounds of the White House. Later that same year, a drone crash-landed on the White House Ellipse, near the South Lawn. Though benign hobbyists often use them, these small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) can be exploited for any number of illegal activities, thereby posing a significant threat to facilities related to critical infrastructure and national security. This is why [Counter-UAS \(C-UAS\) technology](#) is so important.

The popularity of sUAS, or drones, has grown as the cost has become more affordable. Their nefarious capabilities continue to increase, as well. They can attain high speeds and move in three dimensions with the potential to carry dangerous payloads, smuggle contraband, and conduct illicit surveillance. The applications are endless, which creates a formidable challenge for our national security agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [Science and Technology Directorate \(S&T\)](#).

Adaptation is key to ensuring resilience. S&T is supporting C-UAS research, testing, training and evaluation across multiple DHS missions and components. A number of tests have been executed over the last year and more are planned in coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Secret Service (USSS), Federal Protective Services (FPS), and Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

Full story: <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/news/2021/07/16/feature-article-drone-popularity-and-potential-risk-soars-st-prepares>

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**Global Resilience Commission**  
**GreenGrid Security Webinar II webinar**  
**Can Utilities and Government collaborate?**  
**July 28, 11 AM EDT**  
**[REGISTER NOW](#)**  
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**UK's Well@Work Podcast**  
**Episode 25 - Managing Difficult Conversations-The Death**  
Link: <https://youtu.be/QPW710VXV2o>

**You can also visit the episode page for the audio version and transcript!**  
<https://www.uky.edu/ctac/content/wellwork-podcast-episode-25-managing-difficult-conversations-death-notification>

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NIMS Alert 27-21  
**FEMA Releases "Building Private-Public Partnerships" Guide**

FEMA released the [Building Private-Public Partnerships](#) guide. The guide provides recommendations and best practices for jurisdictions to establish and maintain a private-public partnership to help coordinate mitigation, response and recovery planning and preparedness.

The [Building Private-Public Partnership](#) guide is an effort to build on the recent [National Response Framework](#) update. The update focuses on non-governmental capabilities to stabilize community lifelines and the continued need for aligning government efforts with the private sector. Private-public structures exist to reflect the interconnected and complex environment that emergency managers operate, especially within the context of more frequent and severe incidents – even before COVID-19.

To facilitate engagement process, FEMA will host two 60-minute engagement webinars to discuss the guide and answer stakeholders' questions. The webinars will be open to the whole community and advance registration is required.

To register, click on the preferred webinar session below:

- [REGISTER: Webinar #1 - July 26, 1:00 PM ET](#)
- [REGISTER: Webinar #2 - July 29, 3:00 PM ET](#)

Visit [Planning Guides | FEMA.gov](#) for more information.

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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](mailto: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.