



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 23, 2021

Governor Beshear announces nearly 1000 cases of COVID-19 on Friday

(WYMT) Governor Andy Beshear provided an update on COVID-19 in the Commonwealth Friday, as the state's positivity rate inches closer to 7%.

The governor announced 994 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the state's total case number to 474,444.

199 of Friday's new cases were children 18 and younger. 444 Kentuckians remain hospitalized with 132 in the ICU. 58 patients remain on a ventilator. The state's positivity rate climbed to 6.97%.

Gov. Beshear also announced four deaths Friday, both newly reported. This brings the state's death toll to 7,312.

You can also find more information, including how to protect your family, by visiting Kentucky's official COVID-19 website: <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

Source: <https://www.wyvt.com/2021/07/23/governor-beshear-announces-nearly-1000-cases-covid-19-friday/>

US COVID-19 hospital cases surge

(CIDRAP) Hospitalizations are now catching up with surging COVID-19 case counts in parts of the country where COVID-19 vaccinations are low, and according to the [New York Times](#), some Florida hospitals are seeing their highest COVID-19 patient admission numbers since the pandemic began in March of 2020.

After an early summer drop, cases are rising across the country as the Delta variant (B1617.2) spreads and under-vaccinated communities remain susceptible to the virus. Similarly, almost every state is seeing an increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations, especially Nevada, Arkansas, and Missouri. The only states not seeing hospitalizations grow are Maryland, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Earlier this week, the American College of Emergency Physicians warned that hospitalizations were likely to rise in the country.

The United States reported 55,058 cases and 315 deaths yesterday, per the [Johns Hopkins University tracker](#). In total, the United States has confirmed 34,293,127 cases, including 610,233 deaths.

Across the country, a total of 162.2 million Americans are fully vaccinated, or 48.8% of the population, according to the [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

Read more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/07/us-covid-19-hospital-cases-surge>

Related story - CNN: [Three states are seeing about 40% of the country's new COVID cases](#)

Unvaccinated staff eyed in rising nursing home cases, deaths

(AP) Lagging vaccination rates among nursing home staff are being linked to a national increase in COVID-19 infections and deaths at senior facilities, and are at the center of a federal investigation in a hard-hit Colorado location where disease detectives found many workers were not inoculated.

The investigation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of facilities in the Grand Junction, Colorado, area raises concerns among public health doctors that successes in protecting vulnerable elders with vaccines could be in peril as the more aggressive delta variant spreads across the country.

Nationally about 59% of nursing home staff have gotten their shots, about the same as the overall percentage of fully vaccinated adults — but significantly lower than the roughly 80% of residents who are vaccinated, according to Medicare. And some states have much lower vaccination rates of around 40%.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/business-health-government-and-politics-coronavirus-pandemic-3f4435167823b02812adfb668ae32bb0>

Pfizer and BioNTech to Provide U.S. Government with an Additional 200 Million Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine to Help Meet Continued Need for Vaccine Supply in the U.S.

Read more: <https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-provide-us-government-additional-200>

Related story #1 - [Pfizer vaccine offers 88% protection against Delta variant with 2 doses](#)

Related story #2 - [Pfizer vaccine second dose has 'sweet spot' after eight weeks, UK scientists say](#)

Study: Chinese COVID shot may offer elderly poor protection

(AP) A new study suggests that a Sinopharm vaccine offers poor protection from COVID-19 among the elderly, raising questions for dozens of countries that have given the Chinese company's shots to their most vulnerable populations.

A survey of blood samples taken from 450 people in Hungary at least two weeks after their second Sinopharm dose found that 90% under 50 years old developed protective antibodies. But the percentage declined with age, and 50% of those over 80 had none.

The study by two Hungarian researchers was [posted online](#) this week but not yet reviewed by other scientists. Three outside experts said they had no problems with the methodology of the study of the vaccine developed by Sinopharm's Beijing Institute of Biological Products.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/europe-middle-east-business-science-health-4b770731d5995e3bb49a1d8ec63febdb>

DOJ Launches Five "Strike Forces" To Target Firearms Trafficking

(From [IACP "The Lead"](#)) [Reuters](#) (7/22, Lynch) reports the Department of Justice "this week is formally launching a new effort to crack down on firearms trafficking, in a strategy that involves the creation of five strike forces that will partner with local law enforcement to disrupt criminals selling guns used in crimes." The strike forces will be "concentrated in 'significant gun trafficking corridors' including New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, D.C."

The [AP](#) (7/22, Balsamo) reports that this initiative "differs from other recent federal efforts to address violence, because it is not sending agents or prosecutors into cities with crime spikes. Justice officials say the strike forces are targeted prosecutions meant to be a longer-term effort to combat gun trafficking."

[Politico](#) (7/22, Gerstein) reports Attorney General Garland said in a statement, "We are redoubling our efforts as ATF works with law enforcement to track the movement of illegal firearms used in violent crimes. These strike forces enable sustained coordination across multiple jurisdictions to help disrupt the worst gun trafficking corridors."

DEA Initiative Aims To Disrupt Fentanyl Trafficking

The DEA's effort to prevent overdose deaths is covered in a [Border Report](#) (7/22, Resendiz) story that quotes Carlos Briano, a spokesperson for the DEA's El Paso Division, which is participating in a DEA initiative that "aims to disrupt the trafficking of" illegal fentanyl. Briano said "transnational cartels" use social media and other methods to sell counterfeit, fentanyl-laced pills "throughout the United States." Briano also said people who are seeking substance use disorder prevention resources can visit "www.dea.gov or call 1-800-662-HELP for [treatment referrals](#)."

Related story - DEA Warns Deadly Drugs Made To Look Like Prescription Xanax, OxyContin, Adderall Being Sold Online

[WTTG-TV Washington](#) Washington (7/22). "Deadly drugs made to look like prescription Xanax, OxyContin and Adderall are being sold to kids on social media apps, DEA Washington warns. Investigators have seized these drugs from people who did not know that they were fake. Jarod Forget, Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the DEA Washington Division issued a warning Thursday that drug dealers are marketing to children and teenagers through popular social media apps. They are selling drugs that look like prescription medication and delivering counterfeit pills to kids and young adults in DC, Maryland, and Virginia."

Coast-to-coast heat dome to deliver sweltering weather next week

(*The Washington Post*) Summer is supposed to be hot. But this season has featured many large-scale North American heat waves that have roasted significant swaths of the country, helping temperatures skyrocket and toppling records. [<Read more >](#)

First responders sweat it out in hot car to demonstrate dangers of high temperatures

(WAVE3) On average, 38 children die each year in the United States from being left in hot cars, [according to national data](#).

"People always say, 'I just can't see how that would happen. I just can't see that I would ever do that,'" Indiana State Police Sgt. Carey Huls said. "It's happened to the children of doctors, police officers, lawyers, school teachers, all the professions you'd think they would know, they wouldn't do something like that. It's happened."

Thursday, first responders went to extreme lengths to prevent another tragedy. Jordan Yuodis with the Jefferson County Fire Service and Sgt. Huls climbed into a police cruiser, shut the doors, and turned off the air

conditioning to remind parents and guardians of the dangers of leaving their children inside the car, either on accident, or on purpose. EMS stood by during the demonstration.

A child's body heats up three to five times faster than an adult's, [according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)](#). However within two minutes, Yuodis was visibly sweating.

Within 10 minutes, the car reached 101 degrees; *in 15 minutes, it heated up to 120 degrees*, and the demonstration ended. The men exited the car sweaty, lightheaded, and their heartrate and blood pressure were both elevated.

Read more & video report: <https://www.wave3.com/app/2021/07/22/first-responders-sweat-it-out-hot-car-demonstrate-dangers-high-temperatures/>

Gov. Beshear Announces \$157 Million in Funding for City Governments Across KY

([From Press Release](#)) Thursday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced more than \$157 million in funding for more than 360 non-entitlement cities in Kentucky from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The funding will arrive as soon as next week to offset expenses related to COVID-19, including the costs of personal protective equipment, vaccination clinics, loss of revenue, payroll and more. Each allocation was based on population, per the U.S. Treasury. Eligible local governments will receive half of their total allocation now, with the second half of funding coming between spring and summer of next year. Allocation amounts are available [here](#).

New "Destructive" Severe Thunderstorm Warning category to trigger Wireless Emergency Alerts on mobile phones starting Aug 2

(NOAA) Severe thunderstorms can be life-threatening, but not all severe storms are the same. Hazardous conditions range from tornadoes, large hail storms, and widespread straight-line winds called derechos, to cloud-to-ground lightning and flash flooding. [Starting August 2](#), the National Weather Service will better convey the severity and potential impacts from thunderstorm winds and hail by adding a "damage threat" tag to Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, similar to our Tornado and Flash Flood Warnings.

"Destructive" and "Considerable" Damage Threat Categories

We developed three categories of damage threat for Severe Thunderstorm Warnings. The categories, in order of highest to lowest damage threat, are destructive, considerable, and base. These tags and additional messaging are designed to promote immediate action, based on the threats.

- The criteria for a **destructive** damage threat is at least 2.75 inch diameter (baseball-sized) hail and/or 80 mph thunderstorm winds. Warnings with this tag will automatically activate a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) on smartphones within the warned area.
- The criteria for a **considerable** damage threat is at least 1.75 inch diameter (golf ball-sized) hail and/or 70 mph thunderstorm winds. This will not activate a WEA.
- The criteria for a baseline or "base" severe thunderstorm warning remains unchanged, 1.00 inch (quarter-sized) hail and/or 58 mph thunderstorm winds. This will not activate a WEA. When no damage threat tag is present, damage is expected to be at the base level.

Read more: <https://www.weather.gov/news/072221-svr-wea>

NETEC – EMS Considerations for Monkeypox

Given the quick and timely actions of the public health authorities, it is extremely unlikely that EMS clinicians will encounter a person infected with monkeypox during routine operations; however, it is still advisable at this time for the EMS community to consider a diagnosis of monkeypox in people who present with a febrile prodrome followed by rash and who may have risk of exposure to the monkeypox virus.

If EMS personnel suspect a case of monkeypox, it is advisable to contact the state health department early for possible initiation of special pathogen transport protocols.

- Learn more in [this article](#) by Alexander Isakov, MD, MPH (founding Executive Director of CEPAR and a Professor of Emergency Medicine at Emory University).
- You can also read NETEC's previous articles: "[CDC Confirms U.S. Case of Monkeypox](#)" and "[Waste Management from Patients Being Treated for Monkeypox Virus](#)." To access relevant resources for monkeypox preparedness, [visit the NETEC Resource Library](#).

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.