



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 25, 2021

HHS Renewal of Determination that a Public Health Emergency Exists

(HHS) As a result of the continued consequences of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, on this date and after consultation with public health officials as necessary, I, Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health and Human Services, pursuant to the authority vested in me under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, do hereby renew, effective July 20, 2021, the January 31, 2020, determination by former Secretary Alex M. Azar II, that he previously renewed on April 21, 2020, July 23, 2020, October 2, 2020, and January 7, 2021, and that I renewed on April 15, 2021, that a public health emergency exists and has existed since January 27, 2020, nationwide.

Source: <https://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/phe/Pages/COVID-19July2021.aspx>

CDC group weighs third shot for immunocompromised people at higher risk of breakthrough infections

(CNBC) A CDC advisory group is considering whether fully vaccinated Americans with weakened immune systems need a booster dose of a Covid vaccine after data shows they are less likely to have antibodies to fight the disease and more likely to suffer from a so-called breakthrough infection. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's advisory committee is also meeting to discuss [the safety profile](#) of the [Johnson & Johnson](#) vaccine.

Immunosuppressed populations represent 44% of hospitalized Covid breakthrough cases — an infection in a fully vaccinated individual, according to a slide presented Thursday at the agency's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices meeting. The population segment, which includes patients with cancer, HIV or those who have had organ transplants, represents only about 2.7% of the U.S. adult population, the presentation said. Immunocompromised people are more likely to become seriously ill from Covid and are at a higher risk of transmitting the virus to family and friends, the agency said.

Studies suggest that a third vaccine dose might help patients whose immune systems don't respond as well to a first or second dose. Four small studies cited by the CDC showed that 16% to 80% of people with weakened immune systems didn't have detectable antibodies to fight Covid after two shots.

Among immunosuppressed patients who had no detectable antibody response, 33% to 50% developed an antibody response after receiving an additional dose, according to the CDC.

Learn more: <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/07/22/covid-boosters-cdc-group-weighs-third-shot-for-immunocompromised-people.html>

KY Lawmakers hear about first responders in pandemic

Learn more: <https://www.rcnky.com/articles/2021/07/21/lawmakers-hear-how-ky-first-responders-have-held-pandemic>

CDC: Life expectancy declines by 1.5 years in 2020

([AHA Today](#)) U.S. life expectancy fell by an average of 1.5 years in 2020 to 77.3 years, primarily due to COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [reported](#) yesterday. Life expectancy fell by three years for Hispanic residents, 2.9 years for Black residents and 1.2 years for white residents.

"Among the causes contributing negatively to the change in life expectancy, COVID-19 contributed 90% for the Hispanic population, 67.9% for the non-Hispanic white population, and 59.3% for the non-Hispanic black population," the authors said.

According to the report, unintentional injuries were the second largest contributor to the decline in life expectancy for all three populations, largely due to drug overdose deaths.

CDC Report: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/VSRR015-508.pdf>

National settlement would bring Kentucky and its local governments \$460 million over 18 years to fight opioid epidemic

(KY Health News) Kentucky's Daniel Cameron and other state attorneys general announced Wednesday a tentative settlement with the nation's three top drug distributors and drug maker **Johnson & Johnson** for their role in "creating and fueling the opioid epidemic," as a Cameron [press release](#) put it.

The \$26 billion deal with J & J, **Cardinal Health**, **AmerisourceBergen** and **McKesson Corp.** would resolve more than 4,000 claims that states and local governments have made in various courts, and bring an estimated \$460 million to Kentucky, which state and local governments would split 50-50 over 18 years.

"The substantial majority of the money is to be spent on opioid treatment and prevention," Cameron [said](#) at a briefing. His release said "Each state's share of the funding has been determined by agreement among the states using a formula that takes into account the impact of the crisis on the state – the number of overdose deaths, the number of residents with substance use disorder, and the number of opioids prescribed – and the population of the state."

Kentucky has been one of the states hardest hit by opioid abuse, which the pandemic has worsened. It had the second-highest percentage [increase](#) in overdose deaths in 2020. <Click the headline to read more.>

10-Year-Old Killed by Plague in Colorado
It's the first such death in the state since 2015

(Newser) Colorado had logged its first death from plague since 2015—and the victim was just 10 years old. A [statement](#) issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment said the child, who "died from causes associated with plague," was from LaPlata County, where testing subsequently confirmed the presence of plague in a sample of fleas. Another five unnamed counties have also had animals and fleas test positive for plague, which the [Denver Post](#) reports is usually transmitted by flea bites, including to animals like prairie dogs, squirrels, and chipmunks. Of the 22 human cases the state has registered since 2015, nearly half were in LaPlata County. That plague is present is unsurprising.

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/308968/10-year-old-killed-by-plague-in-colorado.html>

Search for Victims Ends At Florida Condo Collapse Site

(NPR) The search for victims in one of the deadliest building collapses in U.S. history has come to an end after four weeks. [Firefighter crews](#) have scoured the debris left on the site of the catastrophe without finding evidence of additional casualties. Miami-Dade Police Detective Lee Cowart confirmed that fire department search crews have vacated the site.

Officials had vowed to continue the search for people among roughly 11 tons of rubble that remained following the sudden destruction of the Champlain Towers South condo building in Surfside, Fla., on June 24. In all, 97 people have been confirmed dead — a significant drop from initial estimates of possible casualties, which suggested as many as 159 had been killed. That figure fell as authorities identified remains or discovered people who turned out not to have been in the building at the time of the collapse. One person is thought to be unaccounted for. Read more: <https://www.npr.org/2021/07/23/1018164946/search-ends-victims-florida-condo-collapse-site>

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.