



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 28, 2021

CDC says nearly 67% of U.S. counties have substantial, high COVID-19 transmission

(Reuters) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Wednesday that 66.6% of U.S. counties had transmission rates of COVID-19 high enough to warrant indoor masking and should immediately resume the policy. The transmission rate was up from 63.4% as of Tuesday. In total, 49.9% of U.S. counties have high COVID-19 community transmission rates and 16.7% have substantial rates, the CDC said. The CDC reversed its mask guidance policy for vaccinated Americans on Tuesday.

Story link: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/cdc-says-nearly-67-us-counties-have-substantial-high-covid-19-transmission-2021-07-28/>

White House tells agencies to mandate masks in federal buildings in hot spots

(Reuters) Numerous U.S. federal agencies on Wednesday mandated masks at federal buildings in COVID-19 hot spots in line with instructions issued by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), according to an OMB email seen by Reuters.

The move followed guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Tuesday that vaccinated people should wear masks indoors in areas with substantial or high COVID-19 community transmission.

The White House said masks are required indoors in federal buildings for all employees and visitors, whether or not vaccinated, in those areas.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-homeland-security-department-imposes-employee-mask-mandate-2021-07-28/>

New mask guidance for Kentucky state buildings

(WKYT) Officials from the Kentucky Personnel Cabinet have announced mask new policies for government buildings. They say employees, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear a face covering inside Executive Branch buildings/offices and in state vehicles, where another employee is present. The policy is effective July 29.

Officials say employees who can safely practice social distancing in their office or work location may remove their face covering. This policy also applies to visitors. Officials say employees who do not comply with the policy may be removed from government buildings/offices, and visitors who don't comply will not be allowed to enter. Source: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/07/28/ky-officials-issue-mask-policy-government-buildings/>

Gov. Beshear reports over 1,500 new COVID-19 cases; positivity rate above 8%

(WKYT) Governor Beshear reported 1,593 new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, bringing the state total to 479,431 cases. The governor says the state is seeing an 8.29% positivity rate. Of Wednesday's new cases, 343 are in kids 18 or younger. There are now 36 counties in the red zone. Three weeks ago there weren't any and only eight orange counties.

There were two new COVID-19 related deaths reported on Wednesday. That brings the state total to 7,325. As of Wednesday, 571 people are hospitalized for COVID-19 related reasons, 185 are in the ICU, and 83 are on ventilators. The governor reported 2,286,288 Kentuckians have been vaccinated.

Source: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/07/28/gov-beshear-reports-over-1500-new-covid-19-cases-positivity-rate-over-8/>

Related - Second Shot at a Million drawing tomorrow

Still time to register until midnight tonight!

Story link: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/second-shot-at-a-million-drawing-july-29-still-time-to-register>

St Joseph London limits visitation due to concerns about the Delta Variant

Precautionary actions taken as number of COVID-19 cases in Kentucky increase

Full story: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/07/28/saint-joseph-london-limits-visitation-due-concerns-about-delta-variant/>

Your tweens and teens are lonely -- and they want your help

(CNN Health) Teens and tweens may not come out and tell you, but there is a lot they want you to know about their lives. Yes, sometimes adolescents have surly attitudes. However, they still need your help as allies, guides and consultants. Here are some of their thoughts gleaned by a psychologist from teen and tween clients, along with guidance for parents.

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/26/health/teen-loneliness-tweens-parenting-wellness/index.html>

One Year Later, America's Mask Supply Chain Is Still Vulnerable

(Bloomberg, July 27) Even as the delta variant fuels a new wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in the U.S., some domestic manufacturers of N95s and surgical masks are struggling to stay in business. Several companies have stopped production of masks because of declining sales as people got vaccinated, state mask mandates ended, and the flow of cheaper foreign-made masks resumed. The American Mask Manufacturers Association (AMMA), a trade group that represents more than 20 smaller manufacturers, estimates that 5,000 workers have been laid off across its member companies. DemeTech Corp., based in Miami Lakes, Fla., has alone laid off about 1,500 people, according to Luis Arguello Jr., the company's vice president. [<Read more >](#)

Critical pipelines report over 220 cyber incidents since May TSA directive

(NBC) Critical pipeline operators have reported more than 220 cybersecurity incidents since the Transportation Security Administration implemented emergency measures in the wake of the crippling ransomware attack on one of America's most important pipelines, according to TSA Administrator David Pekoske. Companies have been reporting incidents since day one of the agency's May 28 security directive aimed at critical pipelines, Pekoske told CNN in an interview. Reporting of cybersecurity incidents has ramped up since the directive, according to Pekoske, who said the reports will help TSA understand the risks facing the industry. Prior to the directive, reporting was voluntary. [<Read more >](#)

President signs National Security Memo

(US DHS) Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas and Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo released a joint statement on President Biden's signing of a new National Security Memorandum, "Improving Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure Control Systems."

"This NSM takes a key step toward improving the cybersecurity of critical infrastructure by directing the Departments of Homeland Security and Commerce to work together, alongside other agencies, in developing cybersecurity performance goals that set a clear, easy-to-understand security baseline. The safety and security of the American people rely on the resilience of the companies that provide essential services such as power, water, and transportation. The establishment of cybersecurity performance goals marks important progress toward this goal. We look to responsible critical infrastructure owners and operators to follow voluntary guidance in order to ensure that the critical services the American people rely on are protected from cyber threats, and we are committed to working closely with our partners in the private sector to promote proactive cybersecurity practices that will protect our national and economic security."

National Security Memorandum on Improving Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure Control Systems

Link to Memo: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/28/national-security-memorandum-on-improving-cybersecurity-for-critical-infrastructure-control-systems/>

FACT SHEET: Biden Administration Announces Further Actions to Protect U.S. Critical Infrastructure

Ky. Wildlife Officials: Stop feeding birds in six counties

Read more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/wildlife-officers-stop-feeding-birds-in-six-ky-counties-unexplained-illness-under-investigation>

Brood X had a good run, but now the annual cicadas are taking center stage

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/27/us/annual-cicadas-scn-trnd/index.html>

ATF holding training, testing in Lexington for law enforcement K-9 teams

Learn more: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/07/28/atf-holding-training-testing-lexington-law-enforcement-k-9-teams/>

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.