



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 31, 2021

### Kentucky's positivity rate approaches 9% Governor reports more than 1,600 COVID-19 cases again Friday

(WYMT) On the day of Governor Beshear's [second Shot at a Million news conference](#), his office announces more than 1,600 cases of COVID-19. That is the highest number of cases reported in a single day since 1,993 cases were reported on February 19th. Specifically, the governor announced 1,648 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the state's total case number to 482,599.

354 of Friday's new cases were children 18 and younger. 625 Kentuckians remain hospitalized with 195 in the ICU. 85 patients remain on a ventilator. The state's positivity rate climbed to 8.96%, making it the the 34th consecutive day with an increase in the positivity rate. Gov. Beshear also announced seven deaths Friday, bringing the state's death toll to 7,334.

Story link: <https://www.wyml.com/2021/07/30/kentuckys-positivity-rate-approaches-9-gov-beshear-reports-more-than-1600-covid-19-cases-again-friday/>

### Kroger 'strongly encourages' all customers, employees to wear masks

(WAVE) Kroger is requesting that any employee or visitor — vaccinated or not — wear masks while inside stores following a recent increase of COVID-19 Delta variant cases.

A Kroger spokesperson said in a statement that the company's recommendation mirrors the one recently made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC officials recommended Tuesday that people who were fully vaccinated wear masks in areas where COVID transmission was high.

Story link: <https://www.wyml.com/2021/07/30/kroger-strongly-encourages-all-customers-employees-wear-masks/>

### CDC Reportedly Says Delta Variant as Infectious as Chickenpox

Read more: <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/cdc-says-delta-variant-as-infectious-as-chickenpox-what-to-know-now>

### **Related story** - CDC shares 'pivotal discovery' on Covid-19 breakthrough infections that led to new mask guidance

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/30/health/breakthrough-infection-masks-cdc-provincetown-study/index.html>

### **Related CDC story** - COVID-19 Vaccine Safety in Adolescents Aged 12–17 Years

CDC report: [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7031e1.htm?s\\_cid=mm7031e1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7031e1.htm?s_cid=mm7031e1_w)

### Storms lead to flash flooding in multiple counties, one death reported in Nicholas County

(WLEX) Portions of eastern Kentucky experienced significant flash flooding Friday morning after an overnight torrential downpour. There is extensive damage to Main Street in downtown Carlisle.

One person died in the flash flood waters in Nicholas County Friday morning. According to the Carlisle Emergency Management Director, Calvin Denton the incident happened around 3:45 a.m. Floodwaters washed a trailer off the foundation on KY36. A woman, identified as 66-year-old Deborah D. Ritchie, from the trailer got caught in the floodwaters and swept away.

Full story and video report: <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/storms-lead-to-flash-flooding-one-death>

### DHS Awards \$1.68M for Small Businesses to Enhance First Responder Access to Wireless Service

(*Homeland Security Today*) The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program recently awarded funding to two companies to develop an in-building coverage analysis system (ICAS) that leverages existing first responder radio and smartphone technology to enhance accessibility to wireless service. "Our first responders are fundamental to protecting our nation and enhancing public safety," said Kathryn Coulter Mitchell, DHS Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary for Science and Technology. [<Read more >](#)

## Raw cake batter linked to multistate *E coli* O121 outbreak

([CIDRAP News Scan](#)) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) this week announced an *Escherichia coli* O121 outbreak associated with cake mix has sickened at least 16 people in 12 states.

So far, all of the identified patients are female, and 75% are children younger than 18—a group known to experience more severe *E coli* infections. Seven people have been hospitalized, and one developed hemolytic uremic syndrome, a potentially fatal kidney complication. No deaths have been reported.

Illnesses began on Feb 26, and the most recent illness onset was Jun 21. Affected states are spread throughout the United States, with Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, and Ohio each reporting two cases. The following states reported a single case: Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, and Washington.

The CDC added that the true number of sick people is likely much higher than what has been reported, given that many people may have recovered and weren't likely tested for *E coli*.

Of eight people interviewed about the foods they ate, six said they tasted or ate raw batter made from a cake mix. No specific brand or type has been identified, though the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is conducting a traceback investigation to assess if a common source is involved.

The CDC has said eating raw cake batter poses foodborne disease risks, which can be reduced by baking and cooking. In 2016, a complex investigation identified flour processed from one facility as the source of *E coli* O121 in an outbreak that sickened 56 people from 24 states.

**Jul 28 CDC outbreak [announcement](#)**

**Nov 22, 2017, CIDRAP News story "[Report details unlikely culprit of E coli outbreak: flour](#)"**

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**In other *E coli* developments**, Greater Omaha Packing, based in Nebraska, has recalled nearly 300,000 pounds of raw beef intended for nonintact use after routine samples revealed *E coli* O157:H7, according to a statement yesterday from the US Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). The products were sent to processors in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and Nebraska. No illnesses have been reported. **Jul 29 FSIS [statement](#)**

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## **Wildfires Are So Dangerous Now that the National Guard Prepares for Them Like Hurricanes**

(*Defense One*) The growing intensity of wildfire season on the West Coast has forced the National Guard to change the way it prepares aircraft and service members to fight those blazes, the service's top general said Thursday. In short: treat it like a hurricane, and model their approach after state guards across the southeast and Gulf Coast, who are used to back-to-back disasters, Chief of the National Guard Bureau Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson told reporters at the Pentagon on Thursday. < [Read more](#) >

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## **2021 Central Kentucky Pediatric Care Symposium – September 28**

The Fourth Central Kentucky Pediatric Care Symposium will be held on September 28 in Campbellsville. Speakers will present the latest information that allows medical personnel to provide outstanding care to the youngest patients.

There are 6.0 Hours of continuing education credit available for the Symposium.

- [Agenda and Speakers](#)
- [Registration](#)

The KHEREF 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](mailto:Preparedness@kyha.com) (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.