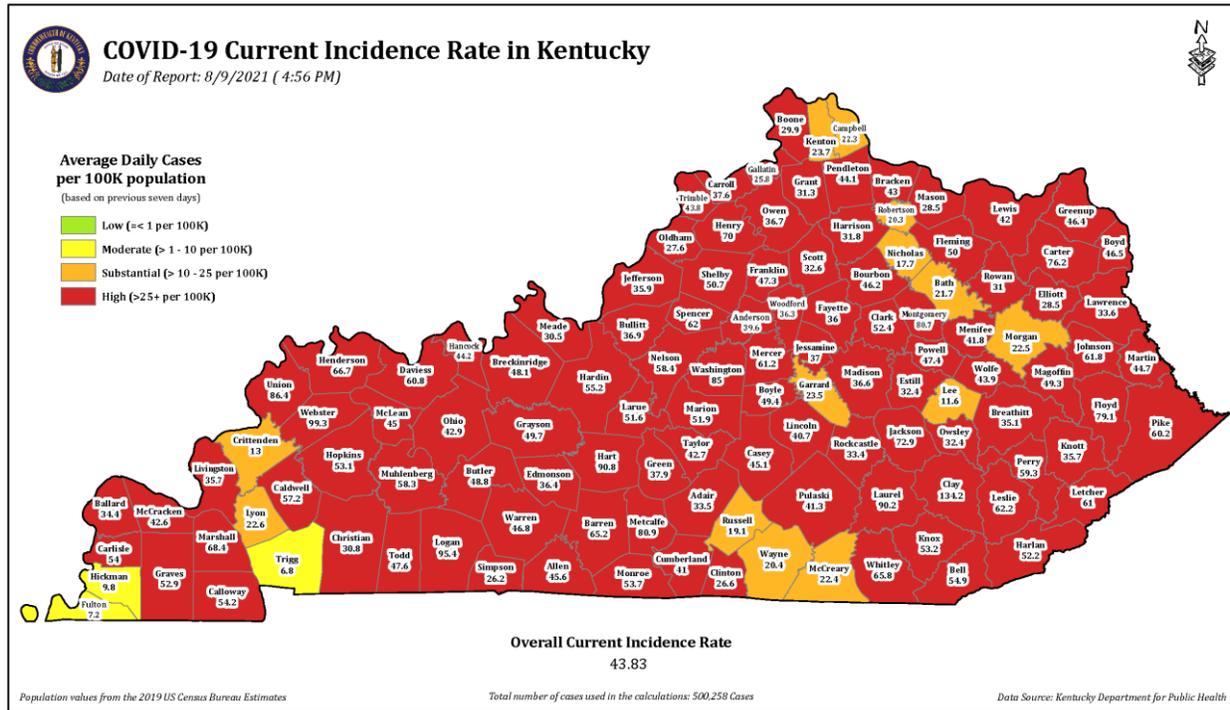




# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 9, 2021



## KY COVID-19 Report for 09AUG21

([Link to Daily Report](#)) There were 1,301 new cases reported today, with a positivity rate of 10.78%. 269 of the new cases were 18 and under. There were seven new deaths, two of which were 18 and under. 1,139 of the COVID-19 cases are hospitalized, with 331 in an ICU, and 158 on vents.

Statewide, 65.4% of the hospital beds are occupied, with 63.4% of the ICU beds occupied. Region 10 in Southcentral KY (Adair, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, McCreary, Pulaski, Russell, Taylor, and Wayne counties) have 91.11% of their ICU capacity and 22.73% of their ventilators in use.

Link to KYCOVID19.ky.gov: <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

### All of Kentucky's public colleges, universities will require masks

Story link: <https://www.wkvt.com/app/2021/08/06/all-kentuckys-public-colleges-universities-will-require-masks/>

### MedPage Today Roundup

#### 'All the Beds Are Taken'; COVID Baby Airlifted 150 miles in Texas

"All the beds are taken up by COVID victims also getting ECMO," said Floridian Susan Walker, who is [anxiously searching for a hospital](#) where her unvaccinated husband can receive the extracorporeal life support for his severe COVID-19. (CNN)

As cases soar and ICU beds fill in Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott (R) is [facing heat for banning mitigation efforts](#) like masking requirements and vaccine mandates. (New York Times)

A [baby with COVID was airlifted out of Houston and flown 150 miles away](#) due to a shortage of pediatric bed space in hospitals there. (ABC13)

As of Monday at 8:00 a.m. EDT, the [unofficial COVID-19 toll](#) was 35,765,233 cases and 616,829 deaths, increases of 760,641 cases and 3,601 deaths versus a week ago.

Kids with mild or asymptomatic infections [can get long COVID](#), and the ripple effects can trigger a "downward spiral," said one doctor. (New York Times)

Full MedPage Today Roundup: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/93952>

**Related CNN story - US average of daily Covid-19 cases hits highest level since February Fueled by the Delta variant**

**Fauci is hopeful Covid vaccines will get full approval by the FDA within weeks**

(CNBC) The U.S. government's top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said Sunday that he was hopeful the Food and Drug Administration will give full approval to the coronavirus vaccine by month's end and predicted the potential move will spur a wave of vaccine mandates in the private sector as well as schools and universities.

The FDA has only granted emergency-use approval of the [Pfizer](#), [Moderna](#) and [Johnson & Johnson](#) vaccines, but the agency is expected to soon give full approval to Pfizer.

Fauci, who is President [Joe Biden's](#) chief medical adviser, said "mandates at the local level need to be done" to help curb the spread of the virus. Fauci's comments come as the Biden administration is weighing what levers it can push to encourage more unvaccinated Americans to get their shots as the delta variant continues to surge through much of the United States.

There's also been pushback. The U.S. Supreme Court last week was asked to block a plan by Indiana University to require students and employees to get vaccinated against Covid-19. It's the first time the high court has been asked to weigh in on a vaccine mandate and comes as some corporations, states and cities are also contemplating or have adopted vaccine requirements for workers or even to dine indoors.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/08/fauci-is-hopeful-covid-vaccines-will-get-full-approval-by-the-fda-within-weeks.html>

**Study: COVID-19: 2 vaccines gives 50-60% protection from Delta variant**

([Business Insider](#)) An English study has found that having two vaccines against COVID-19 protects against the Delta variant by 50-60%. This is slightly lower than once thought, but the scientists leading the study say this is due to the random sample. This study affirms that the vaccine - any approved vaccine - significantly protects from COVID-19.

**What experts are learning about the Lambda coronavirus variant**

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/07/health/lambda-coronavirus-variant-wellness-explainer/index.html>

**Some in US getting COVID-19 boosters without FDA approval**

Learn more in AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-coronavirus-vaccine-fe8e9ebb3b61c7d3ee8ed4225500cb0e>

**Pediatricians urge FDA to move fast on Covid kid vaccine**

Read more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/pediatricians-plead-fda-move-quickly-covid-vaccine-kids-n1276191>

**REMINDER – FEMA & FCC Plan**

**Nationwide Emergency Alert Test on AUGUST 11 @ 2:20 – 2:50 PM ET**

Test messages will be sent to TVs and radios, along with select cell phones that have opted-in to receive test messages. Learn more: <https://www.fema.gov/event/ipaws-national-test>

**Emory University ECHO Program**

**Ebola in the Age of COVID: What EMS Providers Need to Know**

Thursday, August 12, 2021 from 11 AM – 12 PM (EST)

**Register here:** [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_tt3CI2OPTYKiJK7Tzw6Sgw%20](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tt3CI2OPTYKiJK7Tzw6Sgw%20)

Participants may obtain no-cost CME/CNE for this activity.

The activity is pre-approved for EMS CEUs in AL, MD, TN, and KY.

**Virus-Defying Bikers Roar Into Sturgis**

Rally begins, possibly drawing more people taking fewer virus precautions than last year

Sturgis expects about 700,000 visitors this year!

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s309551>

**CDC HAN Alert 00444:**

**New Case Identified: Multistate Investigation of Non-travel Associated *Burkholderia pseudomallei* Infections (Meliodosis) in Four Patients**

Link to HAN 00444: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00444.asp>

## Postal Service Presses Forward With Plan To Slow Mail Delivery

(NPR) Two of the newly confirmed members of the U.S. Postal Service's Board of Governors spoke out Friday against Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's plan to slow delivery of first-class mail. But the board took no steps to stop or even modify the 10-year plan despite the concerns expressed by the board members and regulators.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2021/08/06/1025488630/the-postal-service-presses-forward-with-unpopular-plan-to-slow-some-mail-deliver>

### HEAT ADVISORY NOW IN EFFECT FOR WESTERN KY TO 8 PM CDT THURSDAY

(NWS Paducah) A Heat Advisory means that a period of hot temperatures is expected. The combination of hot temperatures and high humidity will combine to create a situation in which heat illnesses are possible. Drink plenty of fluids...stay in an air-conditioned room...stay out of the sun...and check up on relatives and neighbors. Take extra precautions...if you work or spend time outside. When possible...reschedule strenuous activities to early morning or evening. Know the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Wear light weight and loose fitting clothing when possible and drink plenty of water.

To reduce risk during outdoor work...the occupational safety and health administration recommends scheduling frequent rest breaks in shaded or air conditioned environments. Anyone overcome by heat should be moved to a cool and shaded location. Heat stroke is an emergency call 9 1 1.

### Homeland Security warns of potential conspiracy theory-fueled violence in August

(CNN) The Department of Homeland Security warned state and local authorities Friday about an increase in calls for violence online tied to election-related conspiracy theories, according to a law enforcement source. In an effort to prevent online threats from manifesting in violent acts, DHS issued a public safety notification to reach law enforcement throughout the United States.

"[D]HS is providing awareness of reports regarding an increasing but modest level of activity online calling for violence in response to unsubstantiated claims of fraud related to the 2020 election and the alleged 'reinstatement' of former President Trump," the public safety notification said, according to the source.

The notification was first reported by [ABC News](#).

The warning, which does not contain a specific threat, comes amid a resurgence of false claims about the 2020 election, [pushed in part by Mike Lindell](#), MyPillow CEO and a close ally of former President Donald Trump, who has emerged as one of the most vocal proponents of these conspiracy theories.

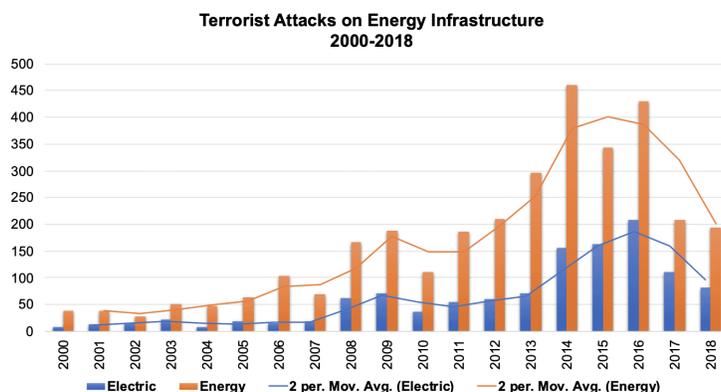
"As public visibility of the narratives increases, we are concerned about more calls to violence. Reporting indicates that the timing of **these activities** may occur during August 2021, although we lack information on specific plots or planned actions," the notification says, according to the source.

Read more on CNN <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/06/politics/homeland-security-warning-political-conspiracy-threat-violence/index.html>

Link to ABC report: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/homeland-security-warns-increasing-moderate-threat-violence-trump/story?id=79324751>

### How Terrorists Could Proceed with the Next Physical Attack on Energy Infrastructure

([Homeland Security Today](#)) Power outages across much of Texas and rotating blackouts in California over the past year are reminders of the critical importance of reliable electric power.



Past large-scale outages in the U.S. have resulted in loss of life, serious injury, social unrest, and economic impacts in the billions of dollars. The 2003 Northeast and 1977 New York blackouts are examples of consequences on this scale. What about intentional attacks on critical infrastructure? Could a malicious attack of the power grid lead to these types of catastrophic consequences? Are threat actors even motivated to conduct physical attacks against electric infrastructure (EI)? If so, can the experts quantify that threat and possibly predict which actors are most likely to conduct such

attacks? I spent five years exploring these questions, which ultimately led to the completion of my doctoral dissertation at the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California.

The article ([click link](#)) summarizes a portion of what was uncovered during the author's journey.

**[State ranks 14th in childhood trauma; a coalition called Bloom Kentucky has formed to seek statewide policies to change that](#)**

-----  
*Climate Change News*

**Scientists Warn of 'Scary' Collapse of Ocean Current**

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s309488>

-----  
**National Traffic Safety specialist gives heat safety tips**

Source: <https://www.wymt.com/app/2021/08/08/national-traffic-safety-specialist-gives-heat-safety-tips/>

-----  
**Authorities Worried By Rise In Highway Speeding During Pandemic**

The [AP](#) (8/8) reports, "Motorists put the pedal to the metal during the pandemic and police are worried as roads get busy with the final stretch of summer travel." According to the AP, "The latest data shows the number of highway deaths in 2020 was the greatest in more than a decade even though cars and trucks drove fewer miles during the pandemic." The AP adds, "Traffic data indicates the higher death toll was related to higher average speeds in conjunction with more of those on the roads driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol and a slight decline in seatbelt use."

***Related story* - A Baltimore firefighter explained why a 12-year-old who was struck by a car was forced to wait an hour for an ambulance.**

**Story similar to KY and other states:** *overrun with calls; staff shortages; unit shortages.*

Story link: <https://www.foxnews.com/media/baltimore-boy-waits-hour-ambulance-ems-staff-shortages>

-----  
**Ransomware poses threat to vulnerable local governments**

(Washington Post) Ransomware is the invisible threat that's sweeping the nation. President Biden [publicly committed](#) aggressive action on cybersecurity and defending American infrastructure. Recent high-profile attacks left people [panic-buying gas](#) along the East Coast and debilitated [hundreds of institutions](#) around the globe.

But underneath the big attacks, in the metropolitan area surrounding the nation's capital where security is a top priority, local government agencies such as school districts, city halls and police departments are among the most vulnerable to ransomware attacks, experts say. Often strapped with small IT departments, aging computer systems and limited budgets to allocate to cybersecurity, local governments across the country make for ill-equipped and easy targets for cyber criminals.

[Ransomware](#) is not a new threat. For years, hackers have been using methods as simple as phishing emails to steal data, lock computer systems and demand a ransom. It's often paired with a threat of releasing the data online if an agency doesn't comply.

What has changed is public concern surrounding the threat. Attacks, such as one on the [Colonial Pipeline](#) system that prompted a run on gasoline in May, brought new attention to ransomware concerns as many Americans [experienced firsthand](#) the seismic effects of these attacks. Cybersecurity experts have warned for years about the damage such attacks could cause.

Full WP story: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/local-government-ransomware-dc/2021/08/05/048051cc-efc6-11eb-81d2-ffae0f931b8f\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/local-government-ransomware-dc/2021/08/05/048051cc-efc6-11eb-81d2-ffae0f931b8f_story.html)

-----  
**T-Mobile, Verizon, AT&T, and Sprint 2G/3G/4G LTE network shutdown dates**

***The sunset is coming!***

(Phone Arena) It's time to move on, folks! From the 2G and 3G networks of yesteryear, that is, as Verizon, T-Mobile with Sprint, and AT&T have all announced their legacy network shutdown dates, or are sending letters to business customers regarding the 3G and 2G networks sunset.

While it is not exactly clear what will happen to your IoT connections just yet, such as the weather news in your BMW, those who have oldie 3G phones will see them stop working when T-Mobile, Verizon, and AT&T shut their 3G networks down. As for 2G networks, those take much less spectrum to service, and a bunch of gear still uses them, so some carriers are being more generous with their retirement.

Here are the 2G/3G (and even 4G LTE in the case of Sprint) network shutdown dates as customers will be moved to T-Mobile connections on the runup to the complete Sprint network sunset.

***T-Mobile and Sprint 3G/2G/4G LTE network shutdown dates***

- Sprint 3G network shutdown date: January 1, 2022
- Sprint 4G LTE network sunset date: June 30, 2022
- T-Mobile 3G network shutdown date: April 1, 2022 (formerly October 1st, 2021)

- T-Mobile 2G network shutdown date: January 1, 2023

T-Mobile has listed the dates for shutting down Sprint's 3G and 4G LTE networks, and migrating people to modern broadband speed pastures. These are January 1, 2022 for Sprint's 3G network sunset, and June 30, 2022 for the 4G LTE connections, respectively. What it kept mum on, however, was the retirement of its own legacy 2G GSM and 3G UMTS networks, for which only a statement that "*no date has been set*" is currently available on [T-Mobile's support pages](#).

Thanks to [the letters it is sending out to businesses subscribers](#), though, we knew that it plans to shut down its 3G network October 1st, yet a new tip sets the T-Mobile 3G network sunset date to be in April 2022, while the 2G network will most likely last through the end of next year.

#### **Verizon 3G network shutdown date: January 1, 2023**

After December 31st, 2022, says Verizon, if you are a Big Red customer still using a device that is 3G (CDMA) or 4G that does not support HD Voice (Non-VoLTE), the device will no longer make/receive calls, send/receive text messages, or use data services. Until this date, your device will still be able to use these services.

Verizon's 2G network is already sunset but don't worry about its 4G LTE network as this will be around together with [Verizon's 5G coverage](#) years to come, so no need to switch to 5G phones just yet, unless you want some of the perks that come with those.

#### **AT&T 3G network shutdown date and free phone replacement**

- AT&T 3G network sunset: February 1, 2022
- Free phone: AT&T RADIANT Core

AT&T announced February 1, 2022 as its 3G network shutdown date, and warns that the carrier would "*no longer activate phones that don't support HD Voice since they won't be compatible to work on our network when 3G shuts down.*" Same as with Verizon's 3G network shutdown, basically.

As for the all-important question about that AT&T 3G network shutdown free phone replacement that Ma Bell has been offering to subscribers to soothe their sunset pain, it's not really worth it. Granted, the free phone that AT&T offers will be able to hook you up to its modern network but don't expect wonders from a handset called AT&T RADIANT Core that has been a prepaid offer since 2019 and has a 5MP rear camera.

#### **Will my 3G phone stop working when T-Mobile, Verizon, and AT&T shut down their 3G networks**

Unfortunately, yes, for the most part. "*When we shut down the 3G network, there won't be data or voice service for devices that don't have at least have 4G capabilities. This means that while some device features might still work, you won't be able to access our network unless you upgrade to a newer device,*" says AT&T, and that is valid for all 3G phones on all carriers when their respective networks are sunset.

Story source: [https://www.phonearena.com/news/t-mobile-verizon-att-sprint-2g-3g-4g-lte-network-shut-down-date\\_id134159](https://www.phonearena.com/news/t-mobile-verizon-att-sprint-2g-3g-4g-lte-network-shut-down-date_id134159)

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](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.