



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 10, 2021

Kentucky governor orders masks in schools as virus surges

(AP) Masking up in Kentucky schools was mandated by Gov. Andy Beshear on Tuesday as the fast-spreading delta variant causes waves of new coronavirus cases and hospitalizations.

The new executive action requiring indoor mask wearing applies to K-12 Kentucky schools, regardless of vaccination status for COVID-19, the Democratic governor said. The requirement also applies to child care and pre-kindergarten programs across Kentucky, he said.

"We are to the point where we cannot allow our kids to go into these buildings unprotected, unvaccinated and face this delta variant," he said. "We have already seen ... that our kids will not stay in school, they will not get in-person learning. We will have massive quarantines."

Beshear said he wants to avoid what happened last academic year, when schools shifted to distance learning due to the virus. The number of children infected with COVID-19 has risen sharply. Children under age 12 aren't eligible for the coronavirus vaccine. Without requiring masks, those youngsters would be defenseless against the virus, the governor said.

Kentucky Education Commissioner Jason Glass said mask requirements give Kentucky schools the best chance to safely return to full-time, in-person learning this fall

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/health-education-coronavirus-pandemic-kentucky-1847ac4ef8ec24b71aa9efa7b500e968>

Today's numbers: New cases today: 2,500. Positivity Rate: 11.05%. Hospitalizations: 1,251

(A lot more in the **full Governor's Press Release**) <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=914>

WATCH here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OM_YOCjG0oQ

Hospitals run low on nurses as they get swamped with COVID

(AP) The rapidly escalating surge in COVID-19 infections across the U.S. has caused a shortage of nurses and other front-line staff in virus hot spots that can no longer keep up with the flood of unvaccinated patients and are losing workers to burnout and lucrative out-of-state temporary gigs.

Florida, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oregon all have more people hospitalized with COVID-19 than at any other point in the pandemic, and nursing staffs are badly strained.

Miami's Jackson Memorial Health System, Florida's largest medical provider, has been losing nurses to staffing agencies, other hospitals and pandemic burnout, Executive Vice President Julie Staub said. The hospital's CEO says nurses are being lured away to jobs in other states at double and triple the salary.

Staub said system hospitals have started paying retention bonuses to nurses who agree to stay for a set period. To cover shortages, nurses who agree to work extra are getting the typical time-and-a-half for overtime plus \$500 per additional 12-hour shift. Even with that, the hospital sometimes still has to turn to agencies to fill openings. Read more: <https://apnews.com/article/business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-0f32d1233c090f7d73350d474693354b>

Related story - [Arkansas is Down to 8 Open ICU Beds as Hospitals Swell with Covid Patients](#)
(*Washington Post*) A week after saying he regretted banning mask mandates, Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson had grim news Monday: Coronavirus patients were packing into hospitals in record numbers, leaving a mere eight intensive care unit beds free in the state of 3 million people. The Republican governor announced on Twitter that 1,376 coronavirus patients were hospitalized across the state, an increase of 103 people since Sunday. Both figures were records, and Hutchinson called them "very startling numbers." The highly infectious delta variant continues to rip through Arkansas and the rest of the country. The South, with a higher share of its population unvaccinated, has been hit especially hard. Arkansas's spike in hospitalizations comes as vaccinations there lag compared with the rest of the country. Less than 38 percent of Arkansans are fully vaccinated, compared with 50 percent of the United States as a whole, according to a Washington Post analysis.

COVID vaccines to be required for military under new US plan

(AP) Members of the U.S. military will be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine beginning next month under a plan laid out by the Pentagon and endorsed by President Joe Biden. In memos distributed to all troops, top Pentagon leaders said the vaccine is a necessary step to maintain military readiness.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the mid-September deadline could be accelerated if the vaccine receives final FDA approval or infection rates continue to rise.

"I will seek the president's approval to make the vaccines mandatory no later than mid-September, or immediately upon" licensure by the Food and Drug Administration "whichever comes first," Austin said in his memo sent Monday, warning them to prepare for the requirement.

The Pentagon plan provides time for the FDA to give final approval to the Pfizer vaccine, which is expected early next month. Without that formal approval, Austin needs a waiver from Biden to make the shots mandatory, and Biden has already made clear he supports it.

Full story: <https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-5b3826df7a4351eb7c65520b74199c98>

Studies look at clotting, myocarditis tied to COVID-19 vaccines

(CIDRAP) Two studies published by *JAMA Cardiology* today discuss adverse effects associated with COVID-19 vaccines. The [first](#) describes vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia with cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (VITT with CVST) linked to the AstraZeneca/Oxford and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. The [second](#) is a case series looking at 15 adolescents who experienced myocarditis after receiving the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

Despite these risks, both research teams continue to advocate for COVID-19 vaccines as the health risks from the virus are far greater than those linked to the vaccine. For instance, the VITT study researchers say that CVST risk from COVID-19 infection is 60- to 230-fold higher than the risk derived from COVID-19 vaccination.

NIH launches study of third COVID-19 vaccine dose in kidney transplant recipients *Trial will assess antibody response in people who did not respond to two-dose regimen.*

Full NIH report: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-launches-study-third-covid-19-vaccine-dose-kidney-transplant-recipients>

Pandemic has depression, anxiety rising globally among young people, data shows

(UPI) If you think the pandemic hasn't taken a toll on the mental health of young people, ponder these two facts from a new review: one in four are suffering from depression, while one in five are struggling with anxiety. Children tend to thrive when their environment is predictable, and in-person learning allows for more consistent routines and structure, so keeping schools open may protect children from mental health problems.

As the pandemic continues, along with public health safety measures such as school closures and social distancing, clinically significant anxiety and depression symptoms are likely to continue and to increase for youth as well.

Older children had more mental health struggles compared with younger ones, and girls were at greater risk for both depression and anxiety. Mental health difficulties worsened as the pandemic progressed, the findings showed.

Full story: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/08/10/coronavirus-youths-depression-anxiety-rising-globally-study/1411628541635/

Nursing home overhaul bill would boost staffing, oversight

(AP) Responding to the ravages of COVID-19 in nursing homes, senior Democratic senators Tuesday introduced legislation to increase nurse staffing, improve infection control and bolster inspections.

The bill, from a group led by Sens. Ron Wyden of Oregon and Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, is part of a broader overhaul of long-term care just getting started. Separately, President Joe Biden is seeking \$400 billion to [expand home and community based care](#) as an alternative to nursing homes in the giant domestic agenda bill Democrats are pushing in Congress. His COVID relief law [already provided a down payment](#).

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-nursing-homes-17ada1187d0b9078768b8b4e508d54a4>

Fake COVID-19 vaccine cards online worry college officials

Read more: <https://apnews.com/article/business-science-health-education-coronavirus-pandemic-6e00c3d1711bcb752cfc1b70ca9d2b>

Ambulances wait outside hospitals as COVID infections spread

(AP) COVID-19 cases have filled so many Florida hospital beds that ambulance services and fire departments are straining to respond to emergencies.

In St. Petersburg, some patients wait inside ambulances for up to an hour before hospitals can admit them — a process that usually takes about 15 minutes, Pinellas County Administrator Barry Burton said. While ambulances sit outside emergency rooms, they are essentially off the grid.

At no other time during the pandemic have intensive care units seen a percentage of COVID patients as high as in the last two days. Last year around mid-July, the percentage edged to 45% with about 1,400 patients. Officials ramped up beds at hospitals and at their peak reported about 2,500 ICU patients at a time. At the height of last year's summer surge, Florida had about 10,170 COVID-19 hospitalizations overall.

Full AP report: <https://apnews.com/article/business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-f4ae2436d1bca4f7775f211d4222556e>

2021 Kentucky Harm Reduction Summit
Online Live Stream Conference scheduled for August 11/12, 2021

The 2021 Kentucky Harm Reduction Summit will begin tomorrow morning, August 11, 2021. Dr. Stack will provide the Welcome and Opening Remarks at 9:45 A.M. (EDT). The agenda and speaker information can be viewed at <https://www.cecentral.com/live/20752/agenda> If you have not done so, please register at www.cecentral.com/hrs

Also, from approximately 9:00 – 9:30 A.M. (EDT), on both days, we will present a rolling PPTX titled, "**Harm Reduction in Action**" – with photos from our local health departments, syringe service programs, partnering agencies, and Department for Public Health. Address questions to: jamesr.house@ky.gov

REMINDER – FEMA & FCC Nationwide Emergency Alert Test
Wednesday, 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-ational-test>

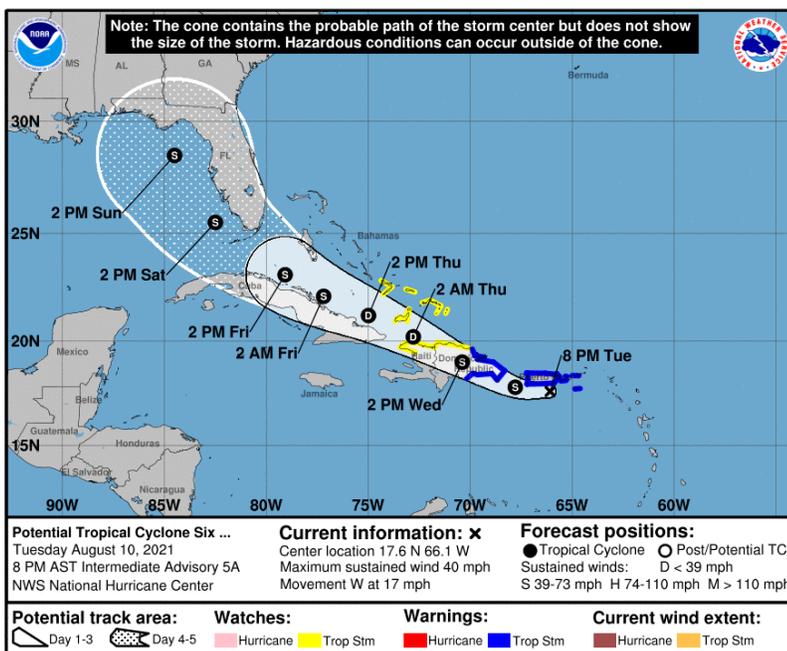
How to opt-in to FEMA's Wireless Emergency Alert test

(WSYX) The process for enabling Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) test alerts varies by device.

For Android devices there are several options. Users can access the device's settings through the Apps button, and then one of four options. See more in the story link below to turn on alerts.

iPhone users will go to SETTINGS, then NOTIFICATIONS, and scroll down to the bottom section titled: "Government Alerts". To receive test messages, iPhone users can open the phone app and dial *5005*25371#. When the user taps the call button, they will get an alert that says "Test Alerts Enabled." Once enabled, the user can click dismiss. iPhone users can turn off the alerts by following the same process and dialing *5005*25370#.

Full story: <https://myfox28columbus.com/news/news-links/how-to-opt-in-to-femas-wireless-emergency-alert-test>



Tropical storm warnings for Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico

(Associated Press, August 10) Islands in the northeastern Caribbean braced Tuesday for the storm that could be Fred. The National Hurricane Center issued tropical storm warnings for the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, where forecasters expected the potential cyclone to strengthen Tuesday into the sixth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season. [<Read more >](#)

USGS Monitoring Fresh Volcanic Activity in 6 Volcanoes Across US

[The United States Geological Survey](#) (USGS) has issued an orange code, a watch warning for three volcanoes, a yellow code and an advisory notice for three volcanoes that they are monitoring around the nation.

The USGS says these six volcanoes are "exhibiting signs of elevated unrest above known background level". The world's most active volcanoes, Mauna Loa, Kilauea both on Hawaii Island, Cleveland in Alaska, and Pagan north of Mexico, are the other three with a yellow advisory level of alert.

The USGS monitors 169 potentially active volcanoes in the United States, with most of them located in Alaska. Here, there are over 130 active volcanoes and volcanic fields, existing since 2 million years ago. Since the mid-1700s, 50 have been volcanically active, and Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) examines them as well.

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), there are around 1,500 potentially active volcanoes worldwide, with 500 erupting in historical periods. The majority of the world's volcanoes are found around the Pacific's Rim "Ring of Fire." The Ring of Fire is an area on the Pacific Ocean's rim that has faced a lot of volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Tectonic Plates cause lithospheric plates under and around the Pacific Ocean to move, clash, and/or be destroyed, resulting in the seismic activity known as the Ring of Fire.

Full story: <https://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/47015/20210809/usgs-volcanic-activity-us-volcanoes.htm>

U.S. Signals It Will Release Some Still-Secret Files on Saudi Arabia and 9/11

(The New York Times, August 9) The Biden administration, under pressure from families of victims of the Sept. 11 attacks, said on Monday that it intended to disclose some long-classified documents that the families think could detail connections between the government of Saudi Arabia and the hijackers who carried out the attacks. In a court filing in long-running litigation brought by the victims' families against Saudi Arabia, the Justice Department said that the F.B.I. "recently" closed a portion of its investigation into the terrorist attacks and was beginning a review of documents that it had previously said must remain secret with an eye toward disclosing more of them. [<Read more >](#)

Millions of home Wi-Fi routers under attack by botnet malware — what you need to know

Millions of home Wi-Fi routers are under attack by botnet malware, just a week after a researcher put up a blog post showing how to exploit a vulnerability in the routers' firmware.

The researcher, [Evan Grant](#), isn't entirely at fault for this. He's the one who found the flaw (catalog number [CVE-2021-20090](#)) back in January, after he took apart a Buffalo-branded router sold in Japan. A patch fixing the firmware flaw was released by Buffalo in April, after Tenable, the firm Grant works for, informed Buffalo.

- [Your Wi-Fi router may tell everyone where you live — what you can do](#)
- The [best Wi-Fi routers](#) you can buy
- **Plus:** [How to watch Brooklyn Nine-Nine season 8 online](#)

The problem is that at least 36 other models of routers distributed by 20 different companies have identical or very similar flaws, and firmware patches may not be available yet for all of them. Few people even know that you need to update your router's firmware just as you need to update your computer or phone.

Some of these routers may be rented to customers by internet service providers (ISPs). If so, then the ISPs will be responsible for the firmware updates.

Read more: <https://www.tomsguide.com/news/arcadyan-router-malware>

CERT Train-the-Trainer course now available online

The Emergency Management Institute will deliver 2 virtually facilitated offerings of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer (K0428) in August and September.

The audience for the course is CERT Basic Training course managers and instructors. Students must have a [FEMA Student Identification number](#), a computer with microphone and speaker, and stable access to the internet.

The total course length is 24 hours over 2 weeks, with 4 hours of self-study. Course dates are:

- **Offering #1:** Aug. 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 (2-6 p.m. EDT)
- **Offering#2:** Sept. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 (Noon – 4 p.m. EDT)

To apply, you must have:

- ✓ A referral from a CERT-sponsoring agency, typically a local, regional or state government agency.
- ✓ AND Completed the CERT Basic Training (if you are not a first responder)
- ✓ OR Completed [IS-317: Introduction to CERT](#) (if you are a current first responder). This course will familiarize you with the CERT Program.

Use the [National Emergency Training Center Online Admissions Application](#) to apply.

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.