



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 12, 2021

### 2,961 new COVID cases reported in Kentucky, positivity rate 11.22%

([KY COVID-19 Daily Report](#)) On Wednesday, there were 2,961 new cases, with 611 of those 18 and under. There were 14 new deaths, for a total of 7,408. Jefferson has 12% of the new cases (355), followed by Fayette (175), Hardin (110), Davies (101), and Warren (99).

1,327 are hospitalized, with **363** in an ICU and 169 on a vent. Region 8 (far eastern KY) has 89.71% of its ICU capacity in use, with Region 10 (Southcentral KY) close behind at 88.89%.

### UK begins trial studying COVID-19 booster shots

(WLEX18) The University of Kentucky is among twenty sites chosen nationwide to conduct trials for a Johnson and Johnson booster shot. The Phase Two trial looks to discover the efficacy of giving the J&J vaccine as a booster shot and what side effects, if any, may arise from that. Trial participants will be given a randomized dose of the J&J vaccine. No placebos will be used in the study.

Full story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/uk-begins-trial-studying-covid-19-booster-shots>

### Paducah mayor issues state of emergency Order requires masks in city office buildings

Story: [https://www.wpsdlocal6.com/coronavirus\\_news/paducah-mayor-issues-state-of-emergency-order-requiring-masks-in-city-office-buildings/article\\_d9772aa6-fa41-11eb-a6ba-ffb6ce7ae6ab.html](https://www.wpsdlocal6.com/coronavirus_news/paducah-mayor-issues-state-of-emergency-order-requiring-masks-in-city-office-buildings/article_d9772aa6-fa41-11eb-a6ba-ffb6ce7ae6ab.html)

### Florida hospitals request hundreds of ventilators for COVID surge

(Yahoo News) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services confirmed Wednesday that it was sending 200 ventilators and 100 nasal breathing machines to Florida, where more than 10,000 people are hospitalized with coronavirus-related illnesses.

On Tuesday the Florida Hospital Association reported that the state's hospitals were now treating 14,787 coronavirus patients; that number represents 145 percent of the previous peak, reached during last summer's surge. Nearly 90 percent of the state's intensive care unit beds are occupied.

Full story: <https://news.yahoo.com/yes-florida-hospitals-did-request-hundreds-of-ventilators-for-covid-surge-181401370.html>

### KY Board of Education considering statewide mask mandate for schools

(WLEX18) The Kentucky Board of Education will hold a special meeting today where the board will consider implementing a statewide mask mandate for the state's public schools. The mandate would last for 270 days, surpassing the Governor's 30-day executive order.

The meeting agenda was posted online Wednesday evening. The board noted the regulation as necessary "to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Kentucky public schools and prevent public school closures during the 2021-22 school year due to COVID-19."

Full report: <https://www.lex18.com/news/back-to-school/kentucky-board-of-education-will-consider-statewide-mask-mandate-for-public-schools-up-to-270-days>

### Some nurses are joining anti-vaccine-mandate protests. Here's how that could cause issues

(NBC) A few hundred protesters lined the sidewalk Monday outside Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego to rally against California's impending vaccination mandates for health care workers. And to the disappointment of many medical professionals, some of the protesters were nurses wearing hospital scrubs. It was the kind of protest that was common earlier in the pandemic but lost steam this year as restrictions eased. But a resurgent coronavirus and sluggish vaccine uptake have led to a push for vaccination mandates and masking rules — and renewed protests.

As part of a sweeping set of mandates across the state, California's Public Health Department [has required](#) its more than 2 million health care workers in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and doctor's offices to be fully vaccinated against Covid by Sept. 30.

While more than 96 percent of practicing doctors in the U.S. have been fully vaccinated, [according to an American Medical Association survey](#), some other health care workers are more hesitant. One in 4 hospital workers with direct contact with patients had not received a single dose of a Covid vaccine by the end of May, [according to a WebMD and Medscape Medical News](#) estimate using data collected by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Some health care workers are going online to evade the impending mandates. In HealthCare Workers for Freedom, a new, separate private Facebook group with 3,000 members, self-identified health care workers offer support and trade tips for filing requests for religious exemptions and contacts for lawyers who would represent vaccine refusers. The group was buzzing Wednesday morning about a proposed walkout to protest the mandates, although some members expressed hesitation. "I hope no one is abandoning patients to walk out," a member posted.

Read more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/social-media/vaccine-mandates-spread-protests-follow-spurred-nurses-rcna1654>

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**More Than 1M Americans Have Wrangled a 3rd Dose**

Read more: <http://newser.com/s309717>

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**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines**

Extracts from [August 10, August 11, 2021](#)

**[The CDC Said The Delta Variant Is As Contagious As Chickenpox. That's Not Accurate](#)** (NPR) In a leaked report, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention made a surprising claim about the delta variant of the coronavirus: It "is as transmissible as: - Chicken Pox," the agency wrote in a slideshow presentation leaked to The Washington Post on July 26. Chickenpox is one of the most contagious viruses known. Each individual can spread the virus to as many as "90% of the people close to that person," the CDC reports. Is the delta variant that contagious as well? The short answer is no, says evolutionary biologist and biostatistician Tom Wenseleers at the University of Leuven in Belgium.

**[They Worry the Johnson & Johnson Shot Isn't Enough. A New Study Offers Answers — and Questions.](#)**

(Washington Post) Riley is among the more than 13 million Americans who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, some of whom now question how well it will protect them against the delta variant of the coronavirus. She and others who fret about their one dose have reasonable concerns, given earlier data and a rocky rollout.

**[A Snort or a Jab? Scientists Debate Potential Benefits of Intranasal Covid-19 Vaccines](#)** (STAT News)

Vaccines that are injected into arm muscles aren't likely to be able to protect our nasal passages from marauding SARS-CoV-2 viruses for very long, even if they are doing a terrific job protecting lungs from the virus. If we want vaccines that protect our upper respiratory tracts, we may need products that are administered in the nose — intranasal vaccines. Can they be made? Probably. Will they do what we want them to do, if they are made? Possibly. Is there still room for this type of next-generation product, given the record number of Covid vaccines that have already been put into use? Potentially. Will it be difficult to get them through development? Likely.

**[AAP Releases Interim Guidance on Preventing RSV During Delayed Season](#)** (AAP) An atypical summer spike in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) has prompted the AAP to recommend clinicians consider using palivizumab for high-risk infants in affected areas. "We are seeing this unusual RSV activity," said Mary T. Caserta, M.D., FAAP, a member of the AAP Committee on Infectious Diseases who led creation of the interim guidance. "Because of this change, the Academy supports the use of palivizumab in regions having a significant number of cases, similar to a typical winter season."

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**Louisville Health department finds mosquitos carrying West Nile virus in 4 Louisville zip codes**

Learn more: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/health-department-finds-mosquitos-carrying-west-nile-virus-in-4-louisville-zip-codes/article\\_aa166c68-fabe-11eb-8cd2-5f2a48ada551.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/health-department-finds-mosquitos-carrying-west-nile-virus-in-4-louisville-zip-codes/article_aa166c68-fabe-11eb-8cd2-5f2a48ada551.html)

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**Lightweight respirator on the way for wildland firefighters**

(US Fire Admin) The Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate is working with its partners to design and test a respirator that meets the specific needs of wildland firefighters. This new respirator system is chest-mounted, uses an electric blower, relies on filtration and weighs less than 1.5 pounds. Learn more: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/blog/ig-080521.html>

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**Washington, DC Advocates, Officials Seeking Policing Overhaul Face Hurdles After Spike In Violence**

(From IACP "[The Lead](#)") The [Washington Post](#) (8/9, Silverman, Brice-Saddler, Hermann, Rosenzweig-Ziff) reports that in Washington, DC, "At a marathon news conference last month to announce an arrest in the fatal shooting of a 6-year-old girl, D.C.'s mayor and police chief talked tough," but "the next day, lawmakers pushing for a smaller, more accountable police force struck a markedly different tone, questioning the need to enlarge the force," saying that "the daily drumbeat of shootings calls for swifter adoption of packages to combat crime as a public health challenge." The Post adds, "In weighing how to keep residents safe, the full D.C. Council ended up with a compromise that left advocates of both approaches dissatisfied. In the District and other places

nationwide, the push to overhaul public safety – seeking more accountability for police and alternatives to policing and jail to stop crime – is hitting new pushback from those who argue robust policing is needed to combat spikes in gun violence.”

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**US Prisons Consider Artificial Intelligence to Analyze Inmate Phone Calls**

(From IACP “[The Lead](#)”) [Reuters](#) (8/9, Sherfinski, Asher-Schapiro) reports, “For people like Heather Bollin, a 43-year-old woman in Texas engaged to a man who is currently incarcerated, constant surveillance is a fact of life: the three daily phone calls they have together are subject to monitoring by prison officials. ‘We are never able to communicate without being under surveillance,’ she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a phone interview, asking that the prison her fiance is in remain anonymous because she fears retaliation.” Reuters adds, “Prisons in the United States could get more high-tech help keeping tabs on what inmates are saying, after a key House of Representatives panel pressed for a report to study the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to analyze prisoners’ phone calls,” but “prisoners’ advocates and inmates’ families say relying on AI to interpret communications opens up the system to mistakes, misunderstandings and racial bias.”

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**Did you get a text from FEMA Wednesday during its Emergency Alert test?**

*Only devices that opted in received the test alert.*

(NewsBreak) The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conducted its regular tests of its emergency alert systems Wednesday, including a test of Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), for just the second time ever. As part of the test, many were expecting emergency alert texts Wednesday, but most people didn't get anything.

The test began at 2:20 p.m. ET, with television channels and radio stations interrupting programming with the noises and messages many are familiar with. For the WEA test, those who did get alerted were shot a text message reading, "THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed."

If you didn't get that text message, you're not alone. Only devices that opted into the program received the test alerts. To get the real emergency alerts, FEMA says users do not have to opt in. If you didn't receive an alert Wednesday, and want to opt in, FEMA has easy step-by-step instructions depending on your phone's operating system. Click the link to get directions: <https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/nation-world/fema-emergency-alert-system-test-text/507-4a736fac-2bc4-4214-96ba-08ecbd451243>

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**DoJ has “grave concerns” on T-Mobile’s CDMA shutdown schedule  
Shutdown could impact Boost Network owned by DISH.**

Learn more: <https://www.tmonews.com/2021/08/doj-grave-concerns-t-mobiles-cdma-shutdown-schedule/>

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**'Ticking time bomb': PFAS chemicals in water alarm scientists over health risks  
EPA under pressure to regulate PFAS, found in the water of nearly 2,800 cities.**

(ABC) A [family of colorless and](#) tasteless man-made chemicals -- largely unregulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency -- has become a growing concern for drinking water safety in thousands of American communities, as scientists increasingly see links to liver damage, high cholesterol, weakened immune systems and cancer.

"They basically fulfill the characteristics of a ticking time bomb," said Dr. Bo Guo, a University of Arizona hydrologist and expert on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or [PFAS](#), which are commonly used in hundreds of consumer products and in firefighting foams, a top source of PFAS contamination.

Learn more: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/ticking-time-bomb-pfas-chemicals-drinking-water-alarm/story?id=79300094>

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Global Resilience Council Webinar  
**GreenGrid Security III - Building it green to stay green - Whose job is it?**

Third webinar on August 25, 11 EDT, in the GreenGrid Series

Register: <https://grcom.eiscouncil.org/the-greengrid-security-series-iii/>

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.