



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 13, 2021

FDA Authorizes Third COVID-19 Dose For People With Weakened Immunity

(NPR) The Food and Drug Administration is authorizing an additional dose of a COVID-19 vaccine for certain people with weakened immune systems caused either by disease, medical treatments or organ transplants. The move comes after studies have shown these people may not have sufficient immunity to head off the more serious complications of COVID-19 after the standard vaccine regimen.

Late Thursday night, [the FDA amended the emergency use authorizations](#) for both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines to allow for an additional dose for certain immunocompromised people, specifically, solid organ transplant recipients or those who are diagnosed with conditions that are considered to have an equivalent level of immunocompromise. The CDC estimates the population to be less than three percent of adults. Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2021/08/13/1027296490/fda-authorizes-third-covid-dose-immunocompromised>

KY COVID Update for August 12, 2021

([KY Daily Report](#)) There were 2,713 new cases reported yesterday afternoon, with 606 of those 18 and under. The positivity rate was 11.57%. 1,371 COVID-19 cases are hospitalized, with 357 in the ICU, and 169 on a ventilator. Region 8 (far eastern KY), and Region 10 (southcentral KY), continue to have ICU capacity in use over 80%. 10 is at 86.67%, and 8 is at 81.62%. The next highest are Regions 1 (far western KY at 75.49%) and Region 5 (Bluegrass region) at 72.84%. There were 6 new deaths recorded, bringing the total to 7,414.

These 8 states make up half of US Covid-19 hospitalizations

The surge among the unvaccinated is overwhelming healthcare workers

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/13/health/us-coronavirus-friday/index.html>

Related story #1 – [Field hospital opens in parking garage as Mississippi hospitals see 'skyrocketing' crush of COVID patients](#)
[Mississippi officials are reopening a surge facility amidst rising COVID cases.](#)

Relates story #2 - [Hospitals in Oregon buckling under surge of COVID patients](#)

Related story #3 - [Texas Hospitals Are Already Overloaded. Doctors Are 'Frightened by What Is Coming.'](#)

Related story #4 - [More children are being admitted to hospitals with Covid-19 as health systems struggle](#)

Kentucky doctors share 'alarming' COVID-19 trend among kids

(WAVE3) During his weekly Team Kentucky briefing, Governor Andy Beshear focused on the battle against the Delta variant of COVID-19. Not only is it infecting people at a high rate, but he said it has put more children in the intensive care unit than ever before.

Lexington's Kentucky Children's Hospital has treated 10 children with severe COVID-19, four of those have been admitted in the past two weeks, and two others in the last two days. Although 10 pediatric patients may not seem like much, doctors said each of those children were in critical care which required IV treatments or ventilators.

As of Thursday, Norton Children's Hospital in Louisville is treating six pediatric patients with COVID-19, which is a slight increase from last week. Baptist Health Louisville and Baptist Health La Grange emergency departments have each treated at least one child with COVID-19.

Not only are more children being admitted to the hospital because of the virus, more have become asymptomatic carriers. Dr. Sean McTigue, Kentucky Children's Hospital Medical Director for Pediatric Infection Prevention & Control, said the upward trend is alarming because until a COVID vaccine becomes available to children younger than 12, the virus will continue to spread among pediatric patients. Now, they're finding the virus can cause long-term side effects, or lead to related illnesses.

Full story: <https://www.wave3.com/app/2021/08/12/kentucky-doctors-share-alarming-trend-covid-19-among-children/>

WATCH the Team KY Briefing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2FS96bY76w>

Governor's Press Release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prid=918>

Norton workers protest hospital's looming vaccine mandate

Story link: <https://www.wave3.com/app/2021/08/11/norton-workers-protest-hospitals-looming-vaccine-mandate/>

Nearly 300,000 More Federal Health Workers Are Ordered To Be Vaccinated

(NPR) The federal government is dramatically expanding the number of its workers that will be required to be vaccinated for COVID-19.

More than 25,000 employees of the Health and Human Services Department will be required to get a COVID-19 vaccine and the Department of Veterans Affairs is [expanding](#) its vaccine requirement to more employees, contractors and volunteers, the agencies announced.

VA Secretary Denis McDonough told *CBS This Morning* that the updated mandate at his agency [will affect 245,000 employees](#), in addition to 115,000 previously ordered to be vaccinated.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/08/12/1027075086/covid-vaccine-hhs-va-federal-health-workers-vaccination-mandate>

Lexington hospitals change visitor restrictions due to rising COVID-19 cases

(WKYT) [Earlier this month, Baptist Health Lexington](#) put new visitor restrictions in place because of the rise in COVID-19 numbers. Over the next few days, the other major hospitals in Lexington will join them.

A release from [UK HealthCare said their new policy](#), which starts Friday, includes Chandler Hospital, Kentucky Children's Hospital and most of their other buildings.

Basically, it allows one visitor at a time for patients 18 or older who are non-Covid patients. Children are allowed one or two parent or legal guardians. Some areas, like the emergency room and surgery waiting area, do allow two visitors

On August 2, Baptist Health took their visitor restrictions back to what they were during the height of the pandemic. That meant only one family member or support person for inpatients, no one under the age of 18 allowed to visit, and no visitors for COVID-19 patients.

We've also heard from Saint Joseph health regarding updates their policies that start on Monday. They're also cutting down to one visitor for most patients and no visitors for people in the hospital with COVID-19.

UK HealthCare told us from beginning of the pandemic they've admitted 10 total children. Four of those cases have been within the past two weeks.

Full story: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/08/12/lexington-hospitals-change-visitor-restrictions-due-rising-covid-19-cases/>

WLEX on UK HealthCare Restrictions: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/uk-healthcare-announces-more-restrictive-visitor-policy-due-to-covid-19-surge>

KY Board of Education implements mask mandate Emergency regulation in place for up to 270 days

Story: <https://www.wave3.com/app/2021/08/12/ky-board-education-votes-implement-its-own-mask-mandate/>

Related story - Nation's largest teachers union (NEA) backs vaccine mandates

Full story: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/08/12/teachers-union-aft-punts-on-vaccine-mandates-504164>

How COVID pandemic changed methadone treatment for addiction

(AP) Last spring, with coronavirus shutting down the nation, the government told methadone clinics they could allow stable patients to take their medicine at home unsupervised. Early research shows it didn't lead to surges of methadone overdoses or illegal sales. And the phone counseling that went along with take-home doses worked better for some people, helping them stay in recovery and get on with their lives. U.S. health officials are studying the changes, their impact and how they might be continued.

Read more: <https://apnews.com/article/science-health-pandemics-coronavirus-pandemic-c36442b3fe8f2074e2fe3907d11ca579>

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_tt3CI2OPTYKJK7Tzw6Sgw%20

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203 cases of COVID-19 linked to Chicago's Lollapalooza

(AP) Chicago health officials on Thursday reported 203 cases of COVID-19 connected to Lollapalooza, casting it as a number that was anticipated and not yet linked to any hospitalizations or deaths. The four-day music festival, which started two weeks ago, drew about 385,000 people to a lakefront park.

“Nothing unexpected here,” Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Allison Arwady said at a news conference. “No sign of a [‘superspreader event’](#). But clearly with hundreds of thousands of people attending Lollapalooza we would expect to see some cases.”

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/entertainment-music-health-chicago-coronavirus-pandemic-99fd8448a981a47d934eac70aa1e19b0>

NOAA predicts 70% chance of La Nina winter

(NEXSTAR) – It’s looking increasingly likely the U.S. will see a La Nina winter this year. Is that good news or bad news? Well, it’s complicated news.

[As of Thursday](#), NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center says there’s a 70% chance of La Nina returning between November 2021 and January 2022. (We actually had a La Nina winter last year, too. Right now we’re in a “normal state.”) So what does that mean for winter weather?

“It really depends where you are in the United States. It will vary by location,” explains NOAA climate scientist Michelle D’Heureux. “The southern tier during a La Nina is often drier than average during the winter, and that often extends into spring.” That southern tier includes Southern California, the southwestern states, Texas, and the Gulf Coast states through to Florida. For those areas, there’s a 40% chance of below-average precipitation, D’Heureux says.

So La Nina could mean bad news for the southwest, but the opposite is actually true for Northern California and the Pacific Northwest, where La Nina winters tend to bring more precipitation, not less. If that happens, there could be consequences for the Midwest and parts of the South later in the winter, specifically Ohio and the Tennessee Valley.

D’Heureux says to think of the atmospheric river as a body of water, but in the sky. “It’s like throwing a rock into a pond – it skips and has a ripple effect. The atmosphere behaves similarly. There’s waves in the atmosphere. That’s one of the reasons Ohio and Tennessee Valley have these ripples later in the winter.”

Learn more: <https://www.fox44news.com/news/noaa-predicts-70-chance-of-la-nina-winter-heres-what-that-means-where-you-live/>

New Report Shows High Costs of Gun Injuries

Writing for the [Washington Post](#) (8/12), Joe Davidson says that as President Biden’s “choice for the top firearms enforcement position struggles with Senate confirmation and the administration seeks approval of programs to combat America’s shooting splurge,” a new report by the Government Accountability Office “demonstrates the high cost of gun violence.” Davidson says the “breakthrough federal study pegs the cost of firearm injuries at more than \$1 billion annually, with public funding, particularly Medicaid, paying more than 60 percent of that.” Davison says the data provides a “real-world backdrop to the political turmoil surrounding David Chipman, Biden’s pick to lead ATF, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.”

[DHS S&T Seeks Laser Protective Eyewear for Market Survey Analysis](#)

([Press release](#)) The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [Science and Technology Directorate](#) (S&T) released a [request for information](#) on multi-spectrum laser protective eyewear that meets the needs of law enforcement and emergency response agencies. The technologies will be included in a market survey conducted by S&T’s [National Urban Security Technology Laboratory](#) (NUSTL). Interested industry partners have until **5:00 p.m. EDT on September 10, 2021** to submit their products for inclusion.

Laser protective eyewear is used to protect emergency responders from laser pointer attacks during civil unrest, protests and other types of mass gatherings. The market survey will look at glasses, goggles, face shields and protective films that block multiple spectrums of laser light in the green, blue, violet, red and/or near-infrared spectrums.

Gen Z Fall For Internet Scams At Faster Rate Than Millennials, Gen X

[Insider](#) (8/11, Agustin) reports that according a new study by Social Catfish – “an online identity verification service” – teens and young adults “are becoming victims of internet scams at a faster rate than other age groups.” More than “23,000 victims under the age of 21 fell victim to online scams in 2020, up 156% from just over 9,000 in 2017 They represent over \$70 million in total losses in 2020.” Insider says people “ages 18-29 were more likely to be victims of identity theft than those 45 and older.” Insider adds that while younger, “tech savvy generations are generally thought to be safer from scams than older generations” those same generations “are on the internet more and have more social media accounts.”

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 (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.