



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 16, 2021

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Gov. Beshear reports over 2K new COVID-19 cases; positivity rate above 12%

(WKYT) Governor Andy Beshear has provided an update on COVID-19 cases. Governor Beshear reported 2,100 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, bringing the state total to 518,987 cases. The governor says the state is seeing a 12.40% positivity rate. Of Monday's new cases, 548 are in kids 18 or younger. There were nine new COVID-19 related deaths reported on Monday. That brings the state total to 7,451. As of Monday, 1,528 people are hospitalized for COVID-19 related reasons, 429 are in the ICU, and 224 are on ventilators.

Full story: <https://www.wkyt.com/2021/08/16/gov-beshear-reports-over-2k-new-covid-19-cases-positivity-rate-above-12/>

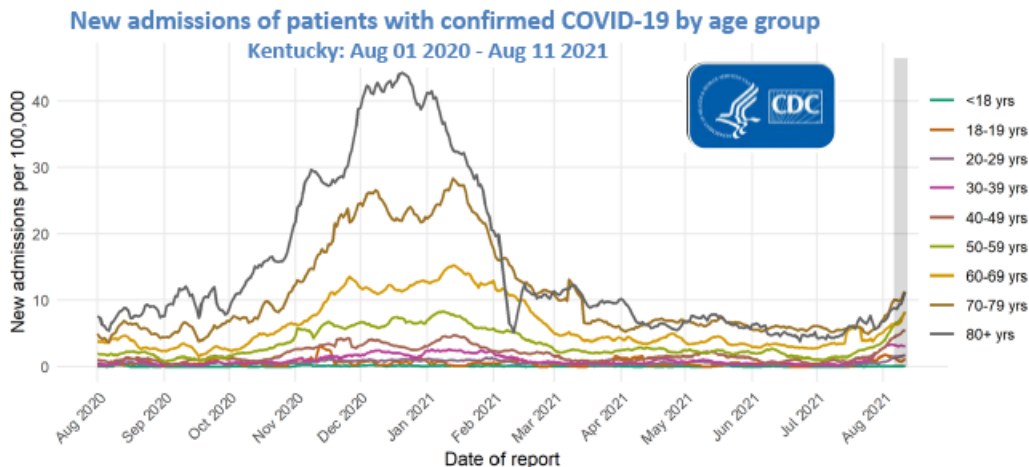
NIH director sees 'no signs' of a Delta peak

(Politico) National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins warned on Sunday the continuing rise of Covid-19 cases propelled by the Delta variant could return the nation to the worst days of the pandemic. "This is going very steeply upward with no signs of having peaked out," Collins said on "Fox News Sunday."

Covid-19 cases have been rising again due to the Delta variant's highly contagious nature. The nation is seeing more than 129,000 new cases a day, which is up more than 700 percent from the beginning of July. Those numbers could leap up to over 200,000 new cases a day, which were levels unheard of since the deadliest months of January and February, Collins said.

Full story: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/08/15/nih-director-no-sign-delta-peak-504750>

Related story - [How do Vaccinated People Spread Delta? What the Science Says](#) (Nature)



Data pulled approx. 12:30 pm EST, Aug 13 2021; Data from Aug 06 2021 - Aug 11 2021 are provisional.

[COVID-19 Hospital Data Update - Source: Unified Hospital Timeseries Dataset](#)

11% of early COVID-19 was acquired in-hospital, study says

See CIDRAP Report: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/08/11-early-covid-19-was-acquired-hospital-study-says>

Hospital in Morehead converts unit into surge COVID ICU

(WYMT/WSAZ) The COVID-19 task force at St. Claire Healthcare has been working behind the scenes to prepare the hospital to handle a spike in COVID-positive patients.

On Sunday, August 15, St. Claire Regional Medical Center's post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) was converted to a Surge COVID ICU. A portion of the COVID-positive patients currently admitted to ICU were transferred to the surge unit to make space for incoming COVID-positive admissions

"Not only are we seeing the number of patients requiring hospitalization surge, these patients are requiring more intense care," said Will Melahn, MD, St. Claire HealthCare's Chief Medical Officer and Vice President for Medical Affairs. "We have reached a point where our existing COVID units are overwhelmed requiring us to implement elements of our COVID surge plan."

Leadership at St. Claire anticipates the number of COVID admissions will continue to rise before the situation improves as the Delta variant continues to spread quickly throughout the region.

Full story: <https://www.wymt.com/2021/08/16/hospital-morehead-converts-unit-into-surge-covid-icu/>

'We are simply breaking': Nurses overwhelmed as COVID cases trend upward

(WAVE/CNN/NBC) - The United States is among the nations with the highest rate of new COVID-19 cases. The rate of new COVID hospitalizations among people in their 30s increased by nearly 300 percent over the past month, according to the CDC.

The number of new US cases this month is more than three times the numbers for Iran and India and health officials are concerned the upward trend will continue. More than 1.5 million new COVID cases so far this month in the US, according to Johns Hopkins University. Eight states account for around 24 percent of the nation's population but about 51 percent of COVID-19 hospitalizations in the US: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada and Texas, according to a CNN analysis of Health and Human Services data.

Story link: <https://www.wave3.com/app/2021/08/15/we-are-simply-breaking-nurses-overwhelmed-covid-cases-trend-upward/>

US mulls COVID vaccine boosters for elderly as early as fall

(AP) — Warning of tough days ahead with surging [COVID-19 infections](#), the director of the National Institutes of Health said Sunday the U.S. could decide in the next couple weeks whether to offer coronavirus booster shots to Americans this fall. Among the first to receive them could be health care workers, nursing home residents and other older Americans.

Dr. Francis Collins also pleaded anew for unvaccinated people to get their shots, calling them “sitting ducks” for a delta variant that is ravaging the country and showing little sign of letting up.

Federal health officials have been actively looking at whether extra shots for the vaccinated may be needed as early as this fall, reviewing case numbers in the U.S. “almost daily” as well as the situation in other countries such as Israel, where preliminary studies suggest the vaccine’s protection against serious illness dropped among those vaccinated in January.

Last week, the Food and Drug Administration said [people with weakened immune systems](#) can get an extra dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines to better protect them as the delta variant continues to surge.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-health-coronavirus-pandemic-341b90f35438f52ccd7ad57ec80cc3ea>

'Naked in the world of COVID'

Some J&J vaccine recipients feel unprotected against delta and want mRNA shots

Learn more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2021/08/15/covid-j-j-vaccine-receivers-want-pfizer-moderna-booster-safe/8109007002/>

Unvaccinated could pay more for health insurance

CBS story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/covid-vaccine-insurance-premiums/>

Several Pandemic Preparedness Bills Under Consideration in U.S. Congress

(*Homeland Preparedness News*) Members of Congress this summer ramped up bipartisan efforts with the introduction of at least eight bills that seek to help the United States prepare for and respond to pandemics and other public health emergencies. Most recently, the Disease X Act, S. 2640, proposed on Aug. 5 by U.S. Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Angus King (I-ME), would establish a program for developing medical countermeasures for unknown viral threats. The bill is under consideration in the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee.

CPAP Recall Puts Sleep Apnea Sufferers in a Scary Position

(Newser) As many as 2 million people in the US use CPAP breathing machines made by Philips that have been recalled—and they're struggling to get the machines fixed or replaced. The company recalled a number of CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) machines as well as BiPAP (bilevel positive airway pressure) machines and ventilators; the FDA has the complete list [here](#) and Philips has it [here](#). Black debris from the polyester-based polyurethane sound abatement foam used in the machines can break down and get into the machines' air pathways, thus potentially being inhaled or swallowed by the user. This can cause serious medical issues; the FDA has classified the recall as a Class I, the most serious class, which means continued use of the devices can lead to serious injuries or death. There have been more than 1,200 complaints about the devices and more than 100 injuries reported.

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/309857/sleep-apnea-sufferers-struggle-to-replace-recalled-cpap-machines.html>

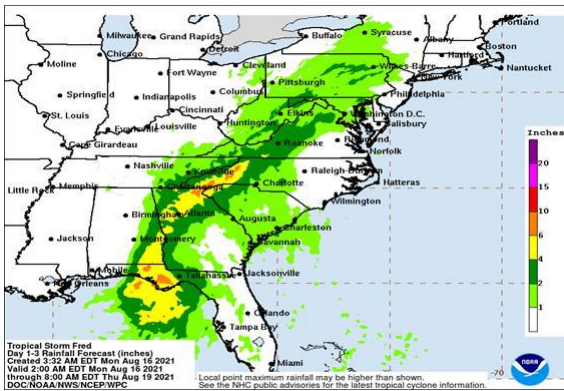
Haiti struggles with physician shortage after major earthquake Death toll now estimated at 1,300

(NY Times) With broken bones and open wounds, the injured jammed into damaged hospitals or headed to the airport, hoping for mercy flights out. A handful of doctors toiled all night in makeshift triage wards. A retired senator used his seven-seat propeller plane to ferry the most urgent patients to emergency care in the capital. A day after a magnitude-7.2 earthquake killed at least 1,300 people and injured thousands in western Haiti, the main airport of the city of Les Cayes was overwhelmed Sunday with people trying to evacuate their loved ones to Port-au-Prince, the capital, about 80 miles to the east.

There wasn't much choice. With just a few dozen doctors available in a region that is home to one million people, the quake aftermath was turning increasingly dire.

"I'm the only surgeon over there," said Dr. Edward Destine, an orthopedic surgeon, waving toward a temporary operating room of corrugated tin set up near the airport in Les Cayes. "I would like to operate on 10 people today, but I just don't have the supplies," he said, listing an urgent need for intravenous drips and even the most basic antibiotics. Full story: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/15/world/americas/haiti-earthquake.html>

KyEM Severe Weather Analysis for this week



A very moist air mass will be in place over the Kentucky this week. This will lead to periods of scattered showers and thunderstorms each afternoon. Some of these showers/storms could produce heavy rain that would lead to localized flooding. Most of Kentucky is under a marginal risk for heavy rain today. Slow moving or repetitive showers and storms could lead to localized rainfall amounts of 1 to 2 inches.

NWS Jackson: Tuesday through Sunday - Thunderstorms will be possible at times, especially during the afternoon and evening hours. In addition, there is a potential for heavy to excessive rains through midweek as moisture from former Tropical Storm Fred lifts into the region.

NWS Charleston is advising that there is a slight risk for

excessive rainfall for Tuesday and Tuesday night, with isolated to scattered flash flooding possible for areas that receive repetitive rounds of heavy rain. See NOAA graphics on Flash Flood Risk over the next three days: https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/refresh/graphics_at1+shtml/092544.shtml?ero#contents

The KHRF 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 KHRF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.



The world's largest cross-sector resilience exercise focused on individual, organizational, and community resilience.

Why Play EEX-21: EARTH-EX is a free exercise opportunity to self-evaluate levels of preparedness and resilience in the face of real-world Black Sky potential disasters. This year's exercise presents two engaging scenarios that everyone in the world faces – uncontrolled fires and extreme flooding events.

In addition to being a great exercise presented in a virtual environment, EEX-21 will provide unique and valuable training materials and webinars that you can take advantage of before, during, and after the exercise.

When is EEX-21: EARTH EX will be **available for play anytime from 1 September through 31 October**. You can play multiple functional areas and lanes during that time.

Who Should Play EEX-21: Everyone – there is an Individual and Family Functional Area that is perfect for everyone to participate. Six additional functional areas support in-depth play for organizations, businesses, and government agencies. Within those six areas, thirty-eight unique lanes address nearly all of the functions that make up the modern, highly interconnected, and interdependent world.

What to Expect: EEX-21 is a dynamic, engaging, and thought-provoking tabletop exercise. EARTH-EX uses state-of-the-art video injects and a modern game-like interface to present the situation, new information and facilitate exercise play through the exercise landscape. Play consists of gathering new information, developing courses of action, and making and refining decisions. Players receive all the essential information for their sector and other sectors that can influence the environment. There are two separate phases, one for fire and one for floods. EARTH EX is flexible and adaptable. Organizations can adjust it to meet their needs.

EARTH EX Themes: Each year, EARTH EX advances one or more of the primary Black Sky (prolonged duration power outage) threats to support preparedness and resilience discussions. This year's themes include developing situational awareness, understanding evacuation decisions, supply chain and resource management impacts, and the critical restoration mission.

EARTH EX Evaluation: EARTH EX is a self-assessed, self-evaluated exercise opportunity. Each person or organization will evaluate their level of play and readiness.

EARTH EX Preparation: EARTH EX is a "Come As You Are" opportunity. Several optional training opportunities are part of the EARTH EX series.

Grants and Certificates: EARTH EX follows HSEEP guidelines and is perfect for meeting EMPG exercise requirements. Everyone that completes the exercise and the survey will receive a certificate of completion.

How to Register: Registration is open now - <https://battlerhythm.net/Registration/registerMKII.html?id=17>

For More Information: Contact us at EARTH EX @EISCOUNCIL.ORG

