



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 18, 2021

## U.S. Adults to Be Offered COVID Booster Shots in September

### *New CDC data showed waning immunity with mRNA vaccines amid rise of Delta strain*

(MedPage Today) The Biden administration announced a plan for U.S. adults who received either Pfizer or Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine to receive booster shots starting in late September.

"Having reviewed the most current data. It is now our clinical judgment that the time to lay out a plan for COVID-19 boosters is now," said Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, MD, MBA, during a briefing of the White House COVID-19 Response Team on Wednesday. "Recent data makes clear that protection against mild and moderate disease has decreased over time."

This decline in protection appears to be due both to waning immunity and to the strength and pervasiveness of the Delta variant, he said.

"Even though this new data affirms that vaccine protection remains high against the worst outcomes of COVID, we are concerned that this pattern of decline we are seeing will continue in the months ahead, which could lead to reduced protection against severe disease, hospitalization, and death," Murthy said.

According to a joint statement from the CDC, FDA, NIH, and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that laid out the details of the administration's plan, the boosters will be offered starting the week of September 20 to U.S. adults who received their second mRNA dose at least 8 months earlier.

Full story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19vaccine/94098>

### **Related story - Global health officials warn against boosters before rest of world vaccinated**

Read full AP story: <https://www.wkyt.com/2021/08/18/global-health-officials-warn-against-boosters-before-rest-world-vaccinated/>

### **KY COVID Update for Wednesday**

(KDPH [Daily Report](#)) There were 3,576 new cases reported today, with 987 in patients 18 or under. The positivity rate is 12.59%. There are 1,658 people hospitalized at this time, with 466 in an ICU, and 229 on a vent. There were 9 new deaths, bringing the total to 7,468.

### **Health departments in southeastern Kentucky becoming overwhelmed with COVID-19 cases**

(WKYT) The increased cases of COVID-19 along with the increased need for people to be vaccinated is creating more work for people who work at local health departments.

"Yesterday we had our highest one-day count since the onset of the pandemic. We had 137 cases," said Mark Hensley with the Laurel County Health Department. And each case means a greater amount of workload for their staff. But it's not all bad news. "We are probably vaccinating 50 to 60 per day in our clinic," Hensley said. "In all honesty, our workers at the local level are overwhelmed," said Christy Green with the Cumberland Valley District Health Department.

Directors say more people testing positive is leading others to want to get vaccinated. Laurel County reported more than 500 new cases last week. Clay County reported just under 300.

Story link: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/08/17/health-departments-southeastern-kentucky-becoming-overwhelmed-with-covid-19-cases/>

### **Pediatric COVID-19 hospital admissions in Kentucky reach record high**

Read more: <https://www.wave3.com/app/2021/08/17/pediatric-covid-19-hospital-admissions-kentucky-reach-record-high/>

### **Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines**

#### **Extracts from [August 18, 2021](#)**

#### **'It's Soul-draining': Health Workers Deployed to Covid Hot Zones are Overwhelmed by Deaths Among the Unvaccinated**

(STAT News) STAT's rare access to a Covid-19 intensive care ward, a glimpse inside a hospital under siege, highlights the devastation being wrought not only on patients, but also on health workers. Throughout two days spent shadowing Ingle and her colleagues — a unit within the National Disaster Medical System, effectively a National Guard for health care and emergency response — it became readily apparent that she and her colleagues had received perhaps their toughest deployment yet.

**CDC Stands Up New Disease Forecasting Center** (CDC) Today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is announcing a new center designed to advance the use of forecasting and outbreak analytics in public health decision making. Once established, the Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics will bring together next-generation public health data, expert disease modelers, public health emergency responders, and high-quality communications, to meet the needs of decision makers.

**The Delta Variant is Putting America's Hospitals Back in Crisis Mode** (*Washington Post*) Doctors say the nationwide outbreak overwhelming hospitals could have been avoided had more people been immunized. In the week ending Tuesday, 46 of the 50 states experienced double-digit growth in covid-19 hospitalizations, according to an analysis by The Washington Post. Eight states, including California and New York, which for most of the summer had not seen many serious cases, added more than 400 new inpatients in that time.

-----  
**Texas Requests 5 Mobile Morgues**

(Newser) Texas has asked the federal government to supply five trailers to serve as morgues with COVID-19 deaths in the state expected to mount. Texas Department of State Health Services spokesman Doug Loveday tells [NBC News](#) that the request was made Aug. 4 as "we are anticipating a need within the state of Texas for these trailers as COVID cases and hospitalizations continue to increase." Another spokesman described the move as a precaution. Five mortuary trailers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency will be based in San Antonio but can be transported to other cities as needed.

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/309937/texas-requests-5-mobile-morgues.html>

-----  
**RSV illness rising for babies during abnormal summer season**

(UPI & HealthDay News) While the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the United States has been dominating the news, an old viral enemy has been making a quieter comeback.

In late spring, U.S. pediatric hospitals began reporting an unexpected rise in serious infections caused by respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV. Unlike COVID-19, RSV is a long-established foe that normally emerges in late fall, peaks in the winter, and nearly disappears by summer.

In June, the CDC warned that pediatric hospitals in the South were seeing an unusual rise in children sickened with RSV. Now, the pattern is showing up in other parts of the United States.

Story: [https://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2021/08/17/RSV-illness-rising-for-babies-during-abnormal-summer-season/8401629208026/](https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/08/17/RSV-illness-rising-for-babies-during-abnormal-summer-season/8401629208026/)

-----  
**Researchers Say a Shot Might Prevent Lyme Disease**

(Newser) – Lyme disease is becoming more and more common. Once a rare affliction found in just a few parts of the US, mainly in the Northeast and Great Lakes, it has now turned up in all 50 states. The ticks that carry it have spread farther south and west. Scientists have tried to think of ways to stop the spread, including killing deer, using pesticide to control ticks, and a vaccine that wasn't popular was voluntarily taken off the market, per [The Conversation](#). But there's hope—a team of infectious disease researchers at the University of Massachusetts medical school has come up with a shot that shows a person's immune system an actual antibody for Lyme disease. Read more: <https://www.newser.com/story/309917/a-shot-to-prevent-lyme-disease-is-in-clinical-trials.html>

-----  
**T-Mobile says hackers steal about 7.8 million postpaid customers' personal data**

(Reuters) T-Mobile US Inc ([TMUS.O](#)) said on Wednesday an investigation into a data breach revealed that personal data, including social security numbers and driver's license information, of more than 40 million former and prospective customers was stolen. The stolen files also included data from 7.8 million existing T-Mobile wireless customers.

Dates of birth, first and last names were also stolen, the telecom services provider said, adding there was no indication of their financial details being compromised.

The company, which had 104.8 million customers as of June, [acknowledged the data breach](#) on Sunday after U.S.-based digital media outlet Vice first reported that a seller had posted on an underground forum offering for sale some private data, including social security numbers from a breach at T-Mobile servers.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/technology/hackers-steal-some-personal-data-about-78-mln-t-mobile-customers-2021-08-18/>

-----  
**Deadly Crashes on Rural Roads Prompt New Safety Efforts**

(From IACP "[The Lead](#)") [USA Today](#) (8/17, Bergal) reports safety advocates are calling for more safety measures for rural roads. More than 16,000 people died in crashes on rural roads in 2019. On the federal level, the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill "would require a study of the issue and launch a new rural road grant program that includes \$300 million for high-risk rural road safety programs." Meanwhile, "States are tackling some work independently." For example, in Illinois "the state's transportation agency agreed to survey and prioritize the most dangerous rural intersections" and "Kansas, Minnesota and South Carolina are spending significant amounts to upgrade safety infrastructure or come up with ways to prevent rural crashes."

-----  
**2021 HCC Conference**  
**September 28-30 in Owensboro, KY**  
**LEARN MORE:** [https://kshe.org/page/2021hcc\\_homepage](https://kshe.org/page/2021hcc_homepage)

## DHS Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office (CWMD)

### Awards \$19.9M Contract to Equip DHS Partners with Radiological and Nuclear Detection Equipment

(DHS) The Department of Homeland Security's Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office (CWMD) awarded a \$19.9M task order to Thermo Eberline LLC under an existing Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contract. The task order funds the procurement of RadEye spectroscopic personal radiation detectors for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The funding also provides CBP and TSA with associated training for the devices.

Personal radiation detectors are pager-size devices worn by operators to provide personal protection and a detection capability against radiological and nuclear threats. These devices continuously monitor the environment to alert the user of a threat when the natural gamma and neutron radiation levels are above normal. They also help locate the source of the detected threat.

Full press release: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHS/bulletins/2ed3efa>

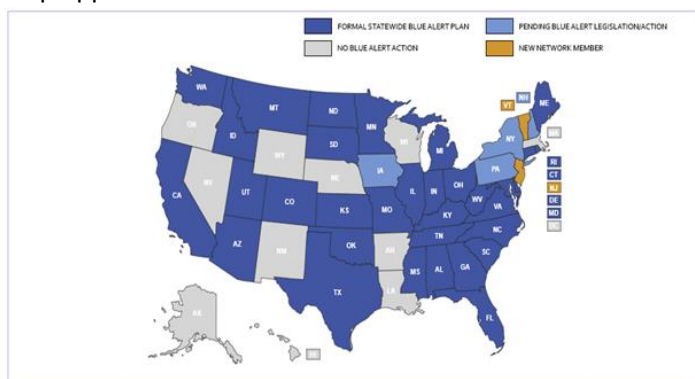
### Critical IoT security camera vulnerability allows attackers to remotely watch live video - and gain access to networks

(ZDNet) Mandiant, CISA and ThroughTek disclose a vulnerability in millions of devices that could let attackers watch live camera feeds, create botnets or use hacked devices as a stepping stone to further attacks. Security vulnerabilities in millions of Internet of Things (IoT) devices, including connected security cameras, smart baby monitors and other digital video recording equipment, could allow cyber attackers to compromise devices remotely, allowing them to watch and listen to live feeds, as well as compromise credentials to prepare the ground for further attacks.

Read more in ZDNet: <https://www.zdnet.com/article/critical-iot-security-camera-vulnerability-allows-attackers-to-remotely-watch-live-video-and-gain-access-to-networks/#ftag=CAD-03-10abf5f>

### Do you know what a "Blue Alert" is?

For more than ten years, many state and local governments have had the ability to use a "blue alert" system of mass notification in order to warn the public of dangerous offenders on the run and to solicit information that can help apprehend them.



In May 2008, [Florida became the first state to implement a Law Enforcement Officer \("LEO"\) Alert system](#). The system was activated whenever an officer was killed or seriously injured in the line of duty; and, if the offender posed a threat to public safety, overhead signage above the state's highways would warn motorists of the threat, together with a description of the vehicle the offender was travelling in.

Over the next seven years, twenty additional states implemented similar "blue alert" systems; and, in 2015, [Congress passed the National Blue Alert Act](#). The Act instructed the Department of Justice

to create a national Blue Alert communication system with the objective of alerting the public to offenders on the run - not only for public safety, but also to help apprehend the offender.

The criteria for qualifying incidents vary from state-to-state, but usually consists of a version of the following:

- When a law enforcement officer is killed or seriously injured.
- When an officer is missing in connection with official duties.
- When there is an imminent and credible threat to kill or seriously injure a law enforcement officer.
- When a law enforcement agency determines the offender poses an imminent threat to the public.
- When a detailed description of the offender and/or their vehicle is available for broadcast.
- When sharing information with the public may avert further harm or help apprehend the offender.

Similar to Amber Alerts for missing children, Silver Alerts for missing senior citizens, and [Ashanti Alerts](#) for missing persons aged between the ages of 18 and 65, Blue Alerts can be transmitted within specific geographic areas rather than county-wide or statewide.

Learn more: <https://www.ravemobilesafety.com/blog/a-timeline-of-blue-alerts-what-they-are-and-how-they-work>

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.