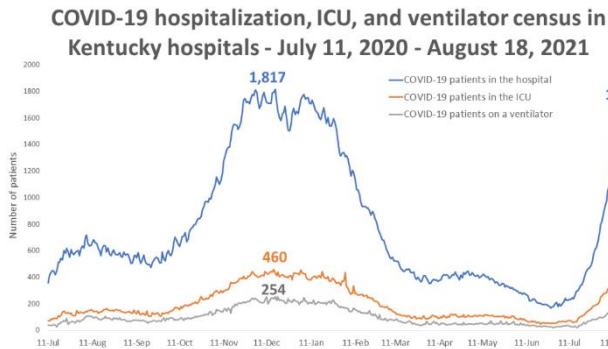




Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 21, 2021

KY Health Care Heroes Appreciation Week starts Sunday

Kentucky continues to see record-breaking numbers in ICUs with 3,869 new COVID cases



(WLEX) Friday, Kentucky reported 3,869 new cases of COVID-19. Intensive Care Units across the Commonwealth see a record-breaking 487 cases. 255 people are on ventilators, breaking the record high of 254 set on December 17, 2020. The positivity rate is 12.80%, 1,780 new hospitalizations and six new deaths. An additional 34 deaths have been reported through an ongoing mortality review of death certificates received after February 1, 2021. For more on Kentucky's daily COVID-19 report click [here](#).

Source: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/kentucky-continues-to-see-record-breaking-numbers-in-ic-us-with-3-869-new-covid-cases>

Related story - Younger people being admitted, recovery longer with Delta variant

(WBKO Bowling Green/WAVE3) As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to fill hospitals at capacity and strain healthcare systems--a Med Center Health doctor says they are now seeing younger patients being admitted who are staying sicker for a longer duration. "Since July 1, almost 50% of our patients admitted with COVID were ages 0-59. Before the current surge that number was 28%," says Med Center ED Director William Moss. "The symptoms are seeming to last a little bit longer than this time, and patients who typically got better at the seven to nine day are still sick. And that's where we're seeing a lot of our admissions at that point," said Dr. Moss. Full story: <https://www.wave3.com/app/2021/08/20/doctor-younger-people-being-admitted-recovery-longer-with-delta-variant/>

There's Been a Date Shift for FDA's Full OK on Pfizer Vax

Labor Day was the initial target. Sources now say full approval could come as soon as Monday.

Read story: <https://www.newser.com/story/310109/theres-been-a-date-shift-for-fdas-full-ok-on-pfizer-vax.html>

MedPage Today COVID-19 Update

With all the talk about COVID booster shots, people who received the [Johnson & Johnson vaccine](#) are asking, "What about us?" (AP)

A look inside the laboratory that started all the talk about [vaccine boosters](#). (NPR)

Some scientists question the evidence behind the Biden administration's support for a [third dose](#). (Reuters)

U.S. health officials are investigating whether Moderna's COVID shot may be associated with a [higher risk for myocarditis](#) in younger adults than previously thought. (Washington Post)

As of 8:00 a.m. EDT, the [unofficial COVID-19 toll in the U.S.](#) included 37,296,811 and 625,183 deaths, increases of 138,502 and 923, respectively, versus the same time Thursday.

Full update: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/94139>

AstraZeneca Says Antibody Combo Can Prevent COVID

Top-line phase III data finds efficacy of therapy as COVID pre-exposure prophylaxis

(MedPage Today) A cocktail of long-acting antibodies administered intramuscularly as COVID-19 prevention cut the risk of developing symptomatic disease in a high-risk unvaccinated patient population, [AstraZeneca announced](#) on Friday.

In top-line data from a phase III trial, AZD7442 (tixagevimab and cilgavimab) as pre-exposure prophylaxis significantly reduced the risk of developing COVID-19 symptoms by 77% (95% CI 46%-90%) versus placebo, meeting the trial's primary endpoint.

Moreover, AstraZeneca noted there were no cases of severe COVID-19 or COVID-19-related deaths in the intervention group compared to three cases of severe COVID-19 and two deaths in the placebo group. There were no safety concerns, as the treatment was well-tolerated and adverse events were balanced between groups, the manufacturer said. Full story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/94140>

Highly Vaccinated Israel Is Seeing A Dramatic Surge In New Cases

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2021/08/20/1029628471/highly-vaccinated-israel-is-seeing-a-dramatic-surge-in-new-covid-cases-heres-why>

Poison control calls spike as people take livestock dewormer to treat COVID-19

(WAVE3/WMC) Jackson, Miss. - The Mississippi State Department of Health sent a health alert Friday warning health care providers about a drug used to deworm livestock that some are using to treat and prevent COVID-19.

According to the alert, the Mississippi Poison Control Center has received several calls related to the ingestion of ivermectin meant for livestock, which is causing illness in COVID-19 patients.

Ivermectin is approved for use in both people and animals, but animal drugs are highly concentrated and can be highly toxic in humans.

According to the health alert:

- No one has been hospitalized due to ingestion of the drug.
- At least 70% of the recent calls have been related to ingestion of livestock or animal formulations of ivermectin purchased at livestock supply centers.
- 85% of the callers had mild symptoms.

Read more: <https://www.wave3.com/app/2021/08/20/poison-control-calls-spike-people-take-livestock-dewormer-treat-covid-19/>

Prevalence of Discrimination, Abuse, and Harassment in Emergency Medicine Residency Training in the US

(JAMA) In this survey study of 7680 emergency medicine residents, 45.1% reported exposure to some type of workplace mistreatment (eg, discrimination, abuse, or harassment) and 2.5% reported having suicidal thoughts during the most recent academic year. The prevalence of workplace mistreatment and suicidal thoughts was similar by gender and race/ethnicity. A frequent source of mistreatment was identified as patients and/or patients' families. Learn more: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2783236>

First Aid for Severe Trauma (FAST) Course Now Available

(DHS Press Release) The [First Aid for Severe Trauma \(FAST™\)](#) training program is now available to organizations and individuals seeking education on handling a life-threatening bleeding emergency. FAST is a [STOP THE BLEED®](#) course funded with grant support from the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and developed by the Uniformed Services University's National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health in collaboration with the American Red Cross.

By adapting first aid techniques from combat for use by civilians, FAST [empowers](#) high school students with the skills and knowledge necessary to save the life of someone experiencing life-threatening bleeding. This education program is an integral part of S&T's overall mission to help the nation prepare for and respond effectively to emergencies.

The American Red Cross is offering [the FAST course and digital materials at no charge to high school students under the age of 19](#). Three learning modalities are available: instructor-led, blended (online didactic session plus in-person, hands-on skills training), and online-only. An in-person skills session is required to finalize a student's training and qualify for a two-year FAST certification.

Students will receive a participation certificate upon completion of the online-only course; full certification is only available for those who do a skills session, which involves practice and a successful test using both direct pressure and a tourniquet on a lifelike replica of a limb.

Organizations can offer FAST via the Red Cross using the [sign-up webform](#) on its [landing page](#) for FAST. FAST Classroom Kits with the materials necessary for the skills training will be available through the [Red Cross Store](#). The FAST program offers three Instructor training options:

The FAST program offers three Instructor training options:

- The Instructor Bridge is for individuals who are current, certified Instructors from the Red Cross or other approved training agencies who have been trained in the use of tourniquets.
- The Instructor Crossover with Skills Session is for individuals who are current, certified Red Cross Instructors or other approved training agencies but have not been trained in the use of tourniquets.
- The full Instructor course is for individuals who are first-time Instructors or do not have credentials as instructors or professional educators.

For more information on S&T's involvement with the FAST program, go to: <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/first-aid-severe-trauma>

Electric vehicle home charging: safety tips

(USFA) Help keep residents in your community safe from fire and electric shock hazards related to charging electric vehicles by sharing these safety tips. Learn about EVs: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/blog/ci-081821.html>

Related story – UL webinar on lithium-ion battery safe response

Story: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/blog/ig-081221-2.html>

CISA releases Public Safety Communications and Cyber Resiliency Toolkit

The ability to maintain voice and data communications is critical for public safety agencies. "Communications resilience" is always a priority. By establishing resiliency measures, public safety communications can better withstand potential disruptions to service.

Many resources are available to assist public safety agencies with communications resilience, but it can be hard to keep up with the abundance of rapidly evolving information. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has addressed this issue with the creation of a [Public Safety Communications and Cyber Resiliency Toolkit](#). The Toolkit is designed to be a living document, with the ability to grow and expand as new resources are developed and identified.

The guidance in the Toolkit serves a number of purposes for public safety agencies: to identify emerging trends and issues, consolidate resources, evaluate current resiliency capabilities, identify ways to improve resiliency, and develop plans for mitigating the effects of potential threats to communications resilience.

CISA has developed an interactive graphic to intuitively index the resources in the Toolkit. Clicking on a topic reveals a list of resources, each with a brief description. Topic areas include essential emergency communications infrastructure such as systems for alerts and warnings, local area networks, and next generation 911 services. Resources in the Toolkit address ways in which these essential communications infrastructures can be disrupted, such as by electromagnetic pulse; jamming; positioning, navigation, and timing disruptions; ransomware, and more. Guidance is offered to improve resilience against these potential threats.

You can [read the full news release](#) and access the [Public Safety Communications and Cyber Resiliency Toolkit](#) on CISA's website. (Source: CISA)

Related - CISA provides recommendations for protecting information from ransomware-caused data breaches

CISA has released the fact sheet [Protecting Sensitive and Personal Information from Ransomware-Caused Data Breaches](#) to address the increase in malicious cyber actors using ransomware to exfiltrate data and then threatening to sell or leak the exfiltrated data if the victim does not pay the ransom. These data breaches, often involving sensitive or personal information, can cause financial loss to the victim organization and erode customer trust.

TSA Issues Second Security Directive for "Critical" Pipelines and LNG Facilities and Plans to Revise Pipeline Cybersecurity Guidelines

(JDSupra) The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the issuance of the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) second Security Directive (Directive) creating mandatory cybersecurity rules for owners and operators of TSA-designated "critical" pipelines and liquified natural gas (LNG) facilities "to implement a number of urgently needed protections against cyber intrusions." <[Read more](#) >

Related story - New Pipeline Preparedness Toolkit for Fire Departments

(USFA) A new toolkit from the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) helps fire departments conduct pre-incident planning, increase preparedness and improve response to pipeline incidents.

Link: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/blog/ig-081221.html>

Pentagon Shifting Approach to Chem-Bio (CBRN) Defense

Learn more: <https://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/articles/2021/8/19/pentagon-shifting-approach-to-chem-bio-defense>

Chemical Safety Board releases new video on fatal hydrogen sulfide release

The Chemical Safety Board (CSB) released a [safety video](#) on its investigation into a tragic incident at a waterflood station in Odessa, Texas in 2019. A toxic hydrogen sulfide release at the waterflood station fatally injured an employee and his spouse. The incident was preventable if employees had better awareness and training on the safety hazards, and if proper safety measures had been taken.

Hundreds of thousands of people work in oil and gas extraction in the United States. Ensuring their health and safety is a major concern for employers, regulators, trade associations, industry groups and local communities. Many of the facilities associated with the oil and gas extraction industry are in rural and isolated areas, and

employees of these facilities often work alone. Hydrogen sulfide is present at many oil and gas production facilities.

While the CSB's safety recommendations from this incident are primarily directed to the employer, the video may serve to build awareness for fire and EMS agencies about the life safety hazards present in jurisdictions with oil and gas processing or production facilities. This awareness could contribute to more effective emergency planning and response for these kinds of incidents.

The CSB reported six safety issues that contributed to the incident:

- Non-use of a personal hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) detector.
- Nonperformance of lockout /tagout.
- Confinement of H₂S inside pump house.
- Lack of a safety management program.
- Nonfunctioning H₂S detection and alarm system.
- Deficient site security.

Videos in the CSB's safety video series have received numerous awards and are often used in training, seminars, board presentations, and other venues as "object lessons in the consequences of inadequate process safety management." This latest video features detailed animation to explain the chemical processes involved in "waterflooding," to a non-technical audience, the characteristics of the site where the incident occurred, and the sequence of events and human errors leading to a fatal hydrogen sulfide gas release.

You can check out the video and full investigation report on [the CSB's website](#). (Sources: [CSB](#), [IAFC](#))

Researches Offer Insight On Policing Reform After Studying More Than 4M 911 Calls

[TIME](#) (8/18, Bates) reports, "Having tracked millions of 911 across 9 U.S. cities over the span of a year, a new study from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences offers new insight into the ongoing discussions surrounding police reform and police officers' duties." The study "analyzed nine different police agencies in cities both large (with a population over 1 million) and smaller (with under 80,000 residents) and tracked the different kinds of calls made to the police over the year of 2016/2017. In total, around 4.3 million calls were studied. 'The realities behind what motivates people to call the police and the amount of resources spent responding to these calls for service have not been carefully examined across multiple police agencies,' the survey explains. It aims to help correct that shortcoming, with its goal: 'to better understand, across a wide range of agencies, the types of calls for service for which officers are dispatched to daily as well as how much time [and resources] they are using to respond to these calls,' Cynthia Lum, director of George Mason University's Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy and who conducted the study, tells [TIME](#)."

T-Mobile breach hits 53 million customers as probe finds wider impact

Read Reuters story: <https://www.reuters.com/technology/t-mobile-says-hackers-accessed-data-another-53-mln-subscribers-2021-08-20/>

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.