



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 25, 2021

## All 120 KY Counties Now in RED Zone

([KYCOVID19.KY.GOV](https://www.ky.gov/covid19)) There were 4,849 new cases recorded today, with 1,518 of the other cases in patients 18 and under. There were 65 new deaths, bringing the total up to 7,640. **The positivity rate is now up to 13.16%.** (According to a [social media post](#) by the Governor, this is the highest it has been since the pandemic began. He termed today's report as "heart breaking".)

There are 2,074 patients currently hospitalized with COVID, with 540 in the ICU and 338 on a ventilator. Statewide, 71.8% of the ICU beds are occupied. FIVE regions of the state have ICU capacity in-use over 80%:

- Region 1 (Far western KY) – 84.31%
- Region 4 (Bowling Green/Barren River area) – 86.11%
- Region 7 (Gateway area) – 80.52%
- Region 8 (Far eastern KY) – 86.76%
- Region 10 (Somerset/SC KY area) – 82.55%

Clay County is still leading the state with an incidence rate of 245.5 per 100,000 people.

VACCINE MYTH	VACCINE FACT
It was rushed and isn't safe	Researchers took no safety shortcuts. Large studies show the vaccine is safe.
It changes your DNA	It's impossible for the vaccine to change your DNA
It can give you COVID-19	The vaccine doesn't contain a live virus strain
It contains egg protein	It doesn't have egg proteins and can be given to people with egg allergies
It causes severe side effects	For most, the vaccine causes mild side effects that resolve in a few days
It makes women infertile	There is no evidence that the vaccine causes infertility

SOURCE: Sanford Health

## Two more Kentucky universities enact COVID-19 vaccine requirements Bellarmine and Centre want students vaccinated

Story link: <https://wky.com/article/two-kentucky-universities-enact-covid-19-vaccine-requirements/37378574>

## So many people in this Texas town got Covid-19 that the school district shut down and then the city essentially closed

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/23/us/texas-town-covid-outbreak/index.html>

## 'Alarming' Number of Pregnant Women Admitted to Alabama ICUs

**The trend points to just how important it is for pregnant women to get vaccinated, physicians say**

([MedPage Today](#)) Physicians from the division of maternal-fetal medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) [recently reported](#) that 39 pregnant women with COVID-19 had been admitted to their hospital over the month of August. Of this group, 10 were admitted to the ICU and seven are currently on ventilators.

## CIDRAP News – US Pediatric COVID-19 cases now match winter surge >180,000 COVID-19 cases in US children were recorded in the week ending on Aug 19

## Tragedy at Zoneton Fire Department could lead to change in Kentucky law

(WDRB) A Kentucky lawmaker plans to file a bill that would help the families of first responders who died from COVID-19. Rep. Thomas Huff, a Republican from Shepherdsville, said his proposal is a result of the twin tragedy that occurred at the Zoneton Fire Department.

Chief Rob Orkies [died in December 2020](#) after a battle with both cancer and COVID-19. Then in February, acting Chief Gary Key also fell to the virus. But the families were denied Kentucky's death benefit of \$80,000 given when first responders die as a result of their jobs.

Zoneton's new chief, Kevin Moulton, said he was told by the Kentucky Fire Commission that the families were not eligible because of the way the state law is worded. Huff's bill would change that, adding the virus to the causes of death that are eligible for the first responder death benefit.

Full story: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/tragedy-at-zoneton-fire-department-could-lead-to-change-in-kentucky-law/article\\_03f36bf6-044b-11ec-8a5d-635fe8a3ae84.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/tragedy-at-zoneton-fire-department-could-lead-to-change-in-kentucky-law/article_03f36bf6-044b-11ec-8a5d-635fe8a3ae84.html)

## Drugs Increasingly Killing Young Kentuckians In Pandemic

(WFPL) Young Kentuckians experienced the highest increase in drug overdose deaths last year, according to the state's overdose fatality report released this month. The report showed increases in mortality across all age groups, and overdose deaths grew overall by 49%. But the jump for young people was much higher: 127 people aged 15-24, 90% more overdose deaths than the previous year.

Total overdose rates had been climbing steadily over the last decade, increasing by 95% since 2010. But by 2018, those numbers were starting to trend down — at least until 2020 hit. The exact cause of the increase is unclear, but it's possible that young people may be dealing with unique challenges during the pandemic.

State records show that over the last five years, increases or decreases in overdose deaths have correlated with the number of people reaching out for help and seeking emergency care. But in 2020, emergency admissions didn't keep pace.

In 2020, emergency department visits for nonfatal drug overdoses increased statewide by just 13%, compared to the 49% increase in total overdose deaths, [according to the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center](#). For young people, the discrepancy is even wider — emergency room visits increased by 10.5% while overdose deaths jumped by 90%. Learn more: <https://wfpl.org/drugs-killing-more-young-people-in-kentucky/>

## Diabetes prevalence rises in children and adults

Read Stat News story: <https://www.statnews.com/2021/08/24/diabetes-prevalence-rises-in-children-adult-screening-age-drops-to-35/>

## Hurricane center watches 3 new potential storms

(Click Orlando, August 25) A broad area of low pressure is expected to form over the western Caribbean Sea in a couple of days from a tropical wave currently located over the central Caribbean Sea. Environmental conditions are forecast to be conducive for development, and a tropical depression is likely to form late this week or this weekend while the system moves northwest over the northwestern Caribbean Sea, near or across the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico and into the western Gulf of Mexico by Sunday. [<Read more >](#)

Also, to check the latest - National Hurricane Center link: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

## Federal, Local Law Enforcement Grapple with Recovery Of Human Remains As Migrant Deaths Surge

The [New York Times](#) (8/24, Romero) reports that “as the number of migrants crossing the border with Mexico has surged this year” to levels “not seen in more than two decades, so, too, has the number of bodies found by U.S. Customs and Border Protection” and other law enforcement agencies. Through July, “Border Patrol officials found 383 dead migrants, the highest toll in nearly a decade, and one already far surpassing the 253 recovered in the previous fiscal year.” The Times also profiles the experience of Sheriff Oscar Carrillo of Culberson County in West Texas, who has also faced a rise in body discoveries. The Times says Carrillo “has found the bodies of 19 migrants this year, many who died because of the sweltering summer heat, up from two last year.”

[Note: For a Mexican national the nearest Mexican Consulate is in Indianapolis. For more info: <https://www.consulate-info.com/consulate/14361/Mexico-in-Indianapolis>]

## Related story - U.S. Tells Refugee Aid Groups to Get Ready for 50,000 Afghans

(Bloomberg) The program, known as humanitarian parole, would target Afghans likely to be at risk under a Taliban-led government and who haven't already requested, or wouldn't qualify for, the Special Immigrant Visa program used to evacuate people who aided American military forces or diplomats. People who might qualify for humanitarian parole include women leaders, journalists and others from high-risk groups. [<Read more >](#)

## 5G networks need to be interoperable, DOD and DHS officials say

As military and civilian agencies eye the use of [fifth generation](#) wireless tech, officials representing both agree that a key to success is ensuring interoperability between networks and devices through open standards.

So far, the [Department of Defense](#) has led the government's effort to trial 5G by offering its bases to telecommunications companies as [testing grounds for the tech](#). Those tests could yield new capabilities for both military operations and civilian uses, hence the need officials see to ensure the tech remains open and interoperable for agencies beyond DOD, officials said Tuesday at FedScoop's FedTalks conference.

“Cross-communications and interoperability absolutely will be critical for all our operators,” Kathryn Coulter Mitchell, acting undersecretary for science and technology at the [Department of Homeland Security](#), said of 5G technology.

Early versions of telecommunications networks lacked the ability for devices to be used across different companies' networks. That's a scenario officials want to avoid and urged both government officials and private sector companies to work together to ensure open standards.

Full story: <https://www.fedscoop.com/5g-networks-needs-to-be-interoperable-dod-and-dhs-officials-say/>

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**THE SHIPPING CRISIS IS GETTING WORSE**

**Date:** 23-Aug-21 **Source:** CNN **Summary:** The vast network of ports, container vessels and trucking companies that moves goods around the world is badly tangled, and the cost of shipping is skyrocketing. That's troubling news for retailers and holiday shoppers. More than 18 months into the pandemic, the disruption to global supply chains is getting worse, spurring shortages of consumer products and making it more expensive for companies to ship goods where they're needed. The latest obstacle is in China, where a terminal at the Ningbo-Zhoushan Port south of Shanghai has been shut since August 11 after a dock worker tested positive for Covid-19. Major international shipping lines, including Maersk (AMKBY), Hapag-Lloyd (HPGLY) and CMA CGM have adjusted schedules to avoid the port and are warning customers of delays.

More Information: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/23/business/global-supply-chains-christmas-shipping/index.html>

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**ASPR TRACIE – [The Express for August, 2021 \(#2\)](#)**

This issue of *The Express* highlights the following new resources:

- [Healthcare Coalition Radiation Emergency Surge Annex Template](#)
- [Pediatric Surge Resources for COVID-19](#) (Technical Assistance [TA] Response)
- [Sample Physician's Orders for Monoclonal Antibody Infusion Treatment](#) (TA Response)

Their [Hurricane Resources Page](#), [Issue 10 of The Exchange](#) (on preparing for and responding to wildfires and planned outages), and [Natural Disasters Topic Collection](#) may be useful as our stakeholders experience related challenges.

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.

## 2021 Kentucky Statewide Trauma and Emergency Medicine Symposium

Registration is now open for the 2021 Kentucky Statewide Trauma and Emergency Medicine Symposium on Thursday, Oct. 21, and Friday, Oct. 22, 2021. This program will highlight clinical guidelines for trauma and emergency care patients as well as innovative approaches maximizing patient outcomes. The program will be held at the Galt House Hotel in downtown Louisville. [Register now](#)

# TRAUMA AND EMERGENCY MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY, OCT. 21, AND FRIDAY, OCT. 22, 2021

Optional preconference meetings on Oct. 20, 2021

### Agenda Topics | Thursday

Prehospital Transfusions for Trauma  
Resuscitation Strategies for Anticoagulant Medications and Coagulopathy in Trauma: A Growing Conundrum  
Managing Pain after Trauma: From Scene to Discharge  
Vaccination during COVID-19: Opportunities, Challenges and Age Disparities  
Suicidality  
Trauma Survivorship  
Trauma Informed Care  
Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training in Law Enforcement  
The Influence of Urban Violence on Trauma Incidence and Mechanism

### Agenda Topics | Friday

Rehabilitation Management and Outcomes in Traumatic Brain Injury  
A Mother's Story | TBI  
Concussion Identification and Management  
Injuries to Thoroughbred Horses and Jockeys: A Topic of Special Interest in Kentucky  
Medical Conditions That Can Be Confused with Abuse  
The Forensic and Medical Evaluation of the Strangled Patient: Don't Choke!

*AMA PRA Category 1 credits™ and continuing education credits will be provided.*

For more information and to register,  
visit [NortonCME.com](https://www.nortoncme.com) and select  
this activity, or scan the QR code.

