



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 27, 2021

## More Kentucky hospitals facing critical staffing shortages 4,815 New COVID-19 Cases Friday

### 90% of virus-related hospitalizations and ICU admissions are unvaccinated

(AP) Staffing shortages have spread to more Kentucky hospitals as medical teams treat record numbers of COVID-19 patients from a relentless coronavirus surge, Gov. Andy Beshear said Friday.

More than half the state's hospitals are struggling with "critical staffing shortages," the governor said. The staffing crunch was more widespread than the prior day, when Beshear reported that one-third of hospitals statewide were in such dire staffing situations.

The state reported 4,815 new COVID-19 cases on Friday and 18 more virus-related deaths. In another plea for Kentuckians to get the COVID-19 vaccine, the governor noted that 90% of virus-related hospitalizations and ICU admissions are among the unvaccinated. *(See story below for more.)*

The Democratic governor's ability to act unilaterally to combat the pandemic was reined in by a state Supreme Court ruling. Now, COVID policies will be decided by the GOP-dominated legislature.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/health-coronavirus-pandemic-kentucky-1aa29221b04faa520dd65294603ee1f5>

### **Related story #1 - UK healthcare leaders share challenges of COVID-19 surge**

Read more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/uk-healthcare-leaders-share-the-challenges-of-latest-covid-19-surge-its-just-so-emotional>

### **Related story #2 – Governor announces 4,815 new cases of COVID in the state**

(WLEX18) Governor Andy Beshear announced 4,815 new cases of COVID and 18 deaths on Friday. Out of the new cases, 1,529 are 18-years and under.

Hospitalizations, intensive care units, and ventilators see record numbers once again. 2,129 hospitalizations, 592 patients in the ICU, and 349 on ventilators. The positivity rate of the state now sits at 13.33%, a record high. Vaccinations have reached 2,496,578 to date. Find more detail: <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

### **FEMA sends strike teams to help with COVID-19 surge**

(WYMT) Some ambulance services across the Commonwealth are getting help with the surge in COVID-19 cases. FEMA is sending strike teams to several Eastern Kentucky communities to help transfer patients with COVID-19.

The service frequently receives calls to transfer patients from one hospital to the next. Sometimes, those transfers can take up to six hours. The extended time away means the local EMS crew is stretched thin and could have trouble responding to other 9-1-1 calls.

FEMA dispatched five strike teams to Somerset to help the local EMS crew and plans to stick around for 30 days. Similar teams in Louisville and Prestonsburg could expand to help in nearby cities.

See more: <https://www.wymt.com/app/2021/08/27/fema-sends-strike-teams-help-with-covid-19-surge-eastern-kentucky/>

Governor's Press Release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=939>

Guidelines for FEMA Transport Assistance:

<https://www.kyha.com/assets/docs/COVID19/KBEMSFederalAmbulanceContractIFTPProcedure.pdf>

### **Final Shot at a Million Winners Announced**

(From [Press Release](#)) Today, Gov. Andy Beshear congratulated the final set of winners in Kentucky's *Shot at a Million* sweepstakes, the state's incentive program to encourage Kentuckians to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The winner of the \$1 million prize is **Mary Mattingly from Louisville**.

The five Kentucky youth selected for full scholarships are:

- Marissa Herron of Mount Washington
- Lillie Nielsen of Nicholasville
- Jordan Ballard of Crestwood
- Grider Burch of Lexington
- Jaden Wattlely of Louisville

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBLux6zutkY>

## First virtual Kentucky Victim Assistance Academy held this week

(WYMT) On Friday, Governor Andy Beshear and Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary Kerry Harvey thanked new victim assistance providers. 44 new and aspiring public servants attended a 15-hour virtual Kentucky Victim Assistance Academy (KVAA) that was held this week. The academy was held over a five-day period and helped attendees improve their victim services.

Learn more: <https://www.wyvt.com/app/2021/08/27/gov-beshear-first-virtual-kentucky-victim-assistance-academy-held-this-week/>

## Among children, older teens are seeing the highest Covid-19 case rates

(CNN) Coronavirus infections continue to surge among children across the United States, and older teens, ages 16 and 17, are facing the highest rate of weekly cases, according to a new CNN analysis of the latest [data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

As of Saturday, these teens appear to have the highest rate of infections among not only children, but all age groups, based on the CDC's count of weekly Covid-19 cases per 100,000 people.

There are several factors that help explain why teens have higher Covid-19 case rates: the Delta variant is highly transmissible and they are more likely to interact with others, especially throughout the summer, Dr. Georges Benjamin, [executive director of the American Public Health Association](#), told CNN on Wednesday. Among eligible groups, teens are also the least likely to be vaccinated.

There could be some biological mechanisms behind why older teens appear to have Covid-19 case rates higher than other children -- but that's not really clear, said Dr. Sean O'Leary, [professor of pediatrics and infectious diseases](#) at University of Colorado's School of Medicine.

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/26/health/covid-19-case-rate-teens-cdc-data-wellness/index.html>

## CDC: Unvaccinated California teacher spread COVID-19 to 12 students

Story link: [https://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2021/08/27/COVID-19-school-unvaccinated-teacher-CDCy/2541630086422/](https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/08/27/COVID-19-school-unvaccinated-teacher-CDCy/2541630086422/)

## Ivermectin Scripts, Poison Center Calls Boom During Delta Surge CDC warns healthcare providers to steer patients away from the controversial drug

(MedPage Today) Prescriptions for ivermectin and related calls to poison control centers have shot up sharply during the latest COVID wave, and the [CDC is warning healthcare professionals](#) to steer patients away from the drug.

*[Note from CDC HAN-449: Ivermectin is a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved prescription medication used to treat certain infections caused by internal and external parasites. ...not intended for human use. Ivermectin is not authorized or approved by FDA for prevention or treatment of COVID-19.]*

Scripts for the antiparasitic have risen rapidly since July, jumping to more than 88,000 in the week ending August 13, CDC researchers reported in a Health Alert Network warning. That's way up from a peak earlier this year of 39,000 for the week ending January 8, and a 24-fold increase over the [pre-pandemic baseline average](#) of 3,600 scripts per week from March 2019 to March 2020.

Prescriptions for ivermectin and related calls to poison control centers have shot up sharply during the latest COVID wave, and the [CDC is warning healthcare professionals](#) to steer patients away from the drug.

Scripts for the antiparasitic have risen rapidly since July, jumping to more than 88,000 in the week ending August 13, CDC researchers reported in a Health Alert Network warning. That's way up from a peak earlier this year of 39,000 for the week ending January 8, and a 24-fold increase over the [pre-pandemic baseline average](#) of 3,600 scripts per week from March 2019 to March 2020.

The agency noted that ivermectin for large animals such as horses, sheep, and cattle can be highly concentrated and lead to overdose in humans.

Signs and symptoms of ivermectin toxicity include gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain, as well as neurologic effects such as headache, blurred vision, decreased consciousness, confusion, hallucinations, and seizures.

Ivermectin overdose is also associated with hypotension, coma, and death, CDC stated. The drug can also potentiate the effects of other compounds that depress the central nervous system, including benzodiazepines and barbiturates.

CDC recommends that instead of prescribing ivermectin, physicians should urge patients to get vaccinated against COVID-19, and use prevention measures such as masking in indoor public spaces, physical distancing, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, and frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Federal agencies have launched an offensive against ivermectin prescribing this week, with the FDA issuing a [consumer warning](#) about ivermectin earlier this week. The agency made a splash with [a humorous tweet](#) about the warning, stating, "You are not a horse. You are not a cow. Seriously, y'all. Stop it."

Full story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/94223>

CDC Health Alert Network HAN-00449: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00449.asp>

-----  
**Cellphones, smartwatches may interfere with medical implants**

(UPI) A new study has reinforced a warning from the U.S. [Food and Drug Administration](#) that some smartphones and smartwatches can disrupt the functioning of pacemakers and other implanted devices. Published in the journal Heart Rhythm [on Wednesday](#), the study supports recommendations from the FDA that consumer electronics be kept away from implanted medical devices, particularly pacemakers and cardiac defibrillators.

Learn more: [https://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/2021/08/26/study-cellphones-smartwatches-medical-implants/9351629995041/](https://www.upi.com/Science_News/2021/08/26/study-cellphones-smartwatches-medical-implants/9351629995041/)

-----  
**SEE THE LATEST ALERT ON HURRICANE IDA BELOW**

**How government decisions left Tennessee exposed to deadly flooding**

The floods that killed at least 20 people in Tennessee last weekend came with shocking speed and force – apparently a case study of the difficulties in protecting people from explosive torrential downpours as climate change s ‘worsen.

A closer look at what happened in the days, years and even decades before the storm reveals that a series of government decisions – where and how to build, when to update flood maps, if Adhering to the Federal Flood Insurance Program and How to Warn of Dangerous Floods – have left residents more exposed to flooding than they needed to be.

It is impossible to say if a single action could have prevented these deaths, especially given the ferocity of the floods. But interviews with climate and disaster experts and a review of state and federal data show how long governments have been slow to adapt to growing threats and failed to take action that together could have reduce damage.

Issues included:

- Flood insurance denials and failure to participate
- No building codes
- Outdated Flood maps that minimized the risks
- Vague warnings

Read more: <https://goodwordnews.com/how-government-decisions-left-tennessee-exposed-to-deadly-flooding/>

Source link (may require subscription): <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/26/climate/tennessee-flood-damage-impact.html>

-----  
**Study: Thousands of kids hurt each year in accidents with furniture, TVs**

(UPI) Nearly 20,000 children in the United States are treated in hospital emergency rooms every year for injuries caused by furniture or a television falling or tipping over, a study published Thursday by the journal [Injury Epidemiology](#) found. About 70% of these injuries occur in children age 6 or younger, according to researchers from Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

More than 560,000 children suffered injuries in furniture- or TV-related accidents between 1990 and 2019, the data showed. In 2019 alone, nearly 12,000 children were injured in these incidents, which is an average of one child every 46 minutes, the researchers said.

In the United States, a child visits the ER every 60 minutes as a result of falling furniture, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Full story: [https://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2021/08/26/children-home-safety-furniture-tip-study/6391629999268/](https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/08/26/children-home-safety-furniture-tip-study/6391629999268/)

-----  
**CDC Director is speaking up about gun violence**

(CNN Exclusive) For the first time in decades, the director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention -- the nation's top public health agency -- is speaking out forcefully about gun violence in America, calling it a "serious public health threat."

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/27/health/cdc-gun-research-walensky/index.html>

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.

## KENTUCKY – HEAD'S UP MID-WEEK

National Hurricane Center – IDA Update #6

[https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/refresh/graphics\\_at4+shtml/155544.shtml?key\\_messages#contents](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/refresh/graphics_at4+shtml/155544.shtml?key_messages#contents)



# Key Messages for Hurricane Ida

Advisory 6: 5:00 PM EDT Fri Aug 27, 2021

1. Life-threatening storm surge and hurricane conditions are expected to continue through tonight in portions of western Cuba, including the Isle of Youth, where a Hurricane Warning is in effect. Life-threatening heavy rains, flash flooding and mudslides are expected across Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, and western Cuba, including the Isle of Youth.

2. There is a danger of life-threatening storm surge inundation Sunday along the coasts of Louisiana and Mississippi within the Storm Surge Warning area. Extremely life-threatening inundation of 10 to 15 feet above ground level is possible within the area from Morgan City, Louisiana, to the Mouth of the Mississippi River. Interests throughout the warning area should follow any advice given by local officials.

3. Ida is expected to be an extremely dangerous major hurricane when it reaches the coast of Louisiana. Hurricane-force winds are expected Sunday in portions of the Hurricane Warning area along the Louisiana coast, including metropolitan New Orleans, with potentially catastrophic wind damage possible where the core of Ida moves onshore. Actions to protect life and property should be rushed to completion in the warning area.

4. Ida is likely to produce heavy rainfall later Sunday into Monday across the central Gulf Coast from southeast Louisiana to coastal Mississippi and Alabama, resulting in considerable flash, urban, small stream, and riverine flooding impacts. As Ida moves inland, flooding impacts are possible across portions of the Lower Mississippi and Tennessee Valleys.



For more information go to [hurricanes.gov](https://hurricanes.gov)

[NWS Louisville](#): Saturday through Thursday - Scattered storms are forecast each afternoon and evening. Locally heavy rainfall and lightning are the primary storm hazards.

[NWS Paducah](#): Saturday through Thursday - The Heat Advisory continues through 7 PM Saturday. Afternoon heat indices Saturday are expected to top out around 100 over most of the region for the sixth consecutive day. Small chances of thunderstorms are forecast mainly for the afternoon hours Saturday and Sunday. Locally heavy rainfall and lightning will be the primary concerns. There will be a good chance of thunderstorms Monday through Wednesday. Heavy rainfall will be most likely over portions of west Kentucky from Tuesday into early Wednesday. The main hazards during this time period will be torrential rainfall and lightning.

[NWS Jackson](#): Saturday through Thursday - Thunderstorms are possible Saturday through Thursday, especially during the afternoon and evening hours each day.

In addition, the remnants of Ida combined with an approaching cold front will bring the potential for heavy rain on Tuesday and Wednesday.

[NWS Wilmington](#): Saturday through Thursday - Heat index values in the 95 to 100 degree range will be possible during the afternoon on Saturday and Sunday.

Bookmark for National Watches and Warnings: <https://www.weather.gov/>