



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 1, 2021

Beshear reports 10th highest amount of new cases since pandemic began

(WKYT) Governor Beshear reported 4,548 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, bringing the state total to 577,051 cases. The governor says the state is seeing a 13.66% positivity rate, an all-time high. Of Tuesday's new cases, 1,407 are in kids 18 or younger. There were 23 new COVID-19 related deaths reported on Tuesday. That brings the state total to 7,764. As of Tuesday, 2,274 people are hospitalized for COVID-19 related reasons, 617 are in the ICU, and 406 are on ventilators.
See KDPH Daily Report: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/COVID19DailyReport.pdf>

Study: 98% of 'highly allergic' people have no reaction after COVID-19 vaccination

(UPI) Allergic reactions to the [COVID-19](#) vaccine are rare, even among recipients with a history of complications in response to inoculations, medications and other irritants, a study published Tuesday by [JAMA Network Open](#) found. Still, special precautions should be taken to safely vaccinate those at high risk for allergic reactions, the researchers said.
Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/08/31/coronavirus-vaccine-allergic-reactions-study/9881630416432/

Association Between COVID-19 and Myocarditis Using Hospital-Based Administrative Data

(CDC MMWR) Viral infections are a common cause of myocarditis. Some studies have indicated an association between COVID-19 and myocarditis. During March 2020–January 2021, patients with COVID-19 had nearly 16 times the risk for myocarditis compared with patients who did not have COVID-19, and risk varied by sex and age. COVID-19 prevention strategies, including vaccination, to reduce the public health impact of COVID-19 and its associated complications.

Overall, myocarditis was uncommon among persons with and without COVID-19; however, COVID-19 was significantly associated with an increased risk for myocarditis, with risk varying by age group. These findings underscore the importance of implementing evidence-based COVID-19 prevention strategies, including vaccination, to reduce the public health impact of COVID-19 and its associated complications.

Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7035e5.htm>

This is the City in Kentucky with the Most COVID-19 Cases

(NewsBreak & 24/7 Wall St) Since the beginning of the pandemic, the [Bowling Green](#) metropolitan area has reported 24,830 confirmed cases, or 14,229.4 per 100,000 residents -- the most of any city in Kentucky. [Owensboro](#), the city with the second most cases per capita, has reported 12,970.5 cases per 100,000 residents. The coronavirus crisis has led to widespread unemployment across the country as consumer-facing businesses are forced to close and customers are encouraged to stay home. Unemployment in Bowling Green peaked at 18.8% in April 2020, and is now at 3.9% as of May 2021.

Read full story: <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/2354628301726/this-is-the-city-in-kentucky-with-the-most-covid-19-cases>

Related story - Bowling Green Med Center Health reports new COVID-19 hospitalization numbers

Read story: <https://www.wbko.com/app/2021/08/31/med-center-health-reports-new-covid-19-hospitalization-numbers/>

'It's a war that we're fighting' Kentucky National Guard deployed to Pikeville Med Center after influx of COVID-19 cases

Story: <https://www.wyml.com/app/2021/08/31/its-war-that-were-fighting-kentucky-national-guard-deployed-pike-county-hospital-after-influx-covid-19-cases/>

Here's how Louisiana hospitals are handling the double onslaught of Hurricane Ida and Covid-19

Curious? <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/30/us/louisiana-hospitals-hurricane-ida-covid/index.html>

Related - Louisiana residents now face gas shortages and dwindling supplies

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/01/weather/tropical-depression-ida-wednesday/index.html>

Japan finds black particles in Moderna vaccine

(BBC) Japan has put a batch of Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine on hold after a foreign substance was found in a vial. A pharmacist saw several black particles in one vial of the vaccine in Kanagawa Prefecture, according to authorities. Some 3,790 people had already received shots from the batch. The rest of the batch has now been put on hold.

It comes less than a week after Japan suspended the use of about 1.63 million Moderna doses due to contamination. The pharmacist found the black particles while checking for foreign substances before the vaccine's use. The job's domestic distributor has collected the vial suspected to be contaminated.

Learn more: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58405210>

High viral load in lungs major contributor to COVID-19 death, study says

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/08/31/covid19-viral-load-lungs-death-study/4641630413596/

Schools in crosshairs of US COVID-19 debate

(CIDRAP) American parents are split on whether mask mandates belong in schools, and universities grapple with mandating vaccines, as the nation returns to classrooms and campuses amid the fourth pandemic surge, this one fueled by the highly transmissible Delta (B1617.2) variant.

A new [Gallup Poll](#) shows 48% of K-12 parents think students should be required to wear masks at school, while 41% oppose student mask mandates. Similarly, 48% say teachers and staff should be required to wear masks, and 38% say they should not.

One area parents are not split on: a return to in-person learning. After 18 months of hybrid, virtual, and some in-person instruction, 77% of poll respondents said they expect their child will return to a pre-pandemic school schedule this year. Read more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/08/schools-crosshairs-us-covid-19-debate>

Colleges Require COVID-19 Vaccine After FDA Approval : NPR

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/2021/09/01/1031385629/full-fda-approval-triggers-more-universities-to-require-the-covid-19-vaccine>

Delta Variant Fuels Rise In Vaccination Rates In August

NPR story: <https://www.npr.org/2021/08/31/1032994955/vaccination-rates-rose-in-august-as-covid-cases-surge-due-to-the-delta-variant>

State department of health says 1 in every 85 Tennesseans has COVID-19

State, Community Leaders to Recognize Overdose Awareness Day

(From [Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear joined a bipartisan group of state and community leaders to recognize Overdose Awareness Day in Kentucky. Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on Aug. 31 each year to raise awareness of drug overdoses, to reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths and to acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends as they remember those who have died or have a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose.

The ceremony was [livestreamed](#) and included a demonstration of Naloxone, a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose, by the Kentucky Pharmacists Association. To learn more about Naloxone, visit <https://kyhrc.org/services/>.

Story follow-up: Multistate Human Trafficking Sting Rescues 21 Victims, Nets 46 Arrests in Commonwealth

(From [Press Release](#)) Today, Gov. Andy Beshear announced Operation United Front – a multistate human trafficking sting carried out Aug. 26 by 29 agencies across Kentucky – rescued 21 victims, including two minors, and yielded 46 arrests.

The 12-state human trafficking operation, led by the Missouri Attorney General's Office and Missouri Highway Patrol, is believed to be the first multistate operation of its kind.

Kentucky conducted four trafficking operations simultaneously in Bowling Green, Elizabethtown, McCracken County and Northern Kentucky. The Kentucky State Police (KSP) organized and led the commonwealth's effort. To read about those arrested and charged click [here](#).

Officials in participating states rescued a total of 59 victims, providing needed medical services to 41, and arrested 102 suspects across the country in connection with human trafficking. Each state conducted its own operation simultaneously.

[The Emergency Preparedness Update first ran a story on this yesterday from ICAP.]

American Red Cross needs blood donors

(WBKO) - The American Red Cross is currently facing a national blood shortage. They need donors of all types of blood, especially O-negative and O-positive since they are universal. They also say with the increase in COVID-19 cases due to the Delta Variant and the active hurricane season, they are concerned they will not meet hospital demand. *[I just did a Power Red" donation. How about you?]*

You can go to [redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) and put in your zip code and they'll show you the blood drives in your area, and you can make your appointment right there on the website.

Full story: <https://www.wbko.com/app/2021/08/31/american-red-cross-need-blood-donors/>

American Police Say Officers Are Quitting in Droves. Federal Data Says Otherwise

(Time) Since last summer's Black Lives Matter protests, there's a popular refrain echoing through urban police precincts, rural sheriff's offices and city halls everywhere in between: Officers are [fleeing America's police forces in big numbers](#), officials say. And the timing couldn't be worse, amid a [rise in murders and shootings](#). Many argue [cities must hire more police](#), but against the backdrop of nationwide scrutiny of police killings, [morale has dropped](#) to the point that few people want to be officers.

According to federal data, those worries are unfounded. Last year, as the overall U.S. economy shed 6% of workers, local police departments lost just under 1% of employees after a decade of steady expansion, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That's about 4,000 people out of nearly half a million employees in municipal police departments and sheriff's offices nationwide. [State](#) and [federal](#) law enforcement departments actually saw a slight increase in the number of employees.

The push to hire more police is gaining ground. The Biden Administration recently announced that cities can use part of the \$350 billion American Rescue Plan relief money to [hire more officers to combat gun violence](#). Cities—[big and small](#)—are jumping on that offer, with claims that their police departments are running out of officers. Full story: <https://time.com/6093684/police-quitting-federal-data/>

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.