



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 4, 2021

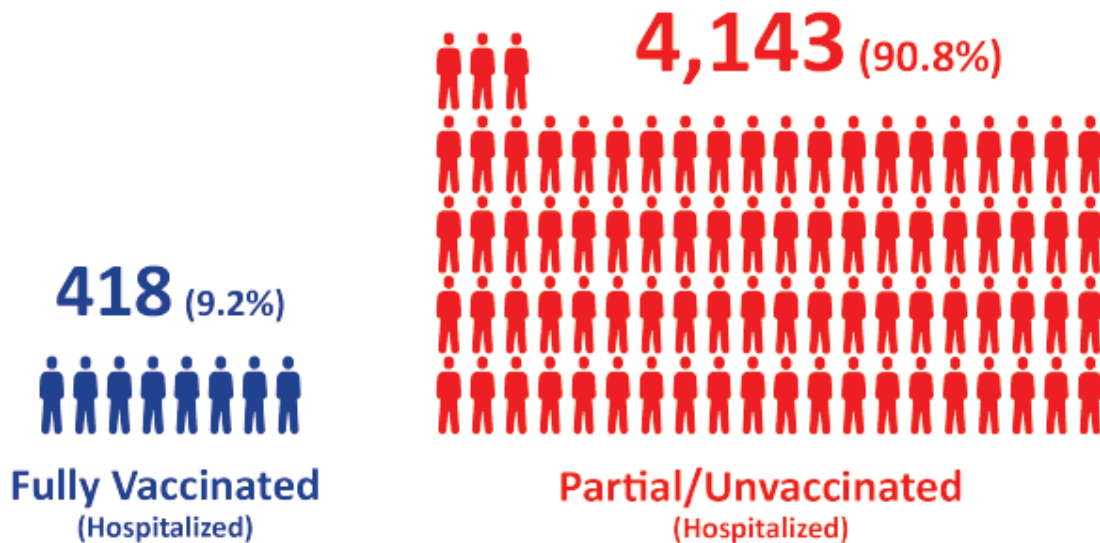
## KY Sets Another COVID Record with 5,111 Cases on Friday

(WLEX) With 5,111 new cases, September 3 marks the highest Friday ever and the fourth highest day for COVID cases overall. 1,547 cases are 18 and under. The positivity rate now sits at 13.17% and 24 new deaths have been reported. Hospitalizations, ICUs, and ventilators see another record day. 2,365 people were hospitalized, 661 people in the ICU, and 425 on ventilators. For the full daily COVID-19 report click [here](#). Watch Governor: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1433893961341538329>



## COVID-19 Statistics

### Kentucky COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS March 1 - August 25, 2021\*



Data is provided by Kentucky Department of Public Health on a weekly basis. For additional information please visit: [kygov.com/ky-covid-19](https://kygov.com/ky-covid-19) - KY COVID Data Dashboard (egov.com)

\* Data are provisional and subject to change; fully vaccinated includes individuals who have received the second dose of an mRNA vaccine or the Janssen vaccine >2 weeks prior to the illness; unvaccinated individuals have no evidence of vaccination KYIR or are partially vaccinated  
Hospitalization data may be underreported

[NOTE: This graphic is based on data reported to KY Public Health, and KHA will be updating it weekly. It will be posted on KHA's social media platforms.]

### Kentucky Children's Hospital at full capacity due to COVID-19, other respiratory illnesses

(WBKO/WKYT) More children are testing positive for COVID-19. Kentucky Children's Hospital says it's seeing an increase in Covid cases in children under twelve who are not eligible yet for the vaccine. Dr. Scottie Day, the physician-in-chief at Kentucky Children's Hospital, told us the hospital is at full capacity with kids being treated for Covid and other respiratory illnesses. Dr. Day says the hospital is treating, on average, two to ten patients a day. He says healthy kids can contract the virus but those with underlying health conditions, like obesity, are at a higher risk. According to health experts the severity of COVID-19 in kids can vary. Symptoms can range from headaches to fever. At least 500 children in the US have died.

Dr. Day says the most severe cases often occur in teenagers. That's why he's encouraging everyone 12 years and older to get vaccinated. He also points to the effectiveness of wearing masks in schools.

Full story: <https://www.wbko.com/app/2021/09/03/kentucky-childrens-hospital-full-capacity-due-covid-19-other-respiratory-illnesses/>

**[RELATED: Children hospitalized with COVID-19 reaches new high](#)**

**[RELATED: ICU nurses say COVID patients are younger and sicker than before](#)**

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**Southern KY funeral homes seeing more COVID-19-related funerals**

Read more: <https://www.wymt.com/app/2021/09/03/southern-ky-funeral-homes-seeing-more-covid-19-related-funerals/>

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**Oldham County Health:**

**Parents trying to circumvent COVID testing protocol to avoid student quarantines**

(WDRB) Health officials in Oldham County say some parents are trying to cheat the system so their child won't have to quarantine. According to the Oldham County Health Department, some families are trying to find a loophole for reporting COVID test results, and the consequences could be "life-threatening."



"There's a lot of misinformation that's being shared and spread," said Matt Rhodes, director of the Oldham County Health Department. "(This was) so negligent and irresponsible that we needed to respond to it." Rhodes is referring to a recent social media post in a Facebook group for Oldham County parents.

Full story and video report: <https://www.newser.com/story/310665/men-try-to-arrest-principal-over-student-quarantine.html>

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**US Plan for Booster Shots Hits a Roadblock**

**Federal authorities say it may be limited at first only to certain Pfizer recipients**

([Newser](#)) Last month, the White House [pushed a plan](#) to start doling out COVID booster shots in September. The new message surfacing: Not so fast. The [New York Times](#) reports that the proposal to start administering the extra shots on September 20 will be dramatically scaled back. At best, only people who received Pfizer shots will get a booster at that time, and even then probably only the most vulnerable in that camp, such as the elderly and health-care workers, notes the [Wall Street Journal](#). It's also possible even the Pfizer shots will be delayed.

The new thinking emerged Thursday when FDA chief Janet Woodcock and CDC chief Rochelle Walensky met with White House officials and said they needed more time to evaluate the boosters, particularly for the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. For example, scientists are trying to figure out the best proper dosage for the Moderna version. For J&J, the big question is how long to wait after the single-dose shot to deliver the booster. "We always said we would follow the science and this is all part of a process that is now underway," said White House spokesman Chris Meagher, per the [Washington Post](#). "We are awaiting a full review and approval" by the two agencies.

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**Some nurses are choosing to get fired rather than get vaccinated**

([Business Insider](#)) Many healthcare systems across the US are mandating employees get vaccinated against COVID-19. Some nurses say they'd rather lose their jobs than get the vaccine. One nurse told [The Washington Post](#) she's concerned about long-term effects.

**Mu Variant Is Now a 'Variant of Interest'**

Read more: <http://newser.com/s310631>

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**US to Invest \$3B in Vaccine Supply Chain**

*White House says funding will help increase availability of vaccinations*

([Newser](#)) In an attempt to increase the availability of coronavirus vaccines, the Biden administration announced Thursday a \$3 billion investment in the supply chain. The money will help manufacturers add production lines and create jobs, said Jeff Zients, White House coronavirus response coordinator. Past supply chain funding has bought vaccine manufacturing equipment and supplies, the [Hill](#) reports, which the White House says has sped up production. The investment also is being made with an eye toward keeping President Biden's plan for the US to be the "arsenal of vaccines for the world," per the [Washington Post](#).

**CIDRAP News: [How California dealt with COVID-19 oxygen supply issues](#)**

### **Follow-up story – Arkansas Inmates told Ivermectin was “Vitamins”**

Learn more: <https://www.newser.com/story/310599/arkansas-inmates-say-ivermectin-tested-on-them.html>

### **Indiana's largest hospital system stopping some surgeries due to COVID-19**

Link to this article: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/indianas-largest-hospital-system-stopping-some-surgeries-due-to-covid-19/article\\_47d73de2-0cda-11ec-a8b9-57b3253c9307.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/indianas-largest-hospital-system-stopping-some-surgeries-due-to-covid-19/article_47d73de2-0cda-11ec-a8b9-57b3253c9307.html)

### **Study: 2.7M people in U.S. lost health insurance in spring, summer 2020**

(UPI) Some 2.7 million people in the United States lost health insurance in spring and summer 2020 during the height of the [COVID-19](#) pandemic, an analysis published Friday by [JAMA Health Forum](#) found. The percentage of adults age 18 to 64 nationally who had health insurance declined by steadily each week between April 1 and July 1, the data showed. Most of those who became uninsured last year had been relying on employer-sponsored health plans and lost their jobs, the researchers said.

Full story: [https://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2021/09/03/covid19-insurance-coverage-lost-study/8091630676469/](https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/09/03/covid19-insurance-coverage-lost-study/8091630676469/)

### **Emergency rooms brace for influx of Labor Day weekend trauma**

(WAVE) The Labor Day weekend is no holiday for doctors and nurses.

Hospitals in the Louisville area anticipate of an influx of weekend trauma cases. The possibility could bring new stress to hospitals already struggling with the latest COVID surge.

According to the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA), 54% of Kentucky acute care hospitals no longer have any ICU beds available, with 60% reporting a critical staffing shortage, up from 50% a week ago.

“Staffing is at the heart of the problem,” KHA President Nancy Galvagni said. “Hospitals can always create additional physical capacity. They can expand, they can create ICUs if they needed to. You can’t create an ICU if you don’t have nurses to staff those beds.”

Emergency rooms are also feeling the stress. “I don’t think I’ve ever seen it persistently this busy in our ER, in our hospital for weeks and months at a time,” Dr. Martin Huecker, UofL Emergency room physician, said. “As of right now, as of August to September 2021, we’re very busy around the clock. It seems that every ED (emergency department) in the city is like that. So compared to pre-COVID, we’ve had some busy trauma seasons in the past two years even before the pandemic where our ED was pretty darn full, but I couldn’t say I’ve ever seen it like this.”

[Alcohol.org](#) lists **Labor Day among the booziest holidays** with 10% of women and 17% of men engaging in binge drinking. The National Safety Council is already predicting a 19% increase in holiday traffic fatalities. Doctors are urging caution.

Video and story: <https://www.wave3.com/app/2021/09/03/emergency-rooms-brace-influx-labor-day-weekend-trauma/>

### **Related story – KSP launches “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign ahead of Labor Day weekend**

Learn more: <https://www.wyvt.com/app/2021/09/03/ksp-launches-drive-sober-or-get-pulled-over-campaign-ahead-labor-day-weekend/>

### **Louisiana Nursing Home Patients Evacuated to Warehouse Conditions deteriorated; four residents died**

Learn more: <https://www.foxnews.com/us/ida-deaths-nursing-home-residents-evacuation>

### **Related story - Police Put Out Warrant for Louisiana 911 Operator Who Was Allegedly Hanging Up on Emergency Callers**

Learn more: <https://people.com/crime/police-looking-for-louisiana-911-operator-who-was-allegedly-hanging-up-on-callers/>

### **US DHS warns "heightened risk" of violence ahead of 9/11 anniversary in new terrorism bulletin**

(CBS) The agency created to safeguard the American public is warning of a "heightened threat environment" ahead of the 20th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks. "The 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks, as well [as] religious holidays we assess could serve as a catalyst for acts of targeted violence," the Department of Homeland Security cautioned in its latest [National Terrorism Advisory System \(NTAS\) bulletin](#).

While domestic violent extremism remains a high threat to the American public, DHS said the anniversary of the attacks next month could inspire violence among foreign terrorist groups. The agency noted that al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula recently released its first English-language copy of "Inspire magazine" – the terrorist group's

open-sourced playbook – in over four years. "[This] demonstrates that foreign terrorist organizations continue efforts to inspire U.S.-based individuals susceptible to violent extremist influences," DHS said in its memo. The agency also cautioned that "several dates of religious significance over the next few months could also provide increased targets of opportunity for violence," but noted there are no credible or imminent threats identified to these locations.

The bulletin also advised that new [COVID-19](#) variants could prompt further violence from domestic actors, including racially motivated and anti-government extremists.

According to the new advisory, "actors are increasingly exploiting online forums to influence and spread violent extremist narratives and promote violent activity," and are further exacerbated by "grievances over public health safety measures and perceived government restrictions."

NTAS bulletins are designed to illustrate current developments or trends about terrorism threats, and are not to be confused with an elevated alert, which warns of a credible terrorism threat, or an imminent alert, which warns of a credible, specific and impending terrorism threat.

Video report & full CBS report: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/dhs-potential-terrorism-threats-911-anniversary/>

**National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin from Aug 13:** <https://www.dhs.gov/ntas/advisory/national-terrorism-advisory-system-bulletin-august-13-2021>

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**KYTC warn of phishing text scam**

(WYMT) Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) officials are warning Kentuckians of a phishing text scam being sent claiming to be them. The text claims the recipient is being refunded from a motor vehicle department payment. Officials warn Kentuckians to NOT click on the link and that the message is NOT from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. The Cabinet may send text messages about Driver Licensing Regional offices, but does not solicit personal information via text.

Victims who have submitted any personal information are advised to visit the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General website, [ag.ky.gov](http://ag.ky.gov), to follow their guidance concerning potential identity theft.

See sample: <https://www.wyvt.com/app/2021/09/03/kytc-warn-phishing-text-scam/>

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**FEMA EMI News Update - 1678 - Training Opportunity  
K8515 Virtual Cybersecurity Symposium October 2021**

**Dates:** Wednesday, October 20; Thursday, October 21; Wednesday, October 27; and Thursday, October 28, 2021

Learn more: [1678 - Training Opportunity - K8515 Virtual Cybersecurity Symposium October 2021](#)

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.