



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 5, 2021

## Gov. Beshear Calls Special Legislative Session to Extend COVID-19 State of Emergency

([From Press Release](#)) As COVID-19 cases increase at the fastest growth rate of the pandemic, straining Kentucky hospitals, Gov. Andy Beshear on Saturday called lawmakers to Frankfort next week to extend the pandemic state of emergency, which provides administration and public health officials with the tools and measures needed to slow the spread of the virus and save lives.

A state of emergency clearly continues in the commonwealth, and following a recent Kentucky Supreme Court ruling, the Governor worked with the General Assembly to assess a call for a special session, which will begin in Frankfort at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021.

The Governor is asking lawmakers to consider legislation to address several topics including: extending the state of emergency until Jan. 15, 2022; setting forth the criteria regarding the Governor's authority to require facial coverings in indoor settings in certain circumstances; providing additional flexibility for school districts; and making an appropriation from the American Rescue Plan Act to support mitigation and prevention activities, such as testing and vaccine distribution.

While in Frankfort, the Governor also is asking lawmakers to extend by an additional 30 days a state of emergency declared by the Governor, in response to the flash flooding in Nicholas County and the City of Carlisle, on Aug. 3, 2021. The action is necessary to ensure any emergency services that may be required are provided to residents and businesses, as the commonwealth's request for federal assistance submitted to President Joe Biden through the Federal Emergency Management Agency remains under review.

The Governor also is asking for additional flexibility for the manner in which incentives can be provided to economic development projects with more than \$2 billion in investment, which would constitute the largest in Kentucky's history. The Cabinet for Economic Development currently is pursuing at least five projects of this size, and the changes would allow Kentucky to be competitive with other states.

## Federal Medical Team Arrives in KY Increasing Hospital Capacity

([From Press Release](#)) As part of the unprecedented effort by his administration to expand health care capacity and protect Kentuckians during this deadly spike in COVID-19 cases, Gov. Andy Beshear announced a federal medical team arrived in Kentucky this weekend to support health care heroes and residents, increasing staffing and the ability to open more hospital beds.

A National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Team requested by the Governor arrived Saturday at St. Claire Regional Medical Center in Morehead to assist the hospital. The NDMS team, comprising a medical officer, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, supply officer, respiratory therapist, four registered nurses and three paramedics, has mobilized to assist through Sept. 17.

The team can help with opening more available beds that had not been used due to lack of staffing. The team is fortifying existing staffing and areas of specialty, including those offered by St. Claire's respiratory team, and clinicians tasked with ventilator management. The NDMS team can also support emergency department operations, contributing to increased ability for the facility to treat more patients.

Learn more: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=954>

## A COVID Surge Is Overwhelming U.S. Hospitals, Raising Fears of Rationed Care

(NPR) The delta variant is pummeling America's hospitals, taxing an already-depleted health care workforce. Once again, some states are facing the prospect of rationing medical care.

Read full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/09/05/1034210487/covid-surge-overwhelming-hospitals-raising-fears-rationed-care>

## Is a 'Mysterious' Delta Pattern Repeating in US?

*In other countries, the wave seemed to cause huge spike for 2 months*

(Newser) The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) took the rare step of publishing a front-page editorial on Tuesday pleading with people to get vaccinated because local hospitals are so overwhelmed. The problem isn't confined to Atlanta, as [USA Today](#) reports that hospitals across the US are once again bracing for shortages of oxygen. But another theme is emerging in COVID coverage, too—the notion that the delta surge may have peaked or is on the cusp of doing so.

**Two-month cycles:** In the [New York Times](#), David Leonhardt notes that delta seems to cause a huge spike in cases for roughly two months before numbers fall. It's happened in India, Britain, Thailand, France, Spain, and

elsewhere. The US is now around the 2-month mark, and the number of new cases last week was the lowest since June. Caseloads in Florida, Mississippi, and other states are declining from peaks in August. Leonhardt stresses there's no guarantee the "mysterious" pattern will hold. His story digs into the possible explanations for the cycle, which generally held true for previous variants as well.

There is more here: <https://www.newser.com/story/310545/is-a-mysterious-delta-pattern-repeating-in-us.html>

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### **Each COVID-19 surge poses a risk for healthcare workers: PTSD**

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-ptsd/each-covid-19-surge-poses-a-risk-for-healthcare-workers-ptsd-idUSKBN2G1069>

### **Related story – *September is National Suicide Prevention Month* Mental health issues in adolescents doubled during pandemic, study shows**

For many children and young teens, their bodies are battling nerves, hormones and where they fit in in their communities. Add a global pandemic, and everything gets magnified, creating a huge impact on their mental health.

According to a study published in JAMA Pediatrics, twice as many kids and teens experienced symptoms of anxiety and depression during the COVID-19 pandemic than those that had pre-pandemic.

Learn more: <https://www.wave3.com/app/2021/09/04/mental-health-issues-adolescents-doubled-during-pandemic-study-shows/>

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### **Pfizer to Ship Smaller Packages of COVID Vaccine to Cut Waste, Boost Uptake**

(MedicineNet/HealthDay News) Smaller packages of Pfizer's coronavirus [vaccine](#) that could be available this fall might improve [vaccine](#) access and reduce the number of wasted doses, government documents show.

The Pfizer vaccine has been available in two packages, one with 450 doses and another with 1,170, but the vaccine's storage requirements make it difficult for smaller facilities to store large amounts of the vaccine without wasting doses, CBS News reported.

A U.S. Centers for Disease Control and [Prevention](#) document obtained by CBS News says smaller packages of the vaccine may be available by October, with the agency telling its immunization partners to "stay tuned for more details." The reduced package size might make it possible to ship [vaccines](#) directly to doctor's offices, Dr. Marcus Plescia, chief medical officer for the Association of State and Territorial Officers, told CBS News.

Full story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=264334>

### **Related story #1- Israel to present COVID-19 booster shot data to FDA experts**

(Reuters) Israel this month will present data from an extensive rollout of COVID-19 vaccine booster shots to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which is weighing White House plans to begin a booster drive in the United States.

Sharon Alroy-Preis, head of public health at Israel's Health Ministry, said the ministry had been asked by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to brief its advisors at a Sept. 17 meeting. The virtual session will consider a third booster shot of the Pfizer Inc ([PFE.N](#))/BioNTech SE ([22UAY.DE](#)) vaccine, and may discuss others. [read more](#)

A week ago Israel began offering a Pfizer COVID-19 booster to people as young as 12 in a campaign that began in July among seniors. Israeli health officials said the drive has slowed a rise in severe illness caused by the Delta variant. Officials have said the effectiveness of the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine waned five months after administration, making a booster necessary. A third dose, they said, restored the level of protection of the second shot.

So far 2.6 million people out of a population of 9.3 million have received three doses of the Pfizer vaccine in Israel.

### **Related story #2 - Why a Covid-19 vaccine for younger children is taking longer than a vaccine for adults**

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/02/health/kids-covid-vaccine-timeline-wellness/index.html>

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### **Huge Study Shows Masks Do Indeed Limit Coronavirus Spread**

(HealthDay News) A new, huge study provides real-world proof that mask-wearing limits the spread of the coronavirus. "I think this should basically end any scientific debate about whether masks can be effective in combating COVID at the population level," Jason Abaluck, a Yale University economist who helped lead the study, told the *Washington Post*. He called the findings "a nail in the coffin" of arguments against masks.

Full report: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=264323>

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**Reuters Summary of Recent Studies:**

**New kidney problems linked to 'long COVID';  
loss of smell may be followed by other smell distortions**

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/science/new-kidney-problems-linked-long-covid-loss-smell-may-be-followed-by-other-smell-2021-09-03/>

**West Virginia ending one of worst weeks during pandemic**

(AP) West Virginia had one of its worst weeks during the coronavirus pandemic as the number of positive cases neared a seven-day record. The 6,705 confirmed statewide cases for the six days ending Saturday already surpassed the previous week's total and were the fourth highest for any week since the first case was reported in the state in March 2020, according to state health data.

The record is nearly 8,200 confirmed cases for the week ending Jan. 10, followed by about 7,600 cases the week ending Jan. 3. The number of COVID-19 patients in hospital intensive care units was at 216, just shy of the record 219 set on Jan. 6. On July 4, there were only 17 virus patients in hospital ICUs. And the number of patients on hospital ventilators has surpassed the previous high of 104 set on Jan. 10.

**Mississippi Hospitals in crisis in least vaccinated state**

(AP) As patients stream into Mississippi hospitals one after another, doctors and nurses have become all too accustomed to the rampant denial and misinformation about COVID-19 in the nation's least vaccinated state.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/health-coronavirus-pandemic-cbc4d9aa87d4f74991f9bea959bf0939>

**Kentucky legislators pre-file bill aimed at raising minimum wage to \$15**

<https://news360.com/article/563563641>

**Remembering the September 11th Attacks and Aftermath – 20 years later**

Photos from CBS: <https://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/911-attacks-photos-aftermath/>

**Ky Transportation Cabinet urges drivers to check for recalls before vacation travel**

<https://www.lex18.com/news/kentucky-transportation-cabinet-urges-drivers-to-check-for-recalls-prior-to-labor-day-travel>

**Apple delays iPhone/iPad photo-scanning plan amid fierce backlash**

(AP) Apple is indefinitely delaying plans to scan iPhones in the U.S. for images of child sexual abuse following an outcry from security and privacy experts who warned the technology could be exploited for other surveillance purposes by hackers and intrusive governments.

The [postponement announced Friday](#) comes a month after [Apple revealed](#) it was getting ready to roll out a tool to detect known images of child sexual abuse. The tool would work by scanning files before they're uploaded to its iCloud back-up storage system. It had also planned to introduce a separate tool to scan users' encrypted messages for sexually explicit content.

Apple insisted its technology had been developed in a way that would protect the privacy of iPhone owners in the U.S. But the Cupertino, California, company was swamped criticism from security experts, human rights groups and customers worried that the scanning technology would open a peephole exposing personal and sensitive information. Learn more: <https://apnews.com/article/technology-business-d796d5ca2ca5932790ad806b9c119d71>

**Windows 11 Receives A Release Date, But Not So Fast**

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/563630285>

**FEMA EMI News Update – Virtual Training using Zoom**

**[1678 - Training Opportunity - K8515 Virtual Cybersecurity Symposium October 2021](#)**

**Course Dates:**

Wednesday, October 20; Thursday, October 21; Wednesday, October 27; and Thursday, October 28, 2021

**Got 'Zoom Fatigue'? Taking Breaks From the Camera Can Help**

<https://news360.com/article/563589455>

The KHFREF 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 KHFREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.