



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 7, 2021

## KY COVID-19 Update for Tuesday

### Vaccination Status of COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths March 1 – August 31, 2021\*

	Fully Vaccinated		Partial/unvaccinated		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Cases	15,768	9.6%	148,991	90.4%	164,759
Hospitalizations**	436	8.7%	4,604	91.3%	5,040
Deaths	131	14.6%	766	85.4%	897

\*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

(Source: [KYCOVID19.ky.gov](https://www.ky.gov/covid19)) There were 2,356 new cases reported today, with 582 18 and under. The positivity rate is 13.74%. Only one county out of 120 (Clinton) is not in the RED zone in terms of incidence rate.

2,353 are hospitalized with COVID-19 at this time, with 661 in the ICU and 433 on a ventilator. 87.7% of ICU beds in the state are occupied. 8 of 10 regions have ICUs that are over 89% occupied; the highest of which is northern Kentucky at 97.62%.

Five new deaths were logged, bringing the total to 7,905.

### Governor’s Briefing YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bk0a3OuyQXc>

**Press Release:** <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prld=958>

### St Claire relies on Federal medical team to increase capacity

(WLEX) St. Claire Regional Medical Center is struggling to keep up as hospitalizations continue to climb in Kentucky. At the request of the Governor, a National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) team has arrived in Morehead to help ease the burden on the hospital’s healthcare workers and expand capacity. The hospital has been operating above capacity for weeks.

See full story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/local-hospital-overwhelmed-by-covid-19-relies-on-federal-medical-team-to-increase-capacity>

### Related story - The ‘new normal’

#### Lexington man waits nine hours in the emergency room

Read more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/the-new-normal-lexington-man-waits-nine-hours-in-the-emergency-room>

### ‘Substantial Surge’ In Monoclonal Antibody Treatments Spurs HHS Policy Changes to Ensure Availability

(From KHA Daily COVID-19 Update) The Department of Health and Human Services is making temporary changes to its distribution policies for monoclonal antibody therapies, with an eye on maintaining sufficient supply to meet current and future demand. HHS says the changes, which are in response to “a substantial surge in the utilization of monoclonal antibody drugs, particularly in areas of the country with low vaccination rates,” include:

- Limiting immediate orders and shipment only to administration sites with HHSProtect accounts and current utilization reporting; and
- Reviewing all orders for alignment with utilization, currently estimated at 70% of orders.

Hospitals with questions about ordering and distributing these treatments can email the Federal COVID-19 Response Team at [COVID19therapeutics@hhs.gov](mailto:COVID19therapeutics@hhs.gov)

### New infections are up 316% from last Labor Day; first-responders not rushing to get vaccine

(USA Today) Daily coronavirus infections are more than four times what the U.S. was seeing on Labor Day last year, or a 316% increase, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. And daily deaths are almost twice as high.

Blame the highly contagious delta variant and a swath of Americans refusing easily accessible vaccines that most of the developing world is furiously scrambling to obtain.

Hospitalizations are up 158% from a year ago, U.S. Health and Human Services data shows. The result: Some U.S. hospitals are getting so crowded with COVID-19 patients that physicians may soon be compelled to make life-or-death decisions on who gets an ICU bed.

Police officers and other first responders are among those most hesitant to get the coronavirus vaccine. No national statistics show the vaccination rate for America's entire population of first responders, but individual police and fire departments across the country report figures far below the national rate of 74% of adults who have had at least one dose. It's a stark contrast from the beginning of the vaccine rollout when first responders were prioritized for shots.

Full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2021/09/06/doctors-face-life-death-decisions-icu-beds-covid-news/5744189001/>

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**Healthcare workers file mask mandate lawsuit**

(AP/WLEX) Several dozen employees of St. Elizabeth Healthcare have filed a lawsuit challenging a requirement they be vaccinated against COVID-19. The Courier-Journal reports the lawsuit was filed Friday in federal court in Covington. It comes amid a surge in coronavirus cases — largely among unvaccinated patients. The suit follows a recent announcement by most of the state's major hospital systems, including St. Elizabeth's, that they would require vaccines for all workers without a medical or religious exemption to try to control the COVID-19 surge.

Full story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/several-kentucky-health-care-workers-challenge-covid-19-vaccination-mandate>

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**Texas school system closes after two teachers die of COVID-19**

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**US reaches 40 million recorded Covid-19 cases  
with 4 million counted in the last 4 weeks**

(CNN, September 7) The count comes with a caveat: 40 million represents just officially reported positive test results, and many experts believe the actual number of infections is much larger. Covid-19 cases have nevertheless generally been on the rise in much of the country since early summer. And the country's seven-day average of new cases Monday (137,270 daily) was more than four times higher than Labor Day of last year (39,355 daily), according to Johns Hopkins data. < [Read more](#) >

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**In low-vaccination states, quadrupling rates of child  
COVID-19 hospitalizations observed during August**

([AHA Today](#)) According to new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [research](#), hospitalization for COVID-19 for children and adolescents increased four-fold in August in states with low levels of vaccination, compared with states with high levels. The study, released Sept. 3, observed hospitalizations of children up to the age of 17 over the most recent two-week period (Aug. 14-27), including emergency department visits. During that time, COVID-19-related ED visits and hospital admissions in the states with the lowest vaccination coverage were 3.4 and 3.7 times that of states with the highest vaccination coverage.

**CDC MMWR link:** [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7036e1.htm?s\\_cid=mm7036e1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7036e1.htm?s_cid=mm7036e1_w)

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**Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine 96% effective in pregnant women, study says**

([CIDRAP News Scan](#)) Results from an observational cohort study of pregnant women indicated a 96% vaccine effectiveness (VE) against COVID-19 infection and an 89% VE against hospitalization for the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in pregnant women, according to a study in *Nature Medicine* today.

**Sep 7 *Nat Med* [study](#)**

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**Officials report Nipah virus case in Kerala, India**

([CIDRAP News Scan](#)) The southern state of Kerala, India, is continuing surveillance for a potential Nipah virus outbreak after a 12-year-old boy died from the virus on Sep 5, according to the [Associated Press \(AP\)](#) today. Nipah virus is an infectious disease that, while rare, has no known cure or vaccine. Nipah can be spread through fruit bats, pigs, and human-to-human contact, and only supportive care can treat its symptoms of high fever, vomiting, and convulsions. The World Health Organization estimates that it has a 40% to 75% mortality rate.

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**John Hopkins: Health Security Headlines  
Extracts from September 7, 2021**

**CEPI Warns of Major Hurdle to Developing New Covid-19 Vaccines and Studying Best Booster Approaches** (*Stat News*)

The world still needs more — and better — Covid-19 vaccines. But a major hurdle stands in the way of the development of new vaccines, as well as the critical studies needed to determine the

best way to use these important tools, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) warned in a letter published Tuesday in the journal Nature. Unless countries that have purchased vaccine doses and companies that have already brought vaccines into use agree to find ways to resolve the problem, manufacturers that trail the first wave of producers may not be able to prove that their vaccines work. Not only will that slow efforts to vaccinate the planet, it will block development of next-generation vaccines, and it will stymie efforts to answer key public health questions, like whether boosting with a different vaccine would generate better protection, or whether giving smaller — fractional — doses could protect more people more quickly.

**[How the Risk of Side Effects Could Change with Covid-19 Vaccine Boosters](#)** (*Stat News*) Additional doses of Covid-19 vaccines are likely rolling out in the United States later this year. It raises the question: What will the side effects from a booster shot look like? Is there a higher or lower risk of an adverse event, compared to the earlier regimens? Overall, the Covid-19 vaccines are overwhelmingly safe and remarkably effective. But as the shots went into millions of arms starting late last year, researchers uncovered a handful of sometimes serious side effects, which were so exceedingly rare that the clinical trials that led to the shots' authorizations — even with tens of thousands of participants — couldn't capture them.

**[The White House Wants \\$65 Billion for an 'Apollo'-style Pandemic Preparedness Program](#)** (*STAT News*) The Biden administration on Friday unveiled a sweeping new biosecurity plan, outlining a \$65 billion proposal to remake the nation's pandemic preparedness infrastructure in the wake of Covid-19. The new spending would represent one of the largest investments in public health in American history: During a press briefing, Eric Lander, the White House science adviser, likened the proposal to the Apollo program of the late 1960s.

**[A COVID Surge Is Overwhelming U.S. Hospitals, Raising Fears Of Rationed Care](#)** (*NPR*) The U.S. health care system is again buckling under the weight of a COVID-19 surge that has filled more than 100,000 hospital beds nationwide and forced some states to consider enacting "crisis standards of care" — a last resort plan for rationing medical care during a catastrophic event. The idea is an alarming sign of how the delta variant has ripped through large swaths of the country — primarily sickening the unvaccinated and straining an already depleted health care workforce.

**[*Related story* - Idaho hospitals begin rationing health care amid COVID surge**

Read more: <https://apnews.com/article/business-health-public-health-coronavirus-pandemic-idaho-db21f9a14254996144e78aafb1518259>

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**[Research-based comic book at UK helps readers understand and fight use of electronic cigarettes by teens and young adults](#)**

(KY Health News) A team at the **University of Kentucky** has published a research-based comic book to fight use of electronic cigarettes by young adults.

"In the world that we live in right now, there is a lot of science misinformation, and a lot of that is just a communication flaw. The science is correct. The ideas are correct. The intent is correct. The messaging is not," said Joel Thompson, Ph.D., research development director for UK's **Center for Clinical and Translational Science**, which fostered the project.

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**[World Sepsis Day is September 13](#)**  
**[September is Sepsis Awareness Month](#)**

Learn more: [https://www.hunterdonhealthcare.org/news\\_room/september-is-sepsis-awareness-month/](https://www.hunterdonhealthcare.org/news_room/september-is-sepsis-awareness-month/)

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**[CDC Clinician's Call](#)**

**September 9 @ 2 PM ET (Free CE)**

**2021-2022 Influenza Vaccination Recommendations and Guidance  
on Coadministration with COVID-19 Vaccines**

**Zoom:** <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1610456908?pwd=cFI3YzlvMWZzOFE4bmEwakswaUZsdz09>

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**Gov. Beshear to Appeal FEMA's Decision to Deny Assistance  
to Nicholas County Residents Impacted by Severe Flooding**

(From [Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear said Tuesday he is appealing the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) [denial determination](#) in hopes of securing federal individual assistance for Nicholas County residents severely impacted by severe storms July 29-30, 2021, which caused extensive damage and deadly flash flooding. The appeal, which will be sent to President Joe Biden, is another opportunity to include any additional findings of flood damage that were not included in Nicholas County's initial request.

The flooding impacted 88 homes and 29 businesses as well as the city's wastewater treatment plant, fire station and city garage. The estimated damage to roads, bridges, buildings and equipment, along with the cost of debris removal, totals more than \$3.8 million.

The Governor issued a state of emergency order Aug. 3, after the county received 4.07 inches of rain in a two-hour period, which caused major flash flooding in downtown Carlisle and along Brushy Fork Creek, resulting in numerous high-water rescues, multiple road closures and one fatality. During this event, the rainfall deluge exceeded the 1,000-year return rate.

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**Flooding From Ida Kills Dozens of People in Four States**

(The New York Times, September 6) In the aftermath of a ferocious storm caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida that killed over three dozen people across four states, national and local leaders acknowledged on Thursday that extreme weather events posed an urgent and ongoing threat. <[Read more](#)>

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**Nearly 1 in 3 Americans experienced a weather disaster this summer**

(The Washington Post, September 4, 2021) The expanding reach of climate-fueled disasters, a trend that has been increasing at least since 2018, shows the extent to which a warming planet has already transformed Americans' lives. At least 388 people in the United States have died due to hurricanes, floods, heat waves and wildfires since June, according to media reports and government records. <[Read more](#)>

**Related story- Hurricane Larry could push severe swells to East Coast; Louisiana braces for more rain** <[Read more](#)>

**Related story - Climate Change Demands New Paradigm for Disaster Management**

(NRDC, September 7) At all levels of government, we're making decisions that fail to account for what the future looks like. We site and design mass transit, highways, sewage treatment systems, power plants, and all kinds of other costly infrastructure assets with little or no regard for whether these systems will be able to function decades from now. We also continue to build homes and businesses in areas that are prone to flooding, vulnerable to wildfires, or at risk of running out of water. <[Read more](#)>

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**University of KY Pediatric Emergency Medicine Symposium**

Please join us for the third annual University of Kentucky Pediatric Emergency Medicine Symposium. It will be held virtually on **Tuesday, September 28th**. Highlights from this year's course will include discussion of Pediatric Shock, Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children and other Pediatric COVID considerations, and Pediatric Surgical Emergencies. This course is designed to support any provider who cares for children in the acute, urgent or emergent setting.

Click the link to see the attached flyer and register at: <https://www.cecentral.com/live/20847>

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**Update on 2021 KY Trauma & Emergency Medicine Symposium  
October 21-22 @ Galt House, Louisville**

*The Kentucky Statewide Trauma & Emergency Medicine will meet in-person at The Galt House in Louisville, KY on October 21-22, 2021. There is no planned virtual option due to expense. COVID-19 guidelines will be in place. Meeting room seating will be 6' apart and attendees will be required to wear masks (except when eating or drinking). We can accommodate 200 people and there are about 70 registered. Please let us know if you have questions.*

***[For more information and to register, visit this link.](#)***

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.