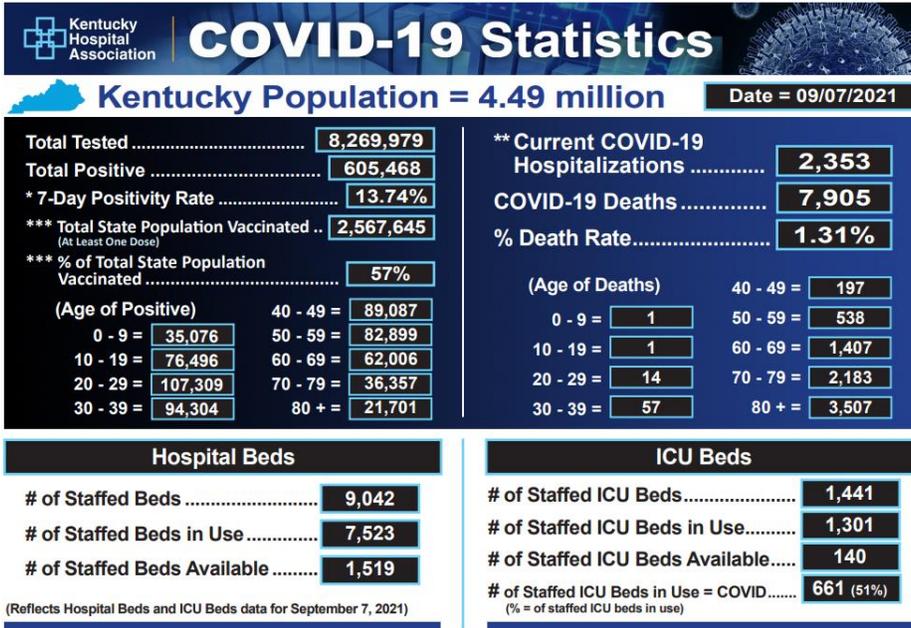




Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 8, 2021

KY COVID-19 Updates

([KDPH Daily Report](#)) There were 4,468 new cases reported today, with 1,220 in patients 18 and under. The positivity rate is 14.16%. 30 new deaths were logged, for a total of 7,935. 2,424 are hospitalized with COVID-19, with 674 in an ICU and 431 on a ventilator. 90.1% of ICU beds are occupied, with 45.4% of ventilators in use.



This dashboard is available on the KHA home page, www.kyha.com, and is shared each Wednesday on KHA's social media accounts.

KY Lawmakers Approve Resolution Extending COVID-19 Emergency Orders

(From KHA Daily COVID-19 Update) The Kentucky General Assembly kicked off the 2021 extraordinary session on Tuesday by extending many of the COVID-19 related executive orders issued by Governor **Andy Beshear**.

Lawmakers in both the House and Senate voted overwhelmingly to adopt House Joint Resolution 1 (HJR 1), which modifies some of the

governor's executive orders and extends many of them through January 15.

KHA influenced the passage of HJR 1 by providing a listing to both the House and Senate leadership and the Administration of the executive and agency orders pertaining to health care and requesting they be extended. These orders were included in the Resolution. Importantly, the resolution extends the state of emergency through January 15, which will also keep COVID liability protection from SB 5 in place.

Full Lane Report article: <https://www.lanereport.com/146160/2021/09/lawmakers-approve-resolution-extending-covid-19-emergency-orders/>

COVID National and International Updates:

- Reuters: [BRIEF-U.S. CDC Reports Total Deaths Of 649,299 Due To Coronavirus As Of Yesterday](#)
- Reuters: [U.S. administers nearly 377 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines - CDC](#)
- CIDRAP: [US data show child COVID-19 cases rising exponentially >25% of new weekly cases!](#)
- CIDRAP: [Study says Alpha variant doubled COVID cases in Israeli kids](#)
- UPI: [3rd person dies in Japan after receiving recalled Moderna COVID-19 shot](#)

What is the mu variant?

The COVID-19 strain is in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana

(WLWT) A COVID-19 variant that has reached almost every corner of the U.S. has now been named to the World Health Organization's watchlist as a "variant of interest."

"It means that they're watching it closely to see if it's going to be one that causes more problems for people," said UC College of Medicine Dr. Carl Fichtenbaum. Fichtenbaum led the Moderna studies at UC.

The variant is known as mu. It's taking a place on the fight card against the delta variant which, for now, remains dominant. Mu was first detected in Columbia early this year.

It has since been detected in almost every state including Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. The most troubling aspect of mu is that it has the hallmarks of a variant that could be resistant to vaccines.

"The mu variant has been found in almost every state in the us, but only one percent or less of all the variants," said TriHealth's Dr. Stephen Blatt. So, indicators are also that mu might not be as contagious.

Video story & more: <https://www.wlwt.com/article/what-to-know-about-mu-new-covid-19-variant-in-ohio-kentucky-indiana/37503502>

Related story - [United States Boosts Tracking of Coronavirus Strains as Mu Variant Draws Scrutiny](#)

(*Science*) At the moment, sequencers around the country are seeing a deluge of Delta. Some states might still be slow to spot a new variant. Nineteen, all but one in the Midwest, South, and Southeast, have sequenced fewer than 2% of their cumulative cases. Problems remain in the U.S. scale-up. They include the fragmented health care system, in which states have different rules about data sharing. For example, the public CDC dashboard shows data for California only as a whole, not county by county, restricting data analysis by outside scientists.

**Louisiana revokes nursing home licenses
after 7 warehoused residents die amid Hurricane Ida**

(UPI) Health officials in Louisiana have revoked the licenses of seven nursing homes that had ahead of Hurricane Ida evacuated their residents to a warehouse where seven of them died.

The Louisiana Department of Health announced in [a statement](#) Tuesday that the licenses for the seven nursing homes in Orleans, Lafourche, Jefferson and Terrebonne parishes were being revoked.

Learn more; https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2021/09/08/Louisiana-revokes-nursing-home-licenses-after-7-residents-amid-Hurricane-Ida/7971631088279/

**CDC to host clinicians' webinar THURSDAY on influenza vaccination
recommendations and guidance amid ongoing COVID-19 pandemic**

(From [AHA Today](#)) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Sept. 9 from 2-3 p.m. ET will host a [Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity webinar](#) highlighting updates on [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations](#) for the 2021-2022 influenza vaccination season. Presenters will also go over guidance for co-administration of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines. [Join the webinar here](#) using the webinar ID 161 045 6908; a recording will be made available shortly after the live event's conclusion.

CDC site for ZOOM link and CEU info: <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2021/09/03/peds.2021-053744>

[Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2021–2022](#)

(*American Academy of Pediatrics*) This statement updates recommendations for the routine use of influenza vaccine and antiviral medications in the prevention and treatment of influenza in children during the 2021–2022 influenza season. We recommend annual influenza immunization of all children without medical contraindications, starting at 6 months of age. Influenza vaccination is an important intervention to protect vulnerable populations and reduce the burden of respiratory illnesses during circulation of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, which is expected to continue during the 2021–2022 influenza season.

Learn more: <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2021/09/03/peds.2021-053744>

Slammed Idaho Hospitals Now Allowed to Ration Care

(Newser) Idaho public health leaders have activated "crisis standards of care" allowing health care rationing for the state's northern hospitals because there are more coronavirus patients than the institutions can handle. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare quietly enacted the move Monday and publicly announced it in a statement Tuesday morning—warning residents that they may not get the care they would normally expect if they need to be hospitalized. The state health agency cited "a severe shortage of staffing and available beds in the northern area of the state caused by a massive increase in patients with COVID-19 who require hospitalization." Idaho has one of the lowest vaccination rates in the US.

Click this link to see more on what's affected: <https://www.newser.com/story/310798/slammed-idaho-hospitals-now-allowed-to-ration-care.html>

Click here to see more on this from the AP: <https://www.newser.com/article/bcabb3ee0f17006c8a60d75070b1e907/idaho-hospitals-begin-rationing-health-care-amid-covid-surge.html>

**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [September 8, 2021](#)**

[Kids and COVID: Why Young Immune Systems Are Still on Top](#) (*Nature*) For most other viruses, from influenza to respiratory syncytial virus, young children and older adults are typically the most vulnerable; the risk of bad outcomes by age can be represented by a U-shaped curve. But with COVID-19, the younger end of that

curve is largely chopped off. The novelty of SARS-CoV-2 levelled the playing field, and showed that children are naturally better at controlling viral infections.

[New Studies Find Evidence Of 'Superhuman' Immunity To COVID-19 In Some Individuals](#) (NPR) Over the past several months, a series of studies has found that some people mount an extraordinarily powerful immune response against SARS-CoV-2. Their bodies produce very high levels of antibodies, but they also make antibodies with great flexibility — likely capable of fighting off the coronavirus variants circulating in the world but also likely effective against variants that may emerge in the future. "One could reasonably predict that these people will be quite well protected against most — and perhaps all of — the SARS-CoV-2 variants that we are likely to see in the foreseeable future," says Paul Bieniasz, a virologist at Rockefeller University who helped lead several of the studies.

[The Pandemic Has Set Back the Fight Against H.I.V., TB and Malaria](#) (New York Times) The pandemic has flooded hospitals and disrupted supply chains for tests and treatments. In many poor countries, the coronavirus crisis diverted limited public health resources away from treatment and prevention of these diseases.

[On the 20th Anniversary of the September 11th Terror Attacks the Nation is Better Prepared but Still Not Fully Prepared for Public Health Emergencies](#) (Trust for America's Health) On the 20th anniversary of the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Trust for America's Health (TFAH) reflects on the nation's strong progress in preparedness for public health emergencies, as well as the major challenges that still exist, including those illuminated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

See Also: **[Report: 20 Years After 9/11, America Still Not Fully Prepared for Public Health Emergencies](#)** (CIDRAP)

9/11 anniversary could cause some to relive trauma, stress, experts say

(UPI) With the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, approaching, widespread media coverage of tributes and memorial ceremonies is likely to cause some people to relive the trauma of that gruesome day, experts say.

Many across the United States will pause to reflect on the lives lost -- seeing images of them online and in the media. For some it could be healing, but for others looking back could be detrimental to their mental health.

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/09/06/9-11-anniversary-media-coverage-trauma/3141630505289/

Large swells from Hurricane Larry to impact Florida and U.S. East Coast starting Wednesday; Bermuda under tropical storm warning

(Sun Sentinel, September 8) Large, dangerous swells from Hurricane Larry are expected to reach Florida and the U.S. East Coast Wednesday and remain through week's end, forecasters said. Areas north of Palm Beach County could see waves between 4 and 6 feet in areas such as Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Don Harrigan. [<Read more >](#)

[**See more from** [IEM Emergency Management and Homeland Security News](#)]

Report: Solar Could Power 40% of US Electricity by 2035

(Newser) Solar energy has the potential to supply up to 40% of the nation's electricity within 15 years—a 10-fold increase over current solar output, but one that would require massive changes in US policy and billions of dollars in federal investment to modernize the nation's electric grid, a new federal report says. The report by the Energy Department's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy says the United States would need to quadruple its annual solar capacity— and continue to increase it year by year—as it shifts to a renewable-dominant grid in order to address the existential threat posed by climate change.

Learn more: <https://www.newser.com/story/310809/report-solar-could-power-40-of-us-electricity-by-2035.html>

September is National Preparedness Month

[CDC EPIC Webinar](#)

Wednesday, September 15, at 1 p.m. ET.

[#BringDownBarriers to Emergency Preparedness and Response](#)

Zoom link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600814729?pwd=Njc4YUxvYzNTSUZ5em9NOWF5TE1PUT09%20>

Passcode: 417541

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.