



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 10, 2021

Only 90 Adult ICU Beds Open In Ky.; More National Guard Deployed

(WFPL) The Kentucky National Guard will offer additional support to the state's hospitals as the delta variant continues to strain medical resources. More than 100 National Guard members are currently deployed at four of the state's hardest-hit hospitals, including St. Claire Regional Medical Center in Morehead. On Thursday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced that he is authorizing the deployment of 310 additional National Guard members to assist 21 more hospitals. Between 10 and 30 National Guard members will be deployed to each of the 21 additional hospitals that will start receiving help next week. Beshear said the Guard will provide logistical and administrative support so health care professions can focus on treating patients.



[From Governor's briefing slides. Light blue hospitals were in the first round.]

Beshear said some hospitals have also requested basic supplies, such as mattresses and IV poles, so they can create more space for COVID-19 patients. About two-thirds of the state's hospitals — 60 out of 96 — are reporting critical staffing shortages. Only 90 adult ICU beds are open in the state. Beshear said that's the lowest availability of the entire pandemic.

(KY COVID Daily Report) There were 5,252 new cases reported yesterday, with 1,602 in patients 18 and under. The positivity rate was 14.04%. There were also 36 new deaths, for a total of 7,971.

There are 2,479 hospitalized with COVID-19, 665 in the ICU and 434 on a ventilator. Overall, 79.5% of ICU beds are occupied.

Full WFPL story: <https://wfpl.org/only-90-adult-icu-beds-open-in-ky-more-national-guard-deployed/>

Full Press Release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=959>

Watch press conference on YouTube: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=KItUhomGcyc>

President expands vaccine requirements in bid to rein in COVID

The six-part plan includes an order that all executive branch federal workers get vaccinated.

(Politico) President Joe Biden on Thursday announced plans to require staff vaccinations at all health facilities that receive federal funding, as part of a sweeping new plan to rein in the coronavirus.

The move represents a dramatic expansion of the administration's bid to boost vaccination rates among frontline health care workers, and comes as the administration readies a redoubling of efforts to rein in the virus.

The administration is also developing regulations that will require employers with more than 100 workers to institute requirements that employees get vaccinated or submit to regular testing. Those employers will also be required to give workers paid time off to get vaccinated.

The requirement is part of a broader six-part blueprint for combating the pandemic that Biden unveiled. Dubbed "Path out of the Pandemic," it outlines new initiatives aimed at boosting vaccinations and access to testing, insulating the economy, keeping schools open, expanding mask requirements and improving care for Covid-19 patients.

Read more & watch press conference: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/09/09/biden-federal-workers-vaccines-510851>

>> Visit the White House's [webpage](#) for more details on these and other proposals <<

Lawmakers pass bill to not allow statewide mask mandate until 2023, along with other health-related pandemic measures

(KY Health News) The Kentucky General Assembly has passed a bill to prevent a statewide mask mandate until June 2023, and shifting the responsibility for such mandates to local governments and businesses. Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear quickly line-item-vetoed the bill, and the Republican controlled legislature over-rode the veto about as quickly.

Senate Bill 2, sponsored by Sen. Ralph Alvarado, R-Winchester, also directs the state to create more monoclonal-antibody treatment centers, used for early treatment of Covid-19 under a federal emergency-use authorization; allows paramedics to work in hospitals and nursing homes; and allows families of nursing-home patients to name an "essential caregiver" who would have the right to visit the patient.

Related story - General Assembly leaves masking authority to school districts; Republicans block votes on Democrats' amendments

(KY Health News) The Kentucky House and Senate gave final passage Thursday night to a bill eliminating the state's requirement to wear masks in schools and giving that authority back to local school districts.

Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear quickly vetoed the mask-mandate parts of the bill but the Republican-controlled legislature overrode him just as quickly, and adjourned the special session he had called in the wake of a state Supreme Court decision upholding laws the legislature passed last winter to limit the governor's emergency powers.

"This bill will also nullify, null and void the **Kentucky Board of Education's** mandated masking protocol," said. said Sen. Max Wise, R-Campbellsville, the sponsor of [Senate Bill 1](#). "This bill will give local control back to the districts, not mandating they do, not mandating they don't. They make the decision of what they think is best for their constituents and their communities."

SB1 would guarantee school funding, which is normally based on average daily attendance; address staffing shortages; set rules for how school districts can manage in-home learning; and require the state **Department for Public Health** to develop an optional "test-to-stay" model to avoid quarantines for students who have been exposed to the virus but test negative and have no symptoms. Students would be tested for a period of days to see if they can remain in the classroom or be quarantined. The bill passed the Senate 28-8 and the House 70-25, largely along party lines. The Senate overrode the veto 21-6, and the House did likewise 69-24.

Baptist Health Richmond suspending elective procedures

Read more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/baptist-health-richmond-suspending-elective-procedures-due-to-continued-increase-of-covid-19-patients>

Number of people getting tested rising; Lexington hospitalizations also rising

Story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/number-of-people-getting-tested-is-rising-so-are-hospitalizations>

CDC Clinician Outreach September 10, 2021

Monoclonal Antibodies Bamlanivimab and Etesevimab May Be Less Effective for Treating Cases of COVID-19 Caused by Variants

Genetic variants of SARS-CoV-2 have been emerging and circulating around the world throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Viral mutations and variants in the United States are routinely monitored through sequence-based surveillance, laboratory studies, and epidemiological investigations.

Recent laboratory studies suggest that the monoclonal antibodies bamlanivimab and etesevimab may be less effective for treating cases of COVID-19 caused by variants with [certain substitutions or combinations of substitutions in the spike protein](#).

Vaccines authorized for use in the United States are effective against these variants and effective therapeutics are available. CDC continues to monitor all variants circulating within the United States.

To learn more about the updated variant classifications and definitions, please visit the [SARS-CoV-2 Variant Classifications and Definitions](#) webpage, and the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) [Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) of Bamlanivimab and Etesevimab](#).

Judge says Ohio hospital cannot be forced to administer ivermectin to treat Covid reversing earlier decision

(NBC) A judge ruled Monday that an Ohio hospital cannot be forced to give a patient [ivermectin](#) for Covid-19, [reversing an earlier decision](#) that ordered it to administer a parasite medication that has not been approved to treat the disease.

In an 11-page decision, Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge Michael Oster Jr. wrote that there “was no doubt that the medical and scientific communities do not support the use of ivermectin as a treatment for Covid-19.”

Based on the current evidence, Oster wrote, the drug — which is primarily used to deworm horses but has been [promoted by some doctors, some Republicans](#) and the [popular podcast host Joe Rogan](#) to combat the coronavirus — “is not an effective treatment for Covid-19.”

Oster cited advisories from [the Food and Drug Administration](#), the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and medical associations that have warned against using the medication for Covid-19.

Oster also cited problems with research into using ivermectin to treat the disease, [including the withdrawal](#) of a non-peer-reviewed study from a website that posts academic pre-prints.

Learn more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/judge-says-ohio-hospital-cannot-be-forced-use-ivermectin-treat-n1278576>

UofL starting accelerated nursing program amid nationwide shortage

Applications are now being accepted to join an accelerated program in UofL’s School of Nursing.

Read more: <https://www.wbko.com/app/2021/09/01/uofl-starting-accelerated-nursing-program-amid-nationwide-shortage/>

Kids' Accidental Poisonings Are on the Rise: Protect Your Child

Story link: <https://news360.com/article/563873912>

Inside STAT: A tragic anniversary during an ongoing trauma

Trauma can have a huge impact on individuals' lives. That the 20th anniversary of the horrific 9/11 attacks is taking place amid the ongoing collective tragedy of the Covid-19 pandemic is bound to make this year's remembrances extra difficult, Ken Yeager, director of the Stress, Trauma and Resilience Program at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, writes in a [STAT First Opinion](#). Just as many people were traumatized by watching the Twin Towers burn and collapse over and over again on television, the health care catastrophe wrought by Covid-19 is causing secondary trauma that's almost impossible to escape. “After 9/11, Americans generally pulled together,” Yeager writes. “We need that today.” [Read more](#) for other measures and reflections.

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

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

Related story #1 - 9/11's Lessons for Disaster Response

(*Med Page Today*, September 9) Taken as a whole, the health outcomes that arose from exposure to the World Trade Center hazards have yielded important lessons for workplace safety and preparedness.

"Hospitals and fire departments and police departments all started undergoing their department-wide changes and training and equipment in response to, basically, the 9/11 attacks," said Travis Kubale, PhD, associate director for research planning and care integration for the WTC Health Program at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

For example, the CDC and the [Health Resources and Services Administration worked](#) with many states and cities to distribute funding to improve communication systems, manage large influxes of patients and fatalities, track bed availability, evacuate healthcare facilities, and plan for evacuations and shelter-in-place situations, and coordinate with volunteers and first responders, among other goals.

Many lessons from 9/11 have to do with the most critical time: during the disaster itself. According to a [2013 report from the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health](#) (NYCOSH) on lessons learned from 9/11 for protecting workers, the most important one may be "Do No Additional Harm."

The [severity of respiratory issues](#) and [other health problems](#) also corresponded with their level of exposure: how soon and how long responders and others were near the toxic materials. A frequently cited problem at the WTC site was that shifts were too long and the "rescue" period -- the length of time devoted to potentially saving trapped survivors -- was also extended far past the time frame within which the living could have survived. The last person removed alive from the debris was found less than 24 hours after the attacks.

Following 9/11, it became clear that immediate long-term documentation and monitoring was crucial to assessing and treating patients. Without knowing where survivors and responders were, the extent of their exposure, and how long they stayed or worked in the WTC, for example, it would be nearly impossible to conduct research on the affected population or evaluate them for 9/11-related treatment.

This long-term documentation has allowed the program to adapt alongside patient health needs. The onset of health problems with long latency periods, like certain cancers, drives the point home.

Learn more in full story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/special-reports/exclusives/94419>

Related story #2 - New report shows nearly three quarters of 9/11 responders have long-term illness

(See full InfoGram story) Coinciding with the 20-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11, 2001, the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program just released a report on the long-term health effects the rescue and recovery efforts have had on FDNY 9/11 responders.

This report, [Health Impacts on FDNY Rescue/Recovery Workers - 20 Years: 2001 to 2021](#), is the third in its series from the FDNY WTC Health Program, with similar reports released in [2007](#) and [2016](#).

Related story #3 - Security consultant says everyone should be extra careful around 9/11 anniversary

(WAVE) Saturday will be 20 years since the coordinated attacks on September 11th that took almost 3,000 lives and dramatically changed the USA forever. There is always concern about safety and security when it comes to monumental anniversaries. A Louisville security consultant says it's always important to have situational awareness, especially around big anniversaries.

Greg Gitschier is a former police officer, retired secret service agent, and security consultant. Gitschier was supposed to be in New York City 20 years ago on 9/11 when he was working with the secret service. He lost a friend and colleague that day, Master Special Officer Craig Miller. Miller died trying to rescue people trapped in the World Trade Center.

Gitschier says an attack can happen anywhere, not just in major cities. He says people may not realize it but, Louisville could actually be a target for several reasons. After 9/11, Geitcher was with Secret Service assigned to the Joint Terrorism Task Force, learning about where our vulnerabilities are. Gitschier said to be aware of your surroundings, know how to get yourself and your family out of a dangerous situation.

Interview & full story: <https://www.wave3.com/app/2021/09/08/local-security-consultant-says-everyone-should-be-extra-careful-around-911-anniversary/>

Listen & Read - [Inside the FBI: Director Wray Reflects on 9/11](#)

Related story #4 - Secret Service agents share chilling memories of 9/11

Full CBS story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/secret-service-agents-share-chilling-memories-of-911/>

Capitol Police memo warns of potential for violence during Sept. 18 rally

(CNN/WPSD) Law enforcement officials are bracing for potential clashes and unrest during an upcoming right-wing rally in Washington, D.C., as violent rhetoric surrounding the Sept. 18 event has increased online and counterprotests are being planned for the same day, according to an internal Capitol Police memo reviewed by CNN.

The latest intelligence report on the "Justice for J6" rally — which aims to support [insurrectionists charged in the Capitol riots](#) — notes that online chatter in support of the event started increasing after [the officer who fatally shot rioter Ashli Babbitt](#) went public with his identity in a recent interview with NBC's Lester Holt.

There's been a noticeable uptick in violent rhetoric around the event and heated discussions centered on Babbitt's shooting on social media and discussion boards, according to the memo. The document warns that many individuals may also see Sept. 18 as a "Justice for Ashli Babbitt" rally, which could be cause for concern, and it's not unreasonable to plan for violent altercations. There have been additional discussions of violence associated with the event, with one online chat suggesting violence against Jewish centers and liberal churches while law enforcement is distracted that day.

Story: https://www.wpsdlocal6.com/news/capitol-police-memo-warns-of-potential-for-violence-during-sept-18-rally/article_68616bc0-10d9-11ec-a626-8329a35c0787.html

Hundreds of law enforcement officials were prepped early for potential Jan. 6 violence

(Politico, September 10) Just two days before armed rioters stormed and ransacked the Capitol, about 300 law enforcement officials got on a conference call to talk about the possibility that Donald Trump's supporters would turn violent on Jan. 6. They specifically discussed the possibility that the day's gatherings would turn into a

mass-casualty event, and they made plans on how to communicate with each other if that happened.
Read more: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/09/10/law-enforcement-prepped-violence-511064>

Related additional Newser story

Fencing around US Capital building may be restored

Read more: <http://newser.com/s310824>

University of Louisville Study Examines Tear Gas Health Risks

(WFPL) Law enforcement use tear gas to break up demonstrations – most recently against people who took to the streets to support the movement for Black lives.

People who come into contact with it face [known health risks](#) including to the skin, eyes and upper respiratory system. But Louisville researchers are trying to learn more about tear gas exposure and other possible complications.

Kira Taylor is an associate professor of epidemiology and population health at the University of Louisville's School of Public Health and Information Sciences. She's one of the collaborators conducting [the study](#).

"The receptor for the chemical that is used in tear gas is embedded in the cell membranes of every organ system in the body. So it's possible that these chemicals are also getting into other organ systems, like the cardiovascular system or the reproductive system," Taylor said.

The survey is ongoing, and it's open to participants nationwide, not just to people living in Louisville. It's gathered about 200 respondents so far, and researchers say they're aiming for 600 participants in total.

Learn more: <https://wfpl.org/louisville-study-examines-tear-gas-health-risks/>

**Drones: New CISA guidance for emergency communications centers
and FAA outreach events next week**

([See full InfoGram story](#)) The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has just released its [Responding to Drone Calls: Guidance for Emergency Communications Centers \(ECCs\)](#).

As unmanned aircraft system (UAS), or drone, activity continues to increase in the United States, ECCs may experience an increase in drone related calls. To ensure an appropriate response, ECCs should understand the distinctions between safe and unsafe drone activity and collect the information needed to inform potential law enforcement action. This new guidance from CISA is consistent with the latest information from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on what drone operators are safely allowed and not allowed to do. It also provides a suggested script that ECCs may follow when receiving a drone-related call.

You can access CISA's [Responding to Drone Calls: Guidance for Emergency Communications Centers](#) within its collection of resources on [UAS and critical infrastructure](#).

This new guidance from CISA is timely, not only because it provides actionable information for the public safety community, but also because it's release coincides with two drone-related outreach events from the FAA next week: the [UAS Symposium](#), on **September 14 and 15**, and [National Drone Safety Awareness Week](#), from **September 13 to 19**.

Public safety agencies may want to take advantage of the FAA's public outreach events next week to get up to speed on regulatory changes and trends in public drone use. The latest regulatory changes from the FAA, called [Operations Over People](#) and [Remote ID](#), went into effect in April 2021. While there are still many legal constraints in place for drone use, these two new regulations were designed to greatly facilitate safe recreational use of drones without the need for any special FAA waivers – even when flying drones over people and at night. National Drone Safety Awareness Week is a public awareness campaign, and this year it is focusing on recreational flyers. The campaign will encourage [fun, safe, recreational drone-flying activities](#) throughout the week, while at the same time building public awareness around these significant regulatory changes the FAA has implemented over the past year.

The FAA UAS Symposium is a low-cost virtual event. It will provide opportunities to interact with FAA experts and peers during presentations, roundtables and virtual networking events to help shape the future of [UAS integration into the U.S. National Airspace System](#). (Source: [CISA](#), [FAA](#))

KSHE 2021 Healthcare Coalition Conference is **POSTPONED**

Moving it to February 21-23 in Owensboro

The postponed event will not take the place of the 2022 Healthcare Coalition Conference, which will still be held in the fall of 2022 in Lexington, KY.

([KSHE Statement](#)) Every year, we look forward to coming together at the Healthcare Coalition Conference to discuss emerging issues, best practices and to network with colleagues, industry partners, and consultants. Unfortunately, the continuing impact that the coronavirus (COVID-19) is having in our communities and facilities has forced us to make the difficult decision to postpone the HCC conference in the hopes that we will be able to

host a safe and successful event at a future time. This was a tough call to make, and while we know this is disappointing, the health and safety of our attendees are our utmost concern. However, in keeping with our conference theme this year, we will remain Flexible, Focused and will move Forward with the 2021 HCC conference into the first quarter of next year.

The new event dates for the 2021 HCC will be February 21-23, 2022, and will still be held in Owensboro, KY. This postponed event will not take the place of the 2022 Healthcare Coalition Conference, which will still be held in the fall of 2022 in Lexington, KY. Please check the HCC event homepage for additional details as they become available in October: https://kshe.org/page/2021hcc_homepage

[Note that as of 12:45 PM ET this date, the KSHE site had not been updated. Check back often.]

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>

**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.](#)

**NHTSA Webinar:
Implementing Telemedicine in EMS and the 911 Comm Center
September 22 @ 2 PM ET**

(InfoGram) For EMS and 911 systems, telemedicine has enabled safer triaging of possible COVID patients, avoiding unnecessary and expensive visits to the emergency department, and getting patients the right care at the right time. But not every EMS agency or 911 emergency communications center is familiar with telemedicine.

To help address that gap, the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS collaborated with EMS leaders from across the country to create the [Telemedicine Framework for EMS and 911 Organizations](#), a 45-page guide explaining how agencies can use telemedicine to deliver high-quality, cost-efficient care.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Office of EMS (NHTSA OEMS) is hosting a webinar on **September 22 at 2:00 p.m. EST** entitled [Implementing Telemedicine in EMS and the 911 Communications Center](#). This webinar will be an opportunity to hear from people involved in the creation of the "Telemedicine Framework for EMS and 911 Organizations" and who have helped implement telemedicine in an EMS system. They'll highlight some of the challenges faced by EMS and 911 organizations and how to use the Framework to help find solutions.

This webinar is part of the NHTSA OEMS' series, [EMS Focus](#), providing free learning opportunities for the EMS community to learn more about federal EMS efforts and programs.

You can learn more about this webinar and [register here](#). Recordings of past webinars are available on the [NHTSA OEMS website](#). (Source: [NHTSA OEMS](#))

Eight states (including KY) to allow driver's license on iPhone

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2021/09/01/Apple-license-wallet-identification/1791630516255/

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.