



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 14, 2021

Federal Government Announces Monoclonal Antibody Treatment Shortage Due to Extraordinary Demand

(From [Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear [said](#) the federal government announced a change in the way COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatments will be distributed among states due to supply shortages and extraordinary demand across the country. Health care providers will no longer be able to order the treatments directly; instead, state governments will supervise the distribution of a capped number of treatments delivered to them each week.

During the week ending Sept. 7, 2021, 3,642 treatment courses of monoclonal antibodies were used in Kentucky. As of Sept. 7, Kentucky hospitals have 9,363 monoclonal antibody treatment courses on hand. Currently, monoclonal antibody treatments are available at 139 locations across Kentucky.

Yesterday, Dr. Steven Stack, commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health, explained monoclonal antibodies are synthetic, laboratory-created antibodies. They give patients a temporary immune boost, ideally helping people who are already sick have a milder disease. They do not teach a patient's body how to create its own antibodies.

As of today, 59% of all Kentuckians have had at least their first COVID-19 vaccine dose, and 69% of eligible Kentuckians – ages 12 and up – have had at least their first dose.

Here is the HHS statement

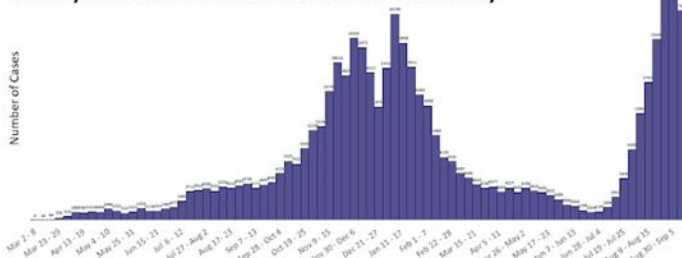
*We know this is a very challenging time, and we appreciate your continued partnership. As you may know, the increased incidence of the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2 caused a substantial surge in the utilization of monoclonal antibody drugs, particularly in areas of the country with low vaccination rates. We are committed to helping ensure the consistent availability of these critical drugs for current and future patients in all geographic areas of the country. **On September 13, HHS transitioned from the direct ordering process for mAbs to a state-coordinated distribution system, similar to that used from November 2020 – February 2021.** We fully recognize that state/territorial health departments know where to send needed products in their areas. Transitioning to a state-coordinated distribution system will give health departments maximum flexibility to get these critical drugs where they are needed most.*

- **As of Monday, September 13, 2021: Administration sites will no longer order mAb directly from AmerisourceBergen. HHS will determine each state's weekly amount of mAb products based on COVID-19 case burden and mAb utilization.**
- State health departments subsequently identify which sites in their respective jurisdictions receive the product and the amount each site receives.
- HHS will determine weekly distribution amounts for each state based on weekly reports of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in addition to data on inventories and use submitted in HHSProtect.
- State Health Departments will determine where the product goes in their jurisdictions.
- HHS will continue to monitor product utilization rates, COVID-19 case burden, and overall availability of mAbs to determine when a shift back to the normal direct ordering process may be possible.

KY COVID [Daily Report](#)

There were 4030 new cases were reported today, with 1,154 of those in persons 18 and under. The positivity rate is 13.45%. There 2,514 hospitalized with COVID-19, 666 in an ICU, and 428 on a vent. Statewide, 89.7% of the ICU beds are occupied.

Weekly new cases of the coronavirus in Kentucky



Every county but one, Clinton County (12.6), was in the Incident Rates **Red Zone** over 25 per 100,000 persons.

There were 24 new deaths logged, for a total of 8,095.

[Related KY Health News story](#)
[‘The only true cure for Covid is prevention,’ worker on Covid-19 unit says as record number of hospitals report staffing shortages](#)

Hospital Staffing Still Strained After Pandemic Special Session

(WFPL) Kentucky hospitals and nursing homes have been [struggling with staffing shortages](#) as COVID-19 continues to [surge through the state](#). [Health care leaders hoped](#) state lawmakers would set aside funds to attract and retain workers during [last week's special legislative session](#) dealing with the pandemic, but legislators said the initiative didn't fit within Gov. Andy Beshear's agenda for the session.

Instead, lawmakers passed a measure allowing paramedics to work in hospitals and setting aside \$69.2 million in federal relief money for testing supplies, vaccination campaigns and monoclonal antibody treatment. As of Monday, 66 of Kentucky's 96 hospitals were experiencing critical staffing shortages.

Jim Musser, vice president for policy and government relations with the Kentucky Hospital Association, said the cost of travel nurses has gone up during the pandemic because of the great need for them. "There's a need, and the way the market works is prices go up when there's a lot of demand and not enough supply to meet that demand," Musser said. See full story: <https://wfpl.org/hospital-staffing-still-strained-after-pandemic-special-session/>

Governor urges school boards to continue mask requirements

See more: https://www.wpsdlocal6.com/coronavirus_news/governor-urges-school-boards-to-continue-mask-requirements/article_3c4ca46e-1548-11ec-aa4e-2bf4120f757a.html

Kids' COVID-19 cases continue to rise in US

(CIDRAP) The American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP's) latest numbers on US pediatric COVID-19 cases once again show a significant rise in confirmed cases in patients under 18.

More than [243,000 child COVID-19 cases](#) were reported from Sep 2 to Sep 9, representing 28.9% of weekly reported US COVID-19 cases, the second highest weekly total for pediatric cases in the pandemic.

"After declining in early summer, child cases have increased exponentially, with nearly 500,000 cases in the past 2 weeks," the AAP said. Children represent 15.5% of all US COVID-19 cases.

The 7-day average of new daily US COVID-19 cases is 164,475, according to the *Washington Post* [tracker](#). Yesterday, the country recorded 172,404 cases, including 1,827 deaths according to the *New York Times* [tracker](#).

By today, almost all public and private grade and high schools in the country have resumed in-person learning, but only adolescents ages 12 and older are eligible for COVID-19 vaccines. The AAP, along with other health associations, has requested that the Food and Drug Administration authorize vaccine use in younger children as soon as possible.

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines – Extracts from [September 14](#)

[Biden Plans Global COVID Response Summit as Lawmakers Call for Increased Vaccine Aid](#) (*Homeland Preparedness News*) The Biden administration seeks an international summit on COVID-19 pandemic responses and to form a united global front for vaccination efforts, a proposal that could impact vaccine manufacturing, supply chains and even the upcoming United Nations General Assembly.

[Using Wastewater Surveillance Data to Support the COVID-19 Response — United States, 2020–2021](#) (*CDC MMWR*) Wastewater surveillance, the measurement of pathogen levels in wastewater, is used to evaluate community-level infection trends, augment traditional surveillance that leverages clinical tests and services (e.g., case reporting), and monitor public health interventions (1). Approximately 40% of persons infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, shed virus RNA in their stool (2); therefore, community-level trends in SARS-CoV-2 infections, both symptomatic and asymptomatic (2) can be tracked through wastewater testing (3–6). CDC launched the National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) in September 2020 to coordinate wastewater surveillance programs implemented by state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments to support the COVID-19 pandemic response.

[Covid Hospitalizations Hit Crisis Levels in Southern I.C.U.s](#) (*New York Times*) Hospitals in the southern United States are running dangerously low on space in intensive care units, as the Delta variant has led to spikes in coronavirus cases not seen since last year's deadly winter wave. One in four hospitals now reports more than 95 percent of I.C.U. beds occupied — up from one in five last month. Experts say it can become difficult to maintain standards of care for the sickest patients in hospitals where all or nearly all I.C.U. beds are occupied.

***Urgent iPhone update issued* after spyware discovered that gives hackers access**

(ABC) A cybersecurity lab found a new exploit on a Saudi dissident's phone from a well-known Israeli spyware company that has spurred Apple to push an urgent software update. They have developed a way to take control over nearly any Apple computer, watch or iPhone.

Read more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/security/apple-urges-security-update-new-imessage-flaw-disclosed-rcna1995>

Nicholas, now tropical storm, dumps rain along Gulf Coast

(Associated Press, September 14) Tropical Storm Nicholas hit the Texas coast early Tuesday as a hurricane and dumped more than a foot (30.5 centimeters) of rain along the same area swamped by Hurricane Harvey in 2017, drenching storm-battered Louisiana, knocking out power to hundreds of thousands of people and bringing the potential for life-threatening flash floods across the Deep South. Nicholas made landfall on the eastern part of the Matagorda Peninsula and was soon downgraded to a tropical storm. It was about 15 miles (25 kilometers) south-southwest of Houston, Texas, with maximum winds of 60 mph (95 kph) as of 7 a.m. CDT Tuesday, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Nicholas was the 14th named storm of the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season. [<Read more >](#)

Fence returning to Capitol amid 'online chatter' about rally

(Associated Press, September 13) Congressional security officials have approved the reinstallation of a temporary fence around the Capitol as they prepare for a Saturday rally in defense of the rioters who stormed the building on Jan. 6. The Capitol Police said in a statement that officials are “aware of concerning online chatter” about the demonstration. While it is still unclear how large the rally will be and whether members of domestic extremist groups will attend, security officials say they will be ready if there is unrest. They want to avoid the mistakes of Jan. 6, when officers were unprepared for the siege and were overwhelmed by former President Donald Trump’s supporters. [<Read more >](#)

Related stories - House Sergeant-At-Arms Briefs Congressional Leaders On Sept. 18 Rally

[Roll Call](#) (9/13, Marquette) reports House Sergeant-at-Arms William Walker on Monday briefed House Speaker Pelosi, House Minority Leader McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Schumer, Senate Minority Leader McConnell, and Capitol Police Chief Thomas Manger “ahead of the Justice for J6 rally to support imprisoned pro-Trump rioters who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6.” Walker said he is “reasonably concerned” about the rally, but said the briefing “was ‘outstanding’ and all participants were attentive.”

[The Hill](#) reports Capitol Police “have installed temporary high-tech security cameras to allow them a vaster view of the Capitol complex,” while a Capitol security board on Monday “approved a plan to reinstall a seven-foot fence around the main Capitol building, which had stood for months after January’s deadly assault,” and “said it has issued an emergency declaration, which will allow Capitol Police to deputize outside law enforcement as ‘special’ Capitol Police officers on Saturday.”

The [AP](#) reports the upcoming rally and the “brazen rhetoric” that has precluded it “is the latest attempt to explain away the horrific assault and obscure what played out for all the world to see: rioters loyal to the then-president storming the building, battling police and trying to stop Congress from certifying the election of Democrat Joe Biden.” The AP adds that “the attempted whitewashing of the Jan. 6 attack threatens to further divide an already polarized nation that finds itself drifting from what had been common facts and a shared commitment to civic order toward an unsettling new normal.”

Capitol Police Arrest California Man With Knives Outside Of DNC Headquarters. [Politico](#) (9/13, Niedzwiadek) reports US Capitol Police on Monday announced officers “arrested a California man on weapons charges after finding multiple illegal knives in a pickup adorned with white supremacist iconography near the Democratic National Committee’s Capitol Hill headquarters.” Politico says Capitol Police “said...44-year-old Donald Craighead was charged with possession of prohibited weapons after a patrolling Special Operations Division officer noticed that the Dodge Dakota did not have a visible license plate and pulled the driver over around midnight.” Politico adds Capitol Police “said that the officer then spotted a bayonet and machete, both of which are types of knives that are illegal in Washington, D.C., inside the truck,” and “also said that Craighead espoused white supremacist rhetoric while he was pulled over.”

**[CDC Health Alert 00451 Advisory](#)
**[Increases in Availability of Cannabis Products Containing Delta-8 THC](#)
[and Reported Cases of Adverse Events](#)****

(CDC) The purpose of this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory is to alert public health departments, healthcare professionals, first responders, poison control centers, laboratories, and the public to the increased availability of cannabis products containing delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and the potential for adverse events due to insufficient labeling of products containing THC and cannabidiol (CBD).

[< Click the headline above to see the full CDC HAN Advisory.>](#)

FEMA NIMS Alert 35-21 Developing and Maintaining EOPs

FEMA has updated [Comprehensive Preparedness Guide \(CPG\) 101: Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans](#). The document provides guidelines on developing emergency operations plans and promotes a common understanding of the fundamentals of community-based, risk-informed planning and decision making. The guide will help planners examine potential threats and hazards and produce integrated, coordinated and synchronized plans.

FEMA will host a series of 60-minute webinar sessions to discuss the update and key changes to CPG 101 with whole community partners. These webinars will highlight the changes in the document and help planners at all levels utilize the principles, concepts, tools and process from CPG 101. Advance registration is required and on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, click on your preferred session below:

- [REGISTER: Webinar #1 - Sept. 21, 12:00 PM ET](#)
- [REGISTER: Webinar #2 - Sept. 22, 6:00 PM ET](#)
- [REGISTER: Webinar #3 - Sept. 28, 3:00 PM ET](#)
- [REGISTER: Webinar #4 - Oct. 4, 2:00 PM ET](#)
- [REGISTER: Webinar #5 - Oct. 13, 2:00 PM ET](#)

Visit [Planning Guides | FEMA.gov](#) for more information.

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.