



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 15, 2021

## Gov. Beshear announces fourth-highest COVID-19 report since pandemic began

(WKYT) Governor Beshear reported 5,398 new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, the fourth-highest since the pandemic began, bringing the state total to 639,687 cases. The governor says the state is seeing a 13.02% positivity rate. Of Wednesday's new cases, 1,530 are in kids 18 or younger.

There were 49 new COVID-19 related deaths reported on Wednesday. That brings the state total to 8,144.

As of Wednesday, 2,493 people are hospitalized for COVID-19 related reasons, 648 are in the ICU, and 436 are on ventilators.

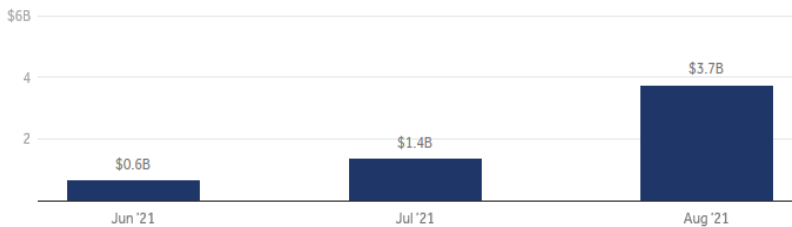
See story with video: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/09/15/gov-beshear-reports-fourth-highest-covid-19-report-since-pandemic-began/> KDPH Daily Report: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/COVID19DailyReport.pdf>

### COVID Vaccine News

- ✓ [FDA staff say Pfizer COVID-19 boosters may not be needed, but do improve immunity](#)
- ✓ [Moderna says COVID-19 vaccine protection wanes, makes case for booster](#)
- ✓ [Two-dose J&J Ebola vaccine gives strong immune response](#)

## Unvaccinated COVID-19 hospitalizations cost billions of dollars

(Peterson KFF) While real-time data on the cost of all COVID-19 hospitalizations are not publicly available, various sources point to an average hospitalization cost of around \$20,000. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [reports](#) that Medicare fee-for-service COVID-19 hospitalizations average \$24,033.



Note: See brief for stepwise calculations.

Source: KFF analysis of CDC, CMS, and HHS Protect data • [Get the data](#) • [PNG](#)

Peterson-KFF  
Health System Tracker

Another [study](#) of Medicare fee-for-service enrollees found an average COVID-19 hospitalization cost \$21,752. A FAIR Health Similarly, our [analysis](#) of pre-pandemic private insurance claims for pneumonia hospitalizations with complications averaged \$20,292 (though the cost for hospitalizations requiring a ventilator are much higher).

Our analysis of HHS and CDC data indicates there were 32,000 preventable COVID-19 hospitalizations in June,

68,000 preventable COVID-19 hospitalizations in July, and another 187,000 preventable COVID-19 hospitalizations among unvaccinated adults in the U.S. in August, for a total of 287,000 across the three months. We explain more on how we arrived at these numbers below.

If each of these preventable hospitalizations cost roughly \$20,000, on average, that would mean these largely avoidable hospitalizations have already cost billions of dollars since the beginning of June. Based on our estimates, described below, we find preventable COVID-19 hospitalizations cost \$5.7 billion from June to August in 2021.

Full story: <https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/brief/unvaccinated-covid-patients-cost-the-u-s-health-system-billions-of-dollars/>

## US military branches set deadline for members to be vaccinated against Covid-19

(CNN, September 14) Four US military branches have set deadlines for when active-duty, reserve and National Guard service members must be vaccinated against Covid-19. The deadlines set by the services follow Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin's announcement at the end of August that all US military service members must be vaccinated after the Pfizer/BioNTech coronavirus vaccine received full authorization from the Food and Drug Administration. [<Read more >](#)

### CIDRAP News

- ✓ [Study: Farmworkers at 4 times risk of COVID-19](#)
- ✓ [Alaska, Idaho begin crisis standards of care over COVID-19](#)
- ✓ [Global COVID-19 cases show substantial drop](#)

## Doctors warn consuming **Betadine won't cure COVID**, could be deadly

(KOKH) Just a couple of months after the animal de-wormer Ivermectin went viral as a treatment for COVID-19, new reports suggest some people are now resorting to drinking iodine.

Oklahoma State Medical Association President, Dr. Mary Clarke says she's had several patients come to her suffering adverse reactions to Ivermectin. She's now hoping to sound the alarm before another harmful at-home remedy starts to surge. Betadine is the brand name for one of the most commonly used antiseptic solutions to clean minor cuts, scrapes, or burns. But recently, [the company had to clarify to customers](#) its products, "have not been approved to treat coronavirus," after reports some people were swallowing it.

"Taking iodine in orally is not good. There are too many risks," said Dr. Clarke. She says nausea, blood disorders, or kidney failure are the most likely side effects. However, in some cases, it can even be deadly. She adds that those who do ingest more than just a small amount should call a Poison Control Center immediately, warning **nothing** you find over the counter can cure COVID.

Story link: <https://okcfox.com/news/local/doctors-warn-consuming-betadine-wont-cure-covid-could-be-deadly>

## Girl, 5, Hospitalized After Consuming Half a Bottle of Hand Sanitizer at School

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s311053>

## US school nurses shortage turns dire as students return to classrooms

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/06/health/school-nurses-shortage-covid-19-pandemic-wellness/index.html>

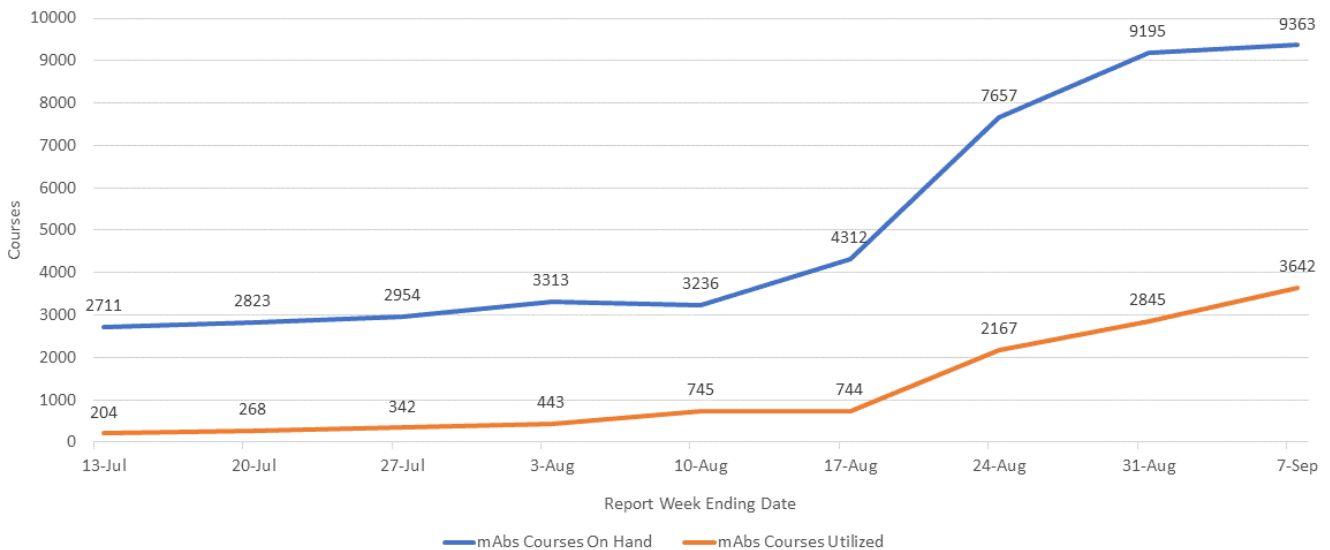
## St. Claire converts field tent into monoclonal antibody injection center

(WKYT) St. Claire HealthCare in Morehead is offering [monoclonal antibody therapy](#). Officials say they began offering the treatment, *REGEN-COV*, through their HomeCare program in August, but the demand for treatment has grown so quickly, they have since repurposed the [field tent located just outside the hospital's main entrance](#) into a Monoclonal Antibody Injection Treatment Center.

The treatment is available for patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 or had close contact with someone who tested positive, and are at high risk for complications from the virus.

Full story link: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/09/15/ky-hospital-converts-field-tent-into-mono-clonal-antibody-injection-center/>

## Kentucky Monoclonal Antibody (mAb) Utilization July 2021 – Present



Reported weekly on Wednesday for previous week.

mAbs on hand include 1,928 courses of bamlanivimab - Cannot be used alone per current EUA.

## Kentucky mAbs Program Update - New Process

(KDPH – Updated Sept 15 @ 11:45 AM ET):

### Transition from HHS to State-Based Ordering Process

As of Monday, September 13, United States HHS transitioned from the direct ordering process for monoclonal antibody (mAbs) therapeutics to a state/territory-coordinated distribution system, similar to that used from November 2020 – February 2021. Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) was given notice of this

change on evening of September 13<sup>th</sup>. During the afternoon of September 14<sup>th</sup> HHS provided to KDPH a list of orders that had been submitted by Kentucky mAbs providers directly to AmerisourceBergen totaling over 14,000 courses that remained unfulfilled.

### **Beginning This Week**

Beginning this week, the federal government will determine the weekly amount of mAbs products each state and territory receives based on COVID-19 case burden and mAbs utilization. State and territorial health departments subsequently identify which sites in their respective jurisdictions receive product as well as the amount each site receives. Kentucky's course allocation for this week is 500 courses of BAM/ETE and 4460 courses of REGON-COV. To minimize delays in product arrival this week, KDPH worked diligently to review pending orders from the list provided on September 14<sup>th</sup>, completed orders by participating mAbs providers in previous weeks, and provider reported on-hand inventories to determine allocation quantities and submitted apportioned orders on the morning of Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> for distribution. This week's state allocation was not sufficient to satisfy all existing orders with AmerisourceBergen and will be the only week that this list of orders will be utilized for request fulfillment.

### **Beginning Next Week - New Request Link**

Due to the HHS process change and the inability of administration sites to request product directly from AmerisourceBergen, KDPH has created a request link for mAbs providers. Currently states are only receiving allocations for BAM/ETE and REGON-COV, however HHS has reported that an ETE solo product will be available in the future to utilize in conjunction with existing on-hand BAM inventories. KDPH has been informed to anticipate weekly state allocations on Tuesdays and will enter allocated orders based on review of requests received within 24 hours of receiving the state allocation notification. **Please utilize the link below each week to submit mAbs request by COB Monday for same week delivery needs**

**only:** <https://ky.readyop.com/fs/4lzV/b197>. Please be aware that total requests are anticipated to exceed Kentucky's weekly allocation and, as such, some orders will be less than requested or unable to be fulfilled unless or until the supply increases.

### **For more Information**

HHS is offering a webinar beginning Friday for health officials and new administration sites.

#### **Federal COVID-19 Response: Monoclonal Antibodies 101 Webinar (NEW)**

- Fridays (12:00-1:00PM ET); *Beginning Sept 17*
- Target audience: new administration sites, health officials  
<https://hhsasproea.zoomgov.com/j/1617536991?pwd=NjFMcnJOUENuSFhtRFFtZWlkejYzZz09>

KDPH has a shared mailbox set up to help answer general questions from mAbs providers and will work to set up weekly office hours each week. Please contact us at [DPH.SEOC@ky.gov](mailto:DPH.SEOC@ky.gov).

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### **NETEC Town Hall Webinar Pediatric Surge During COVID-19 Pandemic Current Trends and Future Implications**

Monday, September 20, 2021 @ Noon ET/1 AM CT

Topics will range from current trends during the pandemic, to future implications of the pediatric surge.

Register: [https://unmc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_e5l3vkbbQR6cl\\_f2ZMooBA](https://unmc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_e5l3vkbbQR6cl_f2ZMooBA)

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### **Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines – Extracts from [September 15](#)**

**[Pfizer Analysis Makes Case For COVID Vaccine Booster](#)** (NPR) The Food and Drug Administration released an analysis by Pfizer on the need for a booster shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Pfizer's analysis says data from Israel and the United States in the context of the delta variant "suggest that vaccine protection against COVID-19 infection wanes approximately 6 to 8 months following the second dose." The company says the available data support its request for FDA approval of a third dose of COVID vaccine to be given about six months after the second dose in people 16 years and older. The agency posted the briefing document and data ahead of a public advisory committee meeting Friday. The committee is the same one that voted in support of emergency authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine last December.

**[An Epidemiologist Says At-Home Testing Is Key To Stopping COVID](#)** (NPR) In a new conversation with Kelly on All Things Considered, Dr. Michael Mina, an epidemiology professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, warned that even with increased production, the availability of tests will soon become an issue after Biden announced that businesses with 100 or more employees must either require their employees to be vaccinated or test them weekly. There are already reports of these rapid at-home antigen tests being hard to find on store shelves and online. "We are about to see what I think is going to be another testing crisis in this country," Mina said. "While I am extraordinarily supportive of the president's action plan to increase the

accessibility and availability of these rapid tests ... unfortunately, we do not have the scale of either [rapid or PCR] tests to be able to get fast turnaround time."

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**Over Half of States Have Rolled Back Public Health Powers in Pandemic**

(KHN) Republican legislators in more than half of U.S. states, spurred on by voters angry about lockdowns and mask mandates, are taking away the powers state and local officials use to protect the public against infectious diseases.

A KHN review of hundreds of pieces of legislation found that, in all 50 states, legislators have proposed bills to curb such public health powers since the covid-19 pandemic began. While some governors vetoed bills that passed, at least 26 states pushed through laws that permanently weaken government authority to protect public health. In three additional states, an executive order, ballot initiative or [state Supreme Court ruling](#) limited long-held public health powers. More bills are pending in a handful of states whose legislatures are still in session.

Read more: <https://khn.org/news/article/over-half-of-states-have-rolled-back-public-health-powers-in-pandemic/>

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**Hear or see story: ED Doctor Spread False Information About COVID. She Still Kept Her Medical License**

NPR link" <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/09/14/1035915598/doctors-covid-misinformation-medical-license>

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**Ebola vaccine effective in African clinical trial**

Read more: [https://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2021/09/15/africa-ebola-vaccine-effective-trial/5541631654772/](https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/09/15/africa-ebola-vaccine-effective-trial/5541631654772/)

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**Heavy rain floods Bardstown today leaving residents cleaning up streets and homes**

(WDRB) Heavy rain and flash floods soaked parts of Nelson County on Wednesday morning. Streets were under water in Bardstown as the storm moved through around 6 a.m. Bardstown Fire Chief Billy Mattingly said his crews were getting "one call after another" with everything happening in about 15 minutes. Bardstown and Nelson County fire crews handled three fires during the storm. One of the fires may have been caused by lightning. Mattingly said his team also had three water rescues as roads quickly flooded in the downpour.

Story link: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/heavy-rain-floods-bardstown-leaving-residents-cleaning-up-streets-and-homes/article\\_ac7a9d06-164f-11ec-b5fa-fb29b45db084.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/heavy-rain-floods-bardstown-leaving-residents-cleaning-up-streets-and-homes/article_ac7a9d06-164f-11ec-b5fa-fb29b45db084.html)

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**Executives' ransomware concerns are high, yet few are prepared for attacks**

(Security Magazine, September 14) The vast majority (86.7%) of C-suite and other executives say they expect the number of cyberattacks targeting their organizations to increase over the next 12 months, according to a recent Deloitte poll. And while 64.8% of polled executives say that ransomware is a cyber threat posing major concern to their organizations over the next 12 months, only 33.3% say that their organizations have simulated ransomware attacks to prepare for such an incident. [<Read more >](#)

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**States learning how many Afghan evacuees coming their way  
Kentucky projected to receive 850; WV getting Zero**

(AP) The Biden administration on Wednesday began notifying governors and state refugee coordinators across the country about how many [Afghan evacuees](#) from among the first group of nearly 37,000 arrivals are slated to be resettled in their states.

California is projected to take more arrivals than any other — more than 5,200 people, according to State Department data for the Afghan Placement and Assistance program obtained by The Associated Press. The administration has requested funding from Congress to help resettle 65,000 Afghans in the United States by the end of this month and 95,000 by September 2022.

See more: <https://apnews.com/article/us-afghanistan-evacuees-262203820a617808f4a40a130e2d179a>

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**Up to 700 expected to attend pro-January 6 rally Saturday**

(CBS News, September 14) Up to 700 people are expected to attend Saturday's "Justice for J6" rally in Washington, D.C., in support of those who rioted at the U.S. Capitol on January 6 — a significantly smaller number than the "tens of thousands" who came that day to protest the 2020 presidential election outcome. Melissa Smislova, deputy undersecretary for intelligence enterprise readiness, said Tuesday, "We have learned a lot since January 6." The senior intelligence official, who was appearing at the Homeland Security Enterprise Forum, noted the DHS is "tracking hotel reservations across the United States" to gauge turnout at more than a dozen rallies orchestrated by "Look Ahead America," the organization behind "Justice for J6" led by a former 2016 Trump campaign staffer. [<Read more >](#)



## CISA and the FBI Launch Operation Flashpoint



CISA and the FBI recently launched a regional pilot program called “Operation Flashpoint.” This show of united federal government action is intended to encourage communities to serve as the “eyes and ears” in recognizing suspicious activities and helping prevent acts of terrorism.

The 90-day pilot aims to encourage businesses and the public to voluntarily report suspicious activities, such as buying large amounts of chemicals and materials (or a combination of these) that can be used to build explosive devices.

For CISA, the Office for Bombing Prevention’s [Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program](#) participates in Operation Flashpoint, while its partner, the Weapons of

Mass Destruction Directorate, coordinates the efforts for the FBI.

At the pilot’s launch event at Revell Ace Hardware in Clinton, Miss., on June 30, CISA and FBI officials described the threat of domestic violent extremists (DVEs) and others of building IEDs from common household items using instructions found on the internet.

Approximately 250,000 point-of-sale businesses in the U.S. sell, use, or distribute materials that can build bombs. Major bombings can cause mass casualty events with drastic loss of life and also cost communities hundreds of millions of dollars or more.

The pilot will include outreach activities in the southeastern cities of Columbia, S.C.; **Louisville, Ky.**; and Orlando/Tampa, Fla. The pilot seeks to reduce the threat of IED attacks both by helping businesses detect the illegitimate acquisition, theft, or diversion of dangerous chemicals, and by encouraging businesses to report suspicious activity by calling 1-855-TELL-FBI (1-855-835-5324).

Recently, BMAP released three videos that provide clear and simple guidance to the general public and to others about the steps they can take to recognize the threat of bombings and suspicious purchasing activity, and then take appropriate action. Watch these videos about how to be a [vigilant neighbor](#), a [vigilant employee](#), and a [vigilant manager](#).

### ***Related - New Video Highlights: C-IED Training Solutions***

CISA OBP launched a Counter-IED Training and Awareness Solutions video on July 19. The Counter-IED Training and Awareness Branch develops and delivers a diverse suite of counter-IED training for every learner. The learning solutions ensure that stakeholders have the necessary knowledge to mitigate, prevent, and respond to a wide array of potential IED threats.

Visit YouTube to view training and awareness solutions opportunities today:

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

To request training or gain more information about the OBP Counter-IED Training offerings, visit us at <https://www.cisa.gov/bombing-prevention-training> or email us at [OBPTraining@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:OBPTraining@cisa.dhs.gov)

### **DHS S&T Calls for Technologies for 2022 First Responder Electronic Jamming Exercise**

(US [DHS News Release](#)) The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [Science and Technology Directorate](#) (S&T) today released a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) for participation in the 2022 First Responder Electronic Jamming Exercise (JamX 22) at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, April 25-29, 2022. The RFI, posted on Beta.Sam.Gov with instructions to apply through the website Vulcan-sof.com, is open to industry, academia, and federal organizations with innovative anti-jamming technology solutions ready for testing and evaluation. The deadline for submitting applications is **Wednesday, October 6, 2021**. JamX 22 is the continuation of S&T’s work to better prepare first responders and federal law enforcement to face jamming threats that could degrade or disable their mission-critical communications.

For more information on this RFI, the DHS S&T First Responder Electronic Jamming Exercise, visit the [First Responders web page](#) or contact: [Jamming.Exercise@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:Jamming.Exercise@hq.dhs.gov).

**American Trauma Society Webinar  
September 16, 2021 @ 3 PM ET**

**[Trauma Survivors Network \(TSN\) Virtual Information Session](#)**



**The world's largest cross-sector resilience exercise  
is **going on now!** *Are you registered to play?*  
It is focused on individual, organizational,  
and community resilience.**

**Why Play EEX-21:** EARTH-EX is a free exercise opportunity to self-evaluate levels of preparedness and resilience in the face of real-world Black Sky potential disasters. This year's exercise presents two engaging scenarios that everyone in the world faces – uncontrolled fires and extreme flooding events.

In addition to being a great exercise presented in a virtual environment, EEX-21 will provide unique and valuable training materials and webinars that you can take advantage of before, during, and after the exercise.

**When is EEX-21:** EARTH EX will be available for play anytime from 1 September through 31 October. You can play multiple functional areas and lanes during that time.

**Who Should Play EEX-21:** Everyone – there is an Individual and Family Functional Area that is perfect for everyone to participate. Six additional functional areas support in-depth play for organizations, businesses, and government agencies. Within those six areas, thirty-eight unique lanes address nearly all of the functions that make up the modern, highly interconnected, and interdependent world.

**What to Expect:** EEX-21 is a dynamic, engaging, and thought-provoking tabletop exercise. EARTH-EX uses state-of-the-art video injects and a modern game-like interface to present the situation, new information and facilitate exercise play through the exercise landscape. Play consists of gathering new information, developing courses of action, and making and refining decisions. Players receive all the essential information for their sector and other sectors that can influence the environment. There are two separate phases, one for fire and one for floods. EARTH EX is flexible and adaptable. Organizations can adjust it to meet their needs.

**EARTH EX Themes:** Each year, EARTH EX advances one or more of the primary Black Sky (prolonged duration power outage) threats to support preparedness and resilience discussions. This year's themes include developing situational awareness, understanding evacuation decisions, supply chain and resource management impacts, and the critical restoration mission.

**EARTH EX Evaluation:** EARTH EX is a self-assessed, self-evaluated exercise opportunity. Each person or organization will evaluate their level of play and readiness.

**EARTH EX Preparation:** EARTH EX is a "Come As You Are" opportunity. Several optional training opportunities are part of the EARTH EX series.

**Grants and Certificates:** EARTH EX follows HSEEP guidelines and is perfect for meeting EMPG exercise requirements. Everyone that completes the exercise and the survey will receive a certificate of completion.

**How to Register:** Registration is open now - <https://battlerhythm.net/Registration/registerMKII.html?id=17>

For More Information: Contact us at [EARTH EX@EISCOUNCIL.ORG](mailto:EARTH EX@EISCOUNCIL.ORG)

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.