



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 21, 2021

Gov. Beshear reports 3,391 new COVID-19 cases, 31 deaths

(WKYT) Governor Beshear reported 3,391 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, bringing the state total to 661,586 cases. The governor says the state is seeing a 11.95% positivity rate. Of Tuesday's new cases, 873 are in kids 18 or younger. There were 31 new COVID-19 related deaths reported on Tuesday. That brings the state total to 8,370. As of Tuesday, 2,287 people are hospitalized for COVID-19 related reasons, 664 are in the ICU, and 445 are on ventilators.

Pediatric COVID-19 case surge continues across US

(CIDRAP) The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) released its latest numbers on how many American children are being infected with COVID-19 and said nearly [226,000 child COVID-19 cases](#) were reported from Sep 9 to 16, the third highest number of child cases in a week since the pandemic began. Children represented 25.7% of the weekly reported cases.

"After declining in early summer, child cases have increased exponentially, with over 925,000 cases in the past 4 weeks," the AAP said. In total, roughly 5.5 million US children have been infected with COVID-19 since the pandemic began.

Read more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/09/pediatric-covid-19-case-surge-continues-across-us>

Patients having to wait in ambulance for hospital beds to free up

(WKYT) Ambulance services in southern Kentucky are still seeing a high run volume. COVID-19 has created, what the director of the Somerset-Pulaski County EMS says is, a "critical" situation.

There are currently more than 35 patients being treated for COVID-19 at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital and, with so many COVID patients, sometimes it's difficult for the local EMS crews to find empty beds when they arrive with patients.

That happened Monday when several ambulances were waiting in the parking lot for a bed to free up.

Full story: <https://www.wkyt.com/2021/09/21/patients-having-wait-ambulance-hospital-beds-free-up/>

CMS Launches New Medicare.gov Tool to Compare Nursing Home Vaccination Rates

(KHA COVID Update) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is making it easier to check COVID-19 vaccination rates for nursing home staff and residents with a new feature on [Medicare.gov](#). The tool makes vaccination data available in a user-friendly format to help people make informed decisions when choosing a nursing home for themselves or a loved one. CMS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are also continuing to use this data to monitor vaccine uptake among residents and staff and to identify facilities that may need additional resources or assistance to respond to the pandemic.

Medicare and Medicaid-certified nursing homes have been required to report weekly COVID-19 vaccination data for both residents and staff since May, and CMS has been posting the information on the CMS COVID-19 Nursing Home Data website. The addition of this new consumer-friendly data feature is another valuable tool for patients, residents, and families to understand the quality of nursing homes when making health care decisions.

View the new resource at <https://data.cms.gov/covid-19/covid-19-nursing-home-data>.

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [September 21, 2021](#)

[Data from Routine Covid Testing Can Help Schools Stay Open This Year](#) (STAT News) With recent spikes in Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations across the country — including in children — the Delta variant has dramatically changed the country's back-to-school risk calculus. Fearing outbreaks, many schools are scrambling to adjust their reopening plans. Discussions about school safety have largely focused on mitigation measures like improving ventilation and requiring students and staff to wear masks and get vaccinated. Some have also noted the value of routine school-wide testing of students and staff for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, to detect infections early and prevent transmission.

[Second Dose of Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Increases Protection Against Covid-19, Vaccine Maker Says](#) (Washington Post) A second shot of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine boosts protection against symptomatic and severe covid-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, the drug company announced early Tuesday. Those booster shots also generated additional antibodies, molecules churned out by the immune system to help fight off infections. Under the Food and Drug Administration's emergency-use authorization, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is given as a single dose, unlike the two shots required for full immunization with

the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna mRNA vaccines. Results published this summer indicate that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine generates lasting amounts of antibodies able to target delta and other variants of concern. In June and July, when delta was ascendant, the effectiveness of the one-shot vaccine was 78 percent against observed covid-19, according to a report published Thursday that has not yet gone through peer review.

[Johnson & Johnson Announces Real-World Evidence and Phase 3 Data Confirming Strong and Long-Lasting Protection of Single-Shot COVID-19 Vaccine in the U.S.](#) (Johnson and Johnson)

Agencies Seek Comments on Supply Chain Security of Critical Software

(Next Gov, September 20) “For the purposes of this report,” the notice reads, “the scope of the ICT industrial base shall consist of hardware that enables terrestrial distribution, broadcast/wireless transport, satellite support, data storage to include data center and cloud technologies, and end user devices including home devices such as routers, antennae, and receivers, and mobile devices; ‘critical’ software (as defined by the National Institute of Standards and Technology in relation to Executive Order 14028); and services that have direct dependencies on one or more of the enabling hardware.” <[Read more](#) >

Woman Catches Most Deadly Form of Plague From Her Cats

(Newser) A woman in Wyoming has come down with pneumonic plague, the most severe form of plague and the only one that can pass from person to person, which she likely caught from her cats. The state Health Department [reported](#) Wyoming's seventh human case of plague in 43 years—a "rare but serious" case in a woman in northern Fremont County on Sept. 15—noting the disease was believed to have passed through "contact with sick pet cats," reports [Live Science](#). The [CDC](#) notes cats are "a common source of *Yersinia pestis* [plague] infection in humans."

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/311299/woman-catches-most-deadly-form-of-plague-from-her-cats.html>

New hydroelectric plant, first of its kind, to generate power in Kentucky

(WKYT) The Matilda Hamilton Fee Hydroelectric Station, named after the first lady who founded Berea College, is the first hydro project in the state in 94 years and is also the first in the nation using a new variable speed technology.

“Using this technology, we can slow the turbine down and keep it at its peak efficiency all the way down so there are no differentials, so even in floods we can be operating,” said David Brown Kinloch, president of Appalachian Hydro Associates.

Through this partnership between Appalachia Hydro Associates and Berea College, this new facility will also act as a great learning opportunity for students.

Learn more: <https://www.wkyt.com/2021/09/21/new-hydroelectric-plant-first-its-kind-generate-power-kentucky/>

FEMA EMI Educational Offering

[1670 - Training Opportunity - REVISED -](#)

[NIMS ICS Position Specific TTT Courses for Academic Year 2022](#)

2022 NIMS ICS Position-Specific Train-the-Trainer (TtT) Virtual “K” Course Schedule

Be advised that upcoming 2022 National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) Position-Specific TTT classes will be deployed via the virtual (“K”) course code by the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg MD.

Read more in [Training Opportunity 1670 - REVISED](#)

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.