



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 22, 2021

KY COVID-19 Update

(From [KY Daily Summary](#)) There were 4,418 new cases reported today, with 1,273 cases 18 and under. The positivity rate is down to 11.66%. There were 52 new deaths reported. There are 2,257 hospitalized with COVID, with 651 in an ICU and 453 on a vent. 90.5% of the ICU capacity is occupied. Every region is showing ICU capacity in use over 87%, except Region 7 (northeastern KY) which is just over 59%.

National Disaster Medical System Team Arrives in Hazard

(From [Press Release](#)) – In his latest action to support strained Kentucky hospitals, Gov. Andy Beshear announced that a National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) team he requested arrived at Appalachian Regional Healthcare in Hazard today and will stay for two weeks.

The Governor has also requested a 30-day extension of the five Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) strike teams tasked with transferring and transporting COVID-19 patients.

NDMS teams typically include a medical officer, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, supply officer, respiratory therapist, four registered nurses and three paramedics. The team can help with opening more available beds that had not been used due to lack of staffing. It can also support emergency department operations, contributing to increased ability for the facility to treat more patients. Another NDMS team arrived at St. Claire Regional Medical Center in Morehead Sept. 4. To learn more, see the [full release](#).

The FEMA EMS strike teams are being managed by the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services (KBEMS) through American Medical Response. The FEMA strike teams have made a noticeable impact on local health care facilities since their arrival in Kentucky on Aug. 27, easing the strain on Kentucky hospitals and giving local EMS resources the ability to provide non-COVID-related 911 services to their communities. The extension also will facilitate patient transports from rural regions to larger urban hospitals that have greater bed availability. Without an extension, three strike teams are set to expire Sept. 25, and the remaining two will expire Sept. 28.

'Soul-crushing': US COVID-19 deaths are topping 1,900 a day

(AP) COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. have climbed to an average of more than 1,900 a day for the first time since early March, with experts saying the virus is preying largely on a distinct group: 71 million unvaccinated Americans.

The increasingly lethal turn has filled hospitals, complicated the start of the school year, delayed the return to offices and demoralized health care workers.

The nation was stunned back in December when it was witnessing [3,000](#) deaths a day. But that was when almost no one was vaccinated.

Now, nearly 64% of the U.S. population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. And yet, average deaths per day have climbed 40% over the past two weeks, from 1,387 to 1,947, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

Health experts say the vast majority of the hospitalized and dead have been unvaccinated. While some vaccinated people have suffered breakthrough infections, those tend to be mild.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/article/health-coronavirus-pandemic-missouri-c4d03a53de4036158fabb0125c4f7b02>

CDC advisory group considers COVID-19 boosters

(CIDRAP) Today and tomorrow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) advisory group on immunization practices (ACIP) is meeting to discuss the role of COVID-19 booster shots in the country's ongoing campaign to vaccinate its way out of the pandemic.

The meetings follow all three manufacturers of the vaccines currently used in the United States—Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson (J&J)—releasing data showing booster doses significantly raise immune responses to COVID-19 and enhance vaccine efficacy. [This is a developing story.]

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/09/cdc-advisory-group-considers-covid-19-boosters>

1 Student Killed, 2 Inured, in Drive-by Shooting at West Louisville School Bus Stop

(WLKY) A Jefferson County Public Schools student is dead, and others were injured, after someone fired into a group waiting at a bus stop in west Louisville. According to police, the shooting happened around 6:30 a.m. at a stop on Dr. WJ Hodge Street and West Chestnut, which is in the Russell neighborhood. Police said someone

drove by the students waiting there and opened fire. Several casing were observed at the scene. All of the students involved went to Eastern High School.

Story: <https://www.wlky.com/article/breaking-double-shooting-in-russell-neighborhood/37689347#>

FBI Director: Domestic Terrorism Caseload Has “Exploded” In Past Year

[The Hill](#) (9/21) reports FBI Director Christopher Wray told a Senate Committee on Tuesday that the FBI’s domestic terrorism caseload had “exploded” since early 2020. Wray testified, “Since the spring of 2020, so for the past 16, 18 months or so, we have more than doubled our domestic terrorism caseload from about 1,000 to around 2,700 investigations, and we have surged personnel to match, more than doubling the amount of people working that threat than the year before.” Wray “noted that the ‘biggest chunk’ of racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism the FBI tracks is now ‘favoring white supremacy. We collect information about that threat. We have, as you say, prioritized that threat at a national threat priority level.”

Opioid addiction kills as many people in U.S. as heart attack

(UPI/Health Day News) Hospitalized opioid addicts die at a rate similar to people who have a heart attack after leaving the hospital. Nearly 8% of patients addicted to opioids died within 12 months of hospital discharge, according to researchers from Oregon Health & Science University.

[The study](#) looked at data on more than 6,600 Medicaid patients treated in Oregon hospitals between April 2015 and December 2017. Drug-related causes, including overdoses, accounted for 58% of the 522 deaths that occurred within a year of leaving the hospital. The other deaths were from diseases of the circulatory, respiratory and endocrine systems, the researchers found.

Read more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/09/20/opioid-addiction-kills-as-many-as-heart-attack/5231632150534/

Animal sedative driving rise in fatal drug overdoses

(UPI/Health Day News) An animal tranquilizer, xylazine, is increasingly linked to drug overdose deaths across the United States, health officials say. According to a new report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, xylazine has turned up in overdose deaths in 25 of 38 states examined.

In 2019, xylazine contributed to death in 64% of cases and almost always also involved fentanyl. The drug is mixed with opioids, such as fentanyl or heroin, to enhance their effects, but this cocktail can increase sedation and respiratory depression. That, in turn, increases the risk of a fatal overdose, CDC researchers explained.

Full story: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/09/21/animal-tranquilizer-overdose-deaths/1241632228986/

John Hopkins: Health Security Headlines – [Extracts from September 22](#)

[Israel’s Struggles to Contain COVID-19 May be a Warning for Other Nations](#) (*Science*): Israel, among the first countries to launch coronavirus vaccinations and the first to roll out booster shots on a large scale, is offering a disturbing glimpse of what could be in store for other rich nations if they begin to give boosters this fall. Israel launched its pioneering booster campaign in late July, prompted by a surge in cases reflecting the extreme contagiousness of the Delta variant, the loosening of restrictions, and an apparent waning of protection from vaccines given in early winter. But cases have risen even higher since, suggesting boosters are far from a panacea when children and others remain unvaccinated.

- [Over-the-counter COVID-19 Test Kits Focus of \\$647 Million in DoD Contracts](#) (*Homeland Preparedness News*)
- [Pressure Grows on U.S. Companies to Share Covid Vaccine Technology](#) (*New York Times*)
- [Terrorist Attacks Against Vaccinators: A Review](#) (*Health Security*)

Global Resilience Webinar
September 29 @ 11 AM ET

GreenGrid Security Series IV: Can we build a low carbon, but rock solid grid?

Learn more & register: <https://grcom.eiscouncil.org/the-greengrid-security-series-iv/>

FEMA’s New Director Prepares Agency for a Hot, Chaotic Future

Deanne Criswell has long experience in managing calamity — and 21 years of fighting fires

Learn more: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-22/fema-s-new-director-prepares-agency-for-a-hot-chaotic-future>

The KHEREF 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 KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.