



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 24, 2021

Updated CDC Statement on ACIP Booster Recommendations

(CDC – Sept 24) Today, CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation for a booster shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in certain populations and also recommended a booster dose for those in high risk occupational and institutional settings. The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) authorization and CDC's guidance for use are important steps forward as we work to stay ahead of the virus and keep Americans safe. This updated interim guidance from CDC allows for millions of Americans who are at highest risk for COVID-19 to receive a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster shot to help increase their protection.

CDC recommends:

- people 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series,
- people aged 50–64 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series,
- people aged 18–49 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) **may** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks, and
- people aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting **may** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

Many of the people who are now eligible to receive a booster shot received their initial vaccine early in the vaccination program and will benefit from additional protection. With the Delta variant's dominance as the circulating strain and cases of COVID-19 increasing significantly across the United States, a booster shot will help strengthen protection against severe disease in those populations who are at high-risk for exposure to COVID-19 or the complications from severe disease.

CDC will continue to monitor the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines to ensure appropriate recommendations to keep all Americans safe. We will also evaluate with similar urgency available data in the coming weeks to swiftly make additional recommendations for other populations or people who got the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

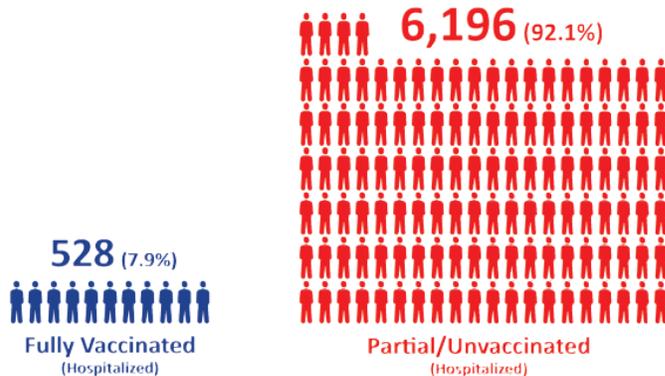
Full statement: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0924-booster-recommendations-.html>

KY COVID-19 Update for Friday



COVID-19 Statistics

Kentucky COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS
March 1 - September 22, 2021*



= 50 patients

Data is provided by Kentucky Department of Public Health on a weekly basis. For additional information please visit: kycovid19.ky.gov - KY COVID Data Dashboard (egov.com)
* Data are provisional and subject to change; fully vaccinated includes individuals who have received the second dose of an mRNA vaccine or the Janssen vaccine ≥2 weeks prior to the illness; unvaccinated individuals have no evidence of vaccination KYR or are partially vaccinated
Hospitalization data may be underreported

(From [KDPH Daily Summary](#)) There were 3,941 new cases reported today, with 1,094 in persons 18 and under. The positivity rate has dropped to 10.99%. 26 new deaths were logged, for a total of 8,492 to date.

There are 2,211 currently hospitalized with COVID-19, with 632 in the ICU and 429 on a ventilator. 92.9% of the ICU beds are currently in use, as are 45.5% of the vents.

As of today every region of the state, *except* Region 7 in northeastern KY, is showing ICU capacity in use OVER 90%. The HEART (Region 4) coalition is showing 100% of its ICU capacity is in use. Region 7 is reporting 69.5% ICU use at this time.

Looking at the [Current Incidence Rate map](#) for Kentucky, only four counties out of 120 are not in the RED zone (over 25/100k population). The four are

Carlisle (15.0), Ballard (16.3), Fulton (16.8) and Clinton (21.0). The overall incidence rate is 68.45 per 100k population statewide.

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [September 24, 2021](#)

[Clinical Characteristics of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Adults: A Systematic Review](#) (*JAMA Network Open*) This systematic review of patients with MIS-A reported in the literature and to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identified 221 patients worldwide. The syndrome presented approximately 4 weeks after acute COVID-19 with hyperinflammation and extrapulmonary multiorgan involvement that may be difficult to discern from acute biphasic COVID-19 and postacute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection. These findings suggest that MIS-A occurs in the postacute COVID-19 period with a heterogeneous clinical presentation likely owing to a dysregulated immune response.

[Assessment of a Program for SARS-CoV-2 Screening and Environmental Monitoring in an Urban Public School District](#) (*JAMA Network Open*) In this quality improvement study, weekly school-based saliva polymerase chain reaction testing at 3 urban public schools was associated with increased case detection among staff and students compared with symptom-based strategies, exceeding county-level case rates. SARS-CoV-2 was detected in school wastewater samples each week as well as air and surface samples from choir classrooms. This study suggests that routine SARS-CoV-2 testing may identify infected staff and students who are not identified through conventional case detection and may provide insight into disease burdens of undertested communities.

Most states have cut back public health powers amid pandemic

(*Associated Press*, September 23) 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 that state and local officials use to protect the public against infectious diseases. A Kaiser Health News review found that, in all 50 states, legislators have proposed bills to curb such public health powers since the COVID-19 pandemic began. At least 26 states passed 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. [<Read more >](#)

Tropical Storm Sam Forecast to Rapidly Intensify Into a Major Hurricane This Weekend

(*The Weather Channel*, September 23) Tropical Storm Sam in the eastern Atlantic Ocean is on the way to becoming a major hurricane this weekend. However, it's uncertain whether it will strike the Leeward Islands next week. The National Hurricane Center upgraded Tropical Depression Eighteen to Tropical Storm Sam late Thursday morning. It's still over 1,500 miles east-southeast of the northern Leeward Islands moving west. [<Read more >](#)

NOAA NHC/SAM: https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/refresh/graphics_at3+shtml/205347.shtml?cone#contents

**CISA, NIST Issue Critical Infrastructure Control Systems
Cybersecurity Performance Goals**

(*Homeland Security Today*, September 23) On Wednesday, July 28, 2021, the President signed a National Security Memorandum on Improving Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure Control Systems. The National Security Memorandum establishes a voluntary initiative intended to drive collaboration between the Federal Government and the critical infrastructure community to improve cybersecurity of control systems. It instructs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to lead the development of preliminary cross-sector control system cybersecurity performance goals as well as sector-specific performance goals within one year of the date of the National Security Memorandum. These goals are intended to provide a common understanding of the baseline security practices that critical infrastructure owners and operators should follow to protect national and economic security, as well as public health and safety. [<Read more >](#)

Comments requested by NIST on draft guidance for telemedicine cybersecurity

(From US Fire Administration) The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has released a new draft project description for [Mitigating Cybersecurity Risk in Telehealth Smart Home Integration](#) (PDF). This project will result in a practice guide that describes a reference architecture for smart home integration with healthcare systems as part of a telehealth program.

EMS agencies interested in starting a telehealth program or who have already started one may want to review this project description and [submit comments](#) online on or before Oct. 4, 2021.

Oct. 2-3, 2021

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend

This year's in-person national tribute service in Emmitsburg, Maryland, will honor firefighters who died in the line of duty from 2019 to 2020 and in previous years. Visit FireHero.org to follow the weekend program.

NPR: Flying Microchips the Size of a Sand Grain Could Be Used For Population Surveillance

It's neither a bird nor a plane, but a winged microchip as small as a grain of sand that can be carried by the wind as it monitors such things as pollution levels or the spread of airborne diseases.



The tiny microfliers, whose development by engineers at Northwestern University was detailed in an [article](#) published by *Nature* this week, are being billed as the smallest-ever human-made flying structures.

The devices don't have a motor; engineers were instead inspired by the maple tree's free-falling propeller seeds — technically known as [samara](#) fruit. The engineers optimized the aerodynamics of the microfliers so that "as these structures fall through the air, the interaction between the air and those wings cause a rotational motion that creates a very stable, slow-falling velocity," said John A. Rogers, who led the development of the devices.

See and learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2021/09/23/1040035430/flying-microchip-sand-grain-northwestern-winged>

Defense Department watchdog criticizes oversight of military's pharmaceutical supply chain

(STAT News, September 23) Amid mounting concerns over the U.S. pharmaceutical supply chain, a Department of Defense watchdog found an overreliance on foreign suppliers that could harm national security and that the Pentagon failed to assess the risks of shortages or develop strategies to mitigate disruptions.

[<Read more >](#)

Southwest Drought Is Worst on Record

<http://newser.com/s311401>

Related story - Colorado's Lake Powell may not generate hydropower in 2023 due to drought

(UPI) Drought conditions have led to falling water levels at the second-largest man-made reservoir in the nation and could result in a loss of hydropower as soon as next year, according to a new government outlook.

New [projections](#) released by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation show that there is a 3% chance that Lake Powell, a large reservoir that spans from northern Arizona to southern Utah, could drop below a minimum level needed to generate hydroelectricity next year.

The projections also show that Lake Mead has a 12% chance of falling less than 1,000 feet in 2024. The probability increases to 22% in 2025 and 2026.

Falling water levels could affect 5.8 million homes and businesses that rely on Lake Powell for hydropower and 25 million people in the west who rely on Lake Mead's Hoover Dam.

Full story: https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2021/09/23/LakeMead-LakePowell-falling-water-level-drought/4451632418951/

DEA National Drug Take Back Day October 23, 2021

The DEA's Take Back Day events provide an opportunity for Americans to prevent drug addiction and overdose deaths. National Prescription Drug Take Back Day addresses a crucial public safety and public health issue.

According to the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, **9.7 million people misused prescription pain relievers, 4.9 million people misused prescription stimulants, and 5.9 million people misused prescription tranquilizers or sedatives in 2019.** The survey also showed that a majority of misused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet. (Coming soon will be a Collection Site Locator on the website <https://takebackday.dea.gov/>)

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.