



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 27, 2021

### Gov. Beshear Updates Kentuckians on COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Recommendations *Five monoclonal antibody injection teams coming to Kentucky*

(From [Press Release](#)) Following the latest guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's amended authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, Gov. Andy Beshear said today that his administration recommends the following Kentuckians who received a **Pfizer vaccine series** get a booster **six months** after their second shot:

- Individuals 65 and older;
- Those living in a long-term care facility;
- People 18 to 64 who have a medical condition that increases their risk of severe COVID-19 infection – examples of these include diabetes, heart, kidney or lung disease, or a BMI greater than 25; or
- People 18 to 64 who are likely to get exposed at their place of work – examples of high-risk work environments include health care and education.

"What I want to do is clear up any confusion that's out there and let you know who can get the boosters," said **Gov. Beshear**. "If you are eligible, go get them. There are plenty of vaccine doses out there."

In addition, the Governor said for immunocompromised individuals – for example, people who are undergoing cancer treatment or who are taking a high dose of an immunosuppressant – a third shot of the **Pfizer or Moderna vaccine** is recommended **at least 28 days** after the second shot. For those who received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, no booster dose is recommended at this time.

"The teams are trained folks from the federal government that are going to come in and take over doing the monoclonal antibody treatments, which frees up other people in the hospital to tend to patients. Thursday, we are going to have our website up showing the 50-plus locations that you can get monoclonal antibodies, which will be in each area development district," said **Gov. Beshear**. "We have been aggressive and we have argued our cause, which allowed us to receive more than the original ration, but over time that probably will not be the case. With our current rates of infection, there will not be enough for everyone."

The injections will be administered subcutaneously (under the skin). Today, a team arrived at Baptist Health Corbin; on Sept. 29, teams will arrive at Highlands ARH Regional Medical Center in Floyd County and Primary Care Centers of Eastern Kentucky; and on Oct 1, teams will arrive at Taylor Regional Hospital in Campbellsville and ARH Middlesboro. Each team will include two to four nurses and/or paramedics to assist with injections.

#### **Kentucky National Guard, Nursing Student and Testing Support for Hospitals**

Currently, over 500 Kentucky National Guard members are deployed at hospitals across the commonwealth to assist health care heroes as they fight COVID-19. In addition, 27 hospitals are receiving nursing student support from Galen College of Nursing, Eastern Kentucky University, Western Kentucky University, Jefferson Community and Technical College System campuses and regional Kentucky Community and Technical College System campuses.

COVID Update for Today

**New Cases Today:** 1,729

**New Deaths:** 19

**Today's Positivity Rate:** 10.55%

**Current Hospitalizations:** 2,045

**Current Intensive Care Admittances:** 617

**Currently on Ventilators:** 399

Watch YouTube press conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQyQ8FhzE9Y>

### **Appalachian Kentucky, especially the southeastern part of the state, is being devastated by the coronavirus**

(KY Health News) The Delta variant of the coronavirus "is cutting a devastating swath through Appalachian Kentucky," the Louisville **Courier Journal reports**.

Reporter Chris Kenning cites experts who blame experts "some of the nation's highest poverty rates, less access to health care and a longstanding reluctance to seek care early, and pervasive smoking and chronic illness such as diabetes and lung disease that worsen Covid outcomes. All this mixes with a toxic brew of pandemic misinformation and politics."

Kenning's object example is Willie Hudson of Heidrick, near Barbourville, who had a cough and got tested on Aug. 15. "One of his daughters had Covid-19, but the family had spurned vaccinations," because they thought

the vaccines were unproven or "might cause a stroke, they believed, and could be a government plot to track people," Kenning reports. "The virus, they heard, was being exaggerated for Democratic political gain. Ten days later, on Aug. 25, after gasping and thrashing, Willie Hudson died in a Kentucky hospital — leaving his daughters stunned, grieving and scrambling to get vaccinated."

Others have done likewise, but "so far vaccine rates are ticking up slowly and remain too low in many areas to provide a sufficient bulwark," Kenning reports. He cites a Corbin funeral director who has had the disease and held several funerals for victims but is skeptical of the vaccines: "If this shot is so good, why have they tried to bribe us to take it, to make us take it?"

Scott Lockard, public-health director of the **Kentucky River District Health Department**, told Kenning that misinformation isn't the only problem: "Somebody who doesn't engage in social media, doesn't watch the news, primarily farms and comes to town a couple of times a month, they're like, 'Well, I guess this Covid's a pretty big deal, isn't it?'" Full story: <http://kyhealthnews.blogspot.com/2021/09/appalachian-kentucky-especially.html>

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**Kentucky Has Fourth-Highest Rate of Kids Hospitalized With COVID-19**

Read more: <https://wfpl.org/ky-has-fourth-highest-rate-of-kids-hospitalized-with-covid-19/>

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**NPR: Rural Hospitals Worry They Will Lose Staff Because Of Biden's New Vaccine Mandate**

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2021/09/25/1040233493/rural-hospitals-worry-they-will-lose-staff-because-of-bidens-new-vaccine-mandate>

**Related story - Federal contractors must ensure employees are fully vaccinated by December 8**

Read Politico story: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/09/24/federal-contractors-vaccine-514201>

**White House Guidance:** <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/briefing-room/2021/09/24/new-guidance-on-covid-19-workplace-safety-for-federal-contractors/>

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**New York may tap National Guard to replace unvaccinated healthcare workers**

(Reuters) - New York Governor Kathy Hochul is considering employing the National Guard and out-of-state medical workers to fill hospital staffing shortages with tens of thousands of workers possibly losing their jobs for not meeting a Monday deadline for [mandated COVID-19 vaccination](#).

The plan, outlined in a statement from Hochul on Saturday, would allow her to declare a state of emergency to increase the supply of healthcare workers to include licensed professionals from other states and countries as well as retired nurses.

Hochul said the state was also looking at using National Guard officers with medical training to keep hospitals and other medical facilities adequately staffed. Some 16% of the state's 450,000 hospital staff, or roughly 72,000 workers, have not been [fully vaccinated](#), the governor's office said.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/new-york-may-tap-national-guard-replace-unvaccinated-healthcare-workers-2021-09-26/>

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**Firefighters on Front Lines, No Strangers to Risk, Push Back Against Covid Vaccine Mandates**

(KHN) Kentucky firefighter [Jimmy Adams](#) saw the ravages of the coronavirus pandemic when he served as a medic who helped care for the sick on medical calls amid surging covid cases. He knew retired firefighters who died of complications from covid-19. But he reasoned that they were older and likely had underlying health issues, making them susceptible to the virus. But he refused to get a covid vaccine. In mid-August, both Adams and his wife, Sara, who was fully vaccinated, tested positive for covid. She experienced mild symptoms; however, he was hospitalized with bilateral interstitial pneumonia. "I was wrong," Adams said several days after leaving the hospital. Adams now plans to get vaccinated as soon as his doctor allows it, post-recovery. Still, he, like many other firefighters nationwide, does not support mandates for covid vaccines.

Firefighter leadership and the rank and file are divided over such mandates. [The International Association of Fire Chiefs](#) has expressed support for mandatory vaccinations. Conversely, the [International Association of Fire Fighters](#) has said it "strongly" encourages firefighters to get vaccinated, but does not think it should be mandated.

Read full Kaiser Health News story for more: <https://khn.org/news/article/firefighters-on-front-lines-no-strangers-to-risk-push-back-against-covid-vaccine-mandates/>

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**Apple will soon let you put your vaccination card in Wallet.**

Learn and see more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2021/09/23/apple-soon-support-covid-vaccination-cards-wallet-app/5811681001/>

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**Zoo animals get COVID-19 vaccines in Louisville**

Learn more: <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/2383664927506/zoo-animals-get-covid-19-vaccines-in-louisville>

CDC Clinicians Webinar **Tuesday, September 28 @ 2 pm**

**What Clinicians Need to Know About the Latest CDC Recommendations for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Booster Vaccination**

Zoom link below to join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1602551375?pwd=MlllclovakpROFZBU1pYNmllZE1Ydz09>  
CDC site for more info: [https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2021/callinfo\\_092821.asp](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2021/callinfo_092821.asp)

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**New COVID Danger Increasing**

**Anti-vaxxers are gargling iodine to try and stop COVID-19 ill-advised attempt at DIY anti-COVID care**

Anti-vaxxers are gargling iodine to protect against COVID-19. Doctors are urging patients not to do this - saying it poses several health risks. There is no data to suggest gargling iodine will fight COVID-19 or stave it off.

The antiseptic treatment, best known under the brand name Betadine, is classed by the [World Health Organization](#) as an essential medicine and is used around the world regularly to kill off any damaging microbes that can infect a person. But now, it's the latest ill-advised attempt at an at-home COVID-19 remedy for mainly anti-vaxx communities.

The manufacturers of Betadine have [issued a statement online](#) stating that the solution should only be used externally and cannot treat COVID-19. It poses imminent risks - especially if you accidentally swallow some. High doses of povidone-iodine could also cause kidney problems, Dr. Adalja told Health, as well as interrupting thyroid function, causing damage to a person's mucus membranes and skin, and even cause pulmonary irritation and [shortness of breath](#).

Full Business Insider story: <https://www.businessinsider.com/anti-vaxxers-are-gargling-iodine-try-and-stop-covid-19-2021-9>

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**Life Expectancy For US Men Drops 2.2 Years Due To Covid**

(KHN) That's the most of anywhere in the study, which shows the impact of the pandemic on the U.S., most of Europe and Chile. Life expectancy for U.S. women dipped 1.65 years. The declines were bigger for men than women in most of the 29 countries analyzed.

[Note: The link goes to a Kaiser Health News link with multiple stories on this topic.]

KHN: <https://khn.org/morning-breakout/life-expectancy-for-us-men-drops-2-2-years-due-to-covid/>

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**TFAH to Offer Webinar on PH Workforce Morale**

The Trust for America's Health (TFAH) announces their next webinar, ***The Public Health Workforce: Morale, Mental Health, and Moving Forward***, will take place Wednesday, October 6, from 1 - 2 p.m. ET / 10 - 11 a.m. PT. This webinar will address the ongoing challenges of dealing with misinformation, political divides and even harassment that the public health workforce has faced throughout the pandemic. TFAH will provide space for candid conversation and dialogue and sharing messaging and communications tools to help public health officials support their workforce, their colleagues, and their own mental health.

To register, [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/3516321641686/WN\\_MFFYN8SNR761Zno8G71zeg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/3516321641686/WN_MFFYN8SNR761Zno8G71zeg).

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**National Academies for Health and Medicine  
Webinar Series on Crisis Standards of Care**

Today's webinar on ***"Evolving Crisis Standards of Care and Lessons from COVID-19!"*** has been recorded and will be available for viewing [here](#) in about a week's time. This is part of a series from the National Academies which will re-explore the recommendations from the IOM's 2009 "Guidance for Establishing Crisis Standards of Care for Use in Disaster Situations: A Letter Report" and 2012 report "Crisis Standards of Care: A Systems Framework for Catastrophic Disaster Response" alongside ongoing lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular focus on disaster planning, legal and equity considerations, and staffing considerations.

The **next webinar** in the series is titled ***"Evolving CSC: Staffing Considerations, Workforce Impacts, and Future Trends,"*** and will be held on Monday, October 11, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET. In this workshop, panelists will specifically aim to:

- Define key stakeholders' staffing needs during planning, activation, implementation, and evaluation/monitoring of CSC
- Discuss the operational/staffing/moral considerations and challenges faced by key stakeholders during the activation and implementation of CSC and their overall impact of the workforce
- Explore the current and/or potential strategies used by key stakeholders to address these operational & staffing challenges

To register for this webinar, please click [here](#).

For more information on this and upcoming webinars in the series: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/evolving-crisis-standards-of-care-and-lessons-learned-a-workshop-series> .

### **National Academies' Suggested readings**

- [NAM perspective on Crisis standards of care](#)
- [Rapid Expert Consultation on Staffing Considerations for CSC for the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Rapid Expert Consultation for the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Crisis Standards of Care: Ten Years of Successes and Challenges](#)
- [Crisis Standards of Care: A Systems Framework for Catastrophic Disaster Response](#)
- [Guidance for Establishing Crisis Standards of Care for use in Disaster Situations: A letter Report](#)

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### **This disease is named after the state of Kentucky**

(News Break) The disease that is named after Kentucky is called the Dutch-Kentucky syndrome. It is also called Trismus-pseudocamptodactyly. The Dutch-Kentucky syndrome is a rare and inherited genetic disease. Symptoms of the disease include physical abnormalities of the muscle-tendon units resulting in curved or bent fingers. One of the unusual symptoms of the disease also includes an inability to open the mouth fully.

The origin of Dutch-Kentucky syndrome might have been a Dutch family. Cases of Dutch-Kentucky syndrome seemed to mostly occur in Kentucky and other parts of the Southeast US. Thus the name Dutch-Kentucky syndrome stuck. The syndrome was first discovered in the 1960s and actually traced through eight generations of an Appalachian family. Mutations in the MYH8 gene were found to be the exact cause of Dutch-Kentucky syndrome. Although rare, the disease can occur in many generations of the same family.

Full story: <https://original.newsbreak.com/@anita-durairaj-561241/2383532385933-this-disease-is-named-after-the-state-of-kentucky>

NIH Rare Disease Site: <https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/diseases/2621/trismus-pseudocamptodactyly-syndrome>

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### **Emergency department-initiated buprenorphine for opioid use disorder**

Thursday, September 30, at 3:00 pm ET

In this webinar, experts will discuss the use of buprenorphine, a drug used to treat opioid dependence, for patients in emergency departments. This learning event is hosted by the [Rural Communities Opioid Response Program—Technical Assistance](#) (RCORP-TA), a Health Resources and Services Administration/Federal Office of Rural Health Policy-supported program. To register, [click here](#)

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### **Authorities Say Synthetic Opioid Strong Enough To Kill More Than 50M People Was Seized In California**

(Stories from IACP "[The Lead](#)") [USA Today](#) (9/26, Mendoza) reports, "Two Southern California residents were charged in a massive drug bust that resulted in authorities seizing more than 46 pounds of an extremely lethal synthetic opioid." Andres Jesus Morales, 30, and Christine Ponce, 27, "were charged with four felony counts each of possession of a controlled substance for sale, the [Riverside District Attorney's Office announced on Thursday](#). The two arrests come after the Riverside Police Department raided a home in the city of Perris, California, about 70 miles southeast of Los Angeles, on Aug. 17. At the home, officers seized 46.2 pounds of carfentanil, 8.8 pounds of cocaine and 2.2 pounds of heroin."

Carfentanil is a synthetic opioid that is typically used as a tranquilizing agent for elephants and other large mammals, [according to the Drug Enforcement Administration](#). When administered to humans, the drug is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl, according to the DEA. Two milligrams of fentanyl is enough to kill someone, and even just touching the substance can be lethal as it can be absorbed by skin, according to the DEA.

"If mixed in with other drugs, the 21 kilos of carfentanil seized could have been enough to potentially kill more than 50 million people," the Riverside District Attorney's Office said in a statement.

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### **Portland, Oregon Grappling With Surge in Gang Violence**

On its website, [CNN](#) (9/25, Morris) discusses how Portland, Oregon "is currently engulfed in fighting a second pandemic on top of Covid-19." Portland City Commissioner Mingus Mapps informed CNN, "In the last year we have seen a stunning amount of gun violence." Mapps also said, "Gang violence has caught fire like a wildfire. And now we are in a dysfunctional cycle of potentially revenge shootings." Meanwhile, Portland Police Chief Chuck Lovell "agrees that some of the reform from 2020's sustained protests had a positive impact on their policing. But he says many of those positives are now overshadowed by the fallout."

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### **Law Enforcement Orders Seeking Data from Tech Firms Frequently Accompanied By Secrecy Orders**

The [Washington Post](#) (9/25) says, "Every year, Facebook, Google and other technology companies receive hundreds of thousands of orders from law enforcement agencies seeking data people stash online." Frequently accompanying these requests are secrecy orders under which the tech firms must "keep their customers in the

dark, potentially for years.” During 2020’s final six months, Facebook was given “61,262 government requests for user data in the United States, said spokesman Andy Stone.” Of these requests, 69% were accompanied by secrecy orders. The Post also says that Microsoft “has received between 2,400 and 3,500 secrecy orders from federal law enforcement each year since 2016 – or seven to 10 per day – according to congressional testimony by vice president of customer security and trust Tom Burt.”

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### **ASPR TRACIE “The Express” for September 2021**

Includes [Afghan Relocation Response](#) provides considerations for healthcare facilities planning for and responding to the Afghan Evacuation/Operation Allies Welcome Response. (Updated September 20). ASPR TRACIE received a technical assistance request from private sector healthcare partners on considerations for healthcare facilities planning for and responding to the Afghan Evacuation/ Operation Allies Welcome Response. On September 20, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an official health advisory titled Guidance for Clinicians Caring for Individuals Recently Evacuated from Afghanistan.

Read more: <https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/aspr-tracie-ta---healthcare-facility-considerations-for-afghan-relocation-response-9-13-21.pdf>

Read full ASPR TRACIE Express:: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/The-Express--September-2021.html?soid=1128154145936&aid=9CTA7s6rl2o>

**New - CMS Guidance on Health Coverage Options for Afghan Evacuees:**  
<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/eligibility/downloads/hlth-cov-option-afghan-evac-fact-sheet.pdf>

**CDC Issues Guidance for Clinicians Caring for Afghan Evacuees:**  
<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00452.asp>

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.