



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 28, 2021

Governor Andy Beshear announces more than 4,500 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday

(WYMT) Governor Andy Beshear announced 4,551 new COVID-19 cases in Kentucky on Tuesday. 1,465 of Tuesday's new cases were children 18 and younger. 2,006 Kentuckians remain hospitalized. 588 people remain in the ICU, with 395 on a ventilator. The state's positivity rate is now 10.40%.

The Governor also announced 56 COVID-19 deaths, bringing the death toll to 8,635.

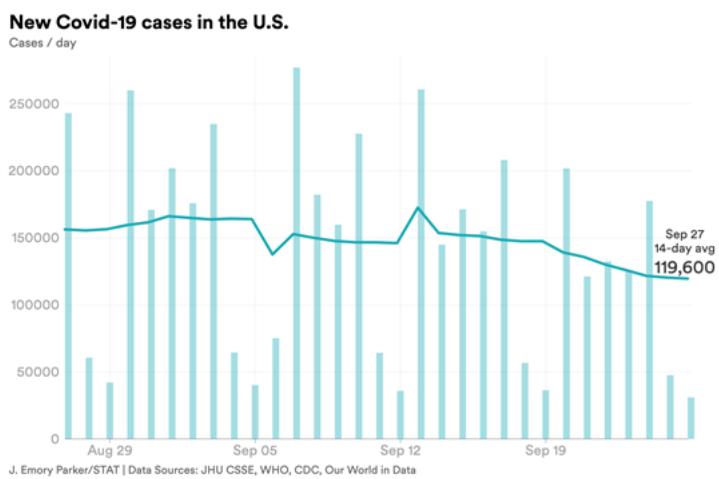
As of Tuesday, 116 counties across the state are in the red zone on the state's COVID-19 incidence rate [map](#), including all but one county in the mountains. Whitley County leads the state with an incidence rate of 154 per 100,000 people.

If you have any questions about the coronavirus in Kentucky, call the state's COVID-19 hotline at 1-800-722-5725. You can also find more information, including how to protect your family, by visiting Kentucky's official COVID-19 website: <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

WYMT source: <https://www.wymt.com/2021/09/28/governor-andy-beshear-announces-more-than-4500-new-covid-19-cases-tuesday/>

US COVID-19 cases drop for first time in 3 months

(CIDRAP) The summer surge of COVID-19 cases caused by the Delta (B1617.2) variant may be tapering off after causing the fourth wave of heightened pandemic activity in the United States.



The 7-day average of new daily COVID-19 cases is 118,015, with 1,996 deaths, according to the *Washington Post* [tracker](#). In the past week, new daily cases fell 20%, deaths fell 0.8%, and hospitalizations fell 8.9%.

According to [NBC News](#), the drop in COVID-19 cases over the last week is the longest sustained decline in cases in nearly 3 months. NBC said the fourth wave likely peaked on Sep 13, when the 7-day average of cases at 166,807.

Though new case counts and hospitalizations seem to be declining, experts warned the peak deaths caused by this wave are still likely 2 to 4 weeks away, as has been seen throughout the pandemic.

Yesterday, the country recorded 119,886 cases, including 2,034 deaths, according to the [New York Times](#). In total, the United States has recorded [43,021,678 cases](#) since the pandemic began, including 689,031 deaths.

CIDRAP link: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/09/us-covid-19-cases-drop-first-time-3-months>

NY to Unvaccinated: You're Fired!

(Reuters) [New York hospitals began firing and suspending](#) workers who refused to follow the state's vaccination order, leading some to postpone elective surgeries and reduce services; Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) is considering [calling up the National Guard](#) and out-of-state workers to address staffing shortages.

US has enough COVID-19 vaccines for boosters, kids' shots

(AP News, September 26) The spike in demand — expected following last week's federal recommendation on booster shots — would be the first significant jump in months. More than 70 million Americans remain unvaccinated despite the enticement of lottery prizes, free food or gifts and pleas from exhausted health care workers as the average number of deaths per day climbed to more than 1,900 in recent weeks. <[Read more](#)>

FDA official taking on responsibilities to lead vaccine office

(The Hill, September 27) Peter Marks, a high-ranking official at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), took on responsibilities to lead the agency's vaccine office on Monday as the office prepares for the retirement of two others who had publicly cast doubt on the need for COVID-19 boosters. An FDA spokesperson said the agency elevated Marks to acting director of the Office of Vaccines Research and Review "to prepare for the upcoming retirement of two senior members of the team" in the fall. <[Read more](#)>

Sanofi reports preliminary mRNA vaccine success

(STAT) French vaccine giant Sanofi announced positive results of a Phase 1/2 clinical trial of its first mRNA vaccine today, saying this early success with a Covid-19 vaccine gives the company confidence to shift gears on its mRNA program to pursue vaccines for other pathogens. The first in its sights is an influenza vaccine Sanofi hopes to begin testing in clinical trials next year. Sanofi will not be developing an mRNA Covid-19 vaccine, Thomas Triomphe, global head of vaccines, told STAT in an interview, but the company plans to push forward on production of a recombinant protein Covid vaccine, working with GSK. The recombinant vaccine would work as a sort of universal booster shot, one that can, unlike some of the other Covid vaccines, be kept at fridge temperature. STAT's Helen Branswell has [more](#)

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines – Extracts from [Sept 27th](#) & [Sept 28th](#)

Quantifying Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic Through Life-expectancy Losses: a Population-level Study of 29 Countries (*International Journal of Epidemiology*) The COVID-19 pandemic triggered significant mortality increases in 2020 of a magnitude not witnessed since World War II in Western Europe or the breakup of the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe. Life expectancy at birth declined from 2019 to 2020 in 27 out of 29 countries. Females from 15 countries and males from 10 ended up with lower life expectancy at birth in 2020 than in 2015.

See How Much Covid-19 Relief Money Health Care Providers In Your State Got (STAT News) Congress set up a massive, \$178 billion fund in 2020 meant to help mitigate the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on health care providers, known as the Provider Relief Fund. The Trump and Biden administrations haven't always been reliable about sending out the money — or sending it on time. But STAT's new analysis of a Health and Human Services database of the money reveals where it's flowing and who has received the most so far. By far, the largest payments were made to the nation's biggest hospital systems. Fully five of the top 10 recipients of cash were New York City-area hospitals or health systems; together, they received some \$3.1 billion. The New York and Presbyterian Hospital (usually styled "NewYork-Presbyterian") alone brought in \$631 million, topped only by the \$1.2 billion that went to the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, a group that operates New York City's sprawling system of public hospitals and clinics.

HHS Announces Funding for Public Health IT Workforce Development Program (HHS) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) awarded \$73 million in cooperative agreements as part of its Public Health Informatics & Technology Workforce Development Program (PHIT Workforce Program). Announced earlier this year and funded through the American Rescue Plan, the program aims to strengthen U.S. public health information technology (IT) efforts, improve COVID-19 data collection, and increase representation of underrepresented communities within the public health IT workforce.

WHO Endorses Regeneron Drug as COVID-19 Countermeasure, But Calls for Lower Prices (*Homeland Preparedness News*) The World Health Organization (WHO) approved Regeneron Pharmaceuticals' drug cocktail of casirivimab and imdevimab for use on COVID-19 patients last week, but that endorsement came with a caveat: it urged lower prices, patent releases and equitable distribution. The Regeneron antibody combination currently comes with a high price tag, but low availability: WHO called on producing companies and governments to undo both issues and work to guarantee other manufacturers can make biosimilar versions to help those in need.

Pfizer Submits Favorable Initial Data To The FDA On Kids' COVID-19 Vaccine Trial (NPR) Pfizer and BioNTech are another step closer to seeking authorization for young children to receive the COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine, submitting data to the Food and Drug Administration that shows a "robust" antibody response and "favorable" safety outcomes in kids ages 5 to 11 who received the two-dose regimen in clinical trials. The companies plan to submit a formal request for emergency-use authorization of the vaccine for that age range "in the coming weeks," they said Tuesday.

Highest blood lead levels seen in children living in poverty

(UPI) Children living in poverty are more likely to have high levels of lead in their blood than those of other socioeconomic backgrounds, a study published Monday by [JAMA Pediatrics](#) found. Young people age 6 and younger who live in communities with large numbers of people at or below the national poverty line were nearly twice as likely to have detectable levels of lead in their blood than those living in areas of higher economic status, the data showed. Their risk for elevated blood lead level also was twice as high, the researchers said. Full story: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/09/27/children-lead-levels-study/2161632753868/

DEA Warns Many Pills On Black Market Have Deadly Amounts Of Fentanyl

(From IACP "[The Lead](#)") The [Washington Post](#) (9/27, Barrett, Dwoskin) reports that on Monday, the Drug Enforcement Administration "issued a public warning...that a growing number of pain medications bought on the black market are laced with the synthetic opioid fentanyl or the stimulant methamphetamine, driving overdose

deaths to record levels." DEA Administrator Anne Milgram told The Washington Post, "We are in the midst, in my view, of an overdose crisis, and the counterfeit pills are driving so much of it." The Post adds that there were 93,000 overdose deaths last year, up nearly 30% over 2019.

The [New York Times](#) (9/27, Vigdor) reports the DEA "warned...that a record number of the 9.5 million fake prescription pills it had seized in the United States this year contained lethal amounts of fentanyl" as "two of every five fake pills that have been seized this year have contained lethal amounts of fentanyl." The Times adds that the "vast majority of the counterfeit pills...were brought into the United States from Mexico" and "the chemicals used to make them come from China, the agency said."

Flood insurance rates to change under new FEMA policy

([KVOA](#)) - New federal flood insurance rates go into effect this Friday. The Federal Emergency Management Agency says the new flood insurance rates will better reflect the real risk of flooding.

Until now, flood insurance premiums have been based on whether a home is inside the 100-year flood plain, land expected to flood during a major storm. But not anymore.

"Flood insurance is no longer going to be funded by everybody the more risk you're at the more you're going to pay," said Nick VinZant, senior analyst with QuoteWizard.

FEMA believes the new approach will be more fair. FEMA's new pricing methodology is called Risk Rating 2.0. It incorporates new data to better reflect your individual flood risk. Climate change and money are major drivers in the overhaul of flood insurance pricing. The new system takes effect this Friday for new policies, April 1 for existing policy holders.

FBI Data Shows an Unprecedented Spike in Murders Nationwide In 2020

(NPR) The number of murders in the United States jumped by nearly 30% in 2020 compared with the previous year in the largest single-year increase ever recorded in the country, according to official FBI statistics released Monday. The data shows 21,570 homicides in the U.S. in 2020, which is a staggering 4,901 more than in 2019. The tally makes clear — in concrete terms — just how violent last year was. The overall violent crime rate, which includes murder, assault, robbery and rape, inched up around 5%, while property crimes continued their long-running decline and dropped 8% from 2019. But the spike in murders jumps out in the FBI report because of the sheer scale of the change.

Listen and read more: <https://www.npr.org/2021/09/27/1040904770/fbi-data-murder-increase-2020>

(FBI Press Release: <https://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/fbi-releases-2020-crime-statistics>

FEMA EMI Training Opportunities

[1681 - Training Opportunity - K0419 Shelter Field Guide Training](#)

Course Description: K0419 – Shelter Field Guide Training for State and Local Communities – Virtual

This course was developed by the American Red Cross and FEMA to train participants in sheltering practices and techniques. It is designed for use with its companion piece, the Shelter Field Guide. Read more in [Training Opportunity 1681](#)

[1682 - Training Opportunity - EOC Functions Curriculum FY2021-FY2022](#)

Courses: EOC SKILLSET CURRICULUM

Course Descriptions:

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is offering the entire EOC Functions Curriculum for Fiscal Year 2022. There is no cost for any of the classes below. The instructors and materials are fully funded by EMI. All student expenses (if any) will be covered by the local community.

The K2300 Intermediate Emergency Operations Center Functions has a goal of assisting individuals and jurisdictions who desire to develop or improve their Emergency Operations Centers (EOC). By the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate, through activities and a Final Exam, the managerial and operational roles of the modern-day EOC as a NIMS Command and Coordination functional group operating within a Multiagency Coordination System (MACS). Read more in [Training Opportunity 1682](#)

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.