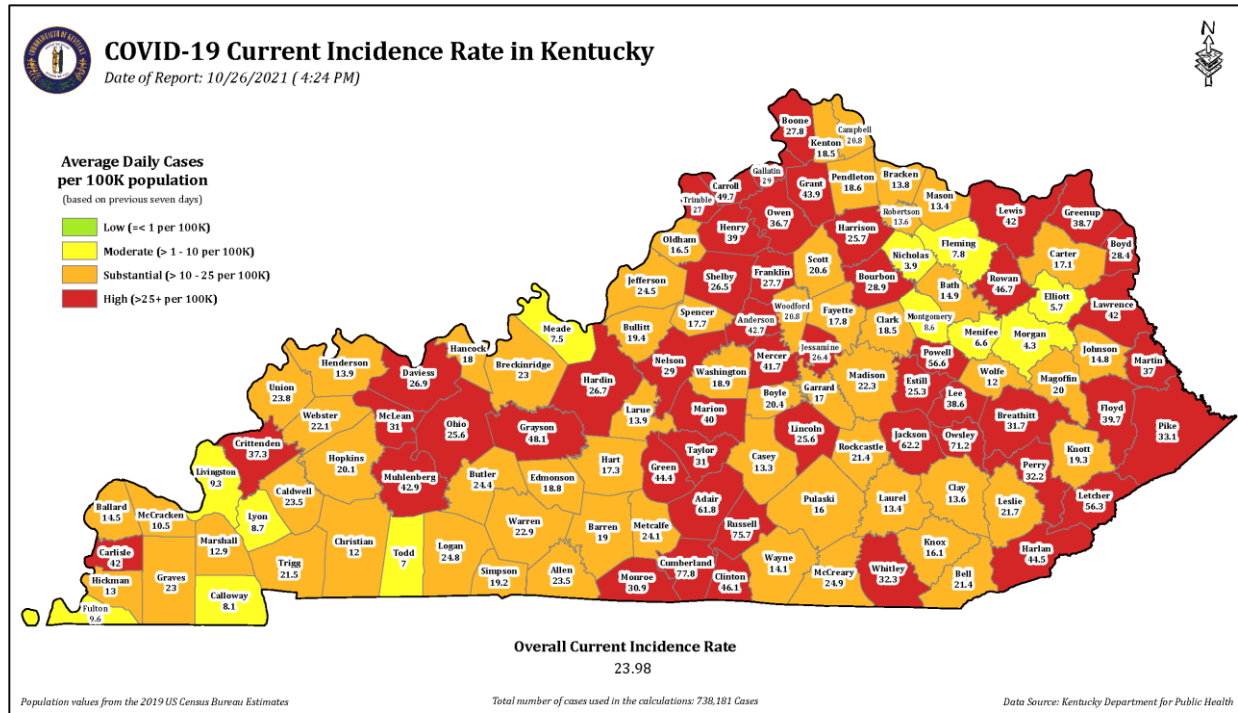




Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for October 26, 2021



KY COVID Summary

([KDPH Daily Report](#)) The positivity rate for October 26 is 5.66%. There were 1,493 new cases, with 421 in patients 18 and under. There were 25 new deaths reported. There are 893 hospitalized with COVID-19, 266 in an ICU, and 148 on a ventilator. Eight of ten regions have over 80% of their ICU capacity in use.

FDA Panel: High Marks for Pfizer's Kid-Dose COVID Vaccine

(MedPage Today) An FDA advisory panel recommended emergency use authorization (EUA) of a two-dose regimen (10 μ g apiece) of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine, administered 3 weeks apart, for children ages 5-11 years.

The Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) voted 17-0, with one abstention, that the benefits outweighed the risks of the vaccine in this population. Several members of the committee expressed irritation at the "binary choice" of either voting "yes or no" on the recommendation, as opposed to a more nuanced recommendation. Full story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19vaccine/95278>

CDC: No increased mortality risk among COVID-19 vaccine recipients

([AHA Today](#)) In a study comparing 6.4 million COVID-19 vaccine recipients with 4.6 million demographically similar unvaccinated persons, recipients of the Pfizer, Moderna or Janssen vaccines had lower non-COVID-19 mortality risk than did the unvaccinated comparison groups, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported this week.

"There is no increased risk for mortality among COVID-19 vaccine recipients," the authors said. "This finding reinforces the safety profile of currently approved COVID-19 vaccines in the United States."

According to another [study](#) released this week by the CDC, adults under age 50 accounted for a larger proportion of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 after the delta variant became predominant, which the authors said was driven by the larger number of unvaccinated hospitalized patients in this age group

Microsoft update on nation-state actor issued

([AHA Today](#)) Microsoft on Sunday posted an [update](#) on the latest activity by Nobelium, a Russian nation-state actor behind cyberattacks on SolarWinds customers in 2020.

“This recent activity is another indicator that Russia is trying to gain long-term, systematic access to a variety of points in the technology supply chain and establish a mechanism for surveilling — now or in the future — targets of interest to the Russian government,” the blog post states.

John Riggi, AHA senior advisor for cybersecurity and risk, said, “The Nobelium threat group, which according to the U.S. government was responsible for the broad supply chain attack leveraging the SolarWinds platform, is now attacking a different part of the supply chain: resellers and other technology service providers that customize, deploy and manage cloud services and other technologies on behalf of their customers. This threat highlights the need for hospitals and health systems to have robust third-party risk management programs that carefully evaluate the cyber risk their organizations could be exposed to through their technology supply chains and services, should those supply chains and services be compromised. These risks are potentially strategic in nature and have national security, business and care delivery implications that go far beyond the protection and privacy of protected health information.”

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.