# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation
# Emergency Preparedness Update
# for November 5, 2021

## KY COVID-19 Update

(KY COVID Site) The positivity rate has climbed a little to 5.19%. There were 1,421 new cases, with 431 18 and under. There were 53 new deaths logged today, for a total of 9.939 to date. ICU occupancy across the state is at 87.0%, with 726 currently hospitalized and 219 in the ICU. 128 are on a ventilator.

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## Pfizer reports good results against severe COVID-19 for its antiviral pill

(CIDRAP) Pfizer announced today that its oral antiviral treatment for COVID-19 (Paxlovid) reduced the risk of hospitalization or death by 89% compared with placebo when taken within 3 days of symptom onset, while the federal government faces push-back on vaccine mandates.

The preliminary results for the antiviral drug, whose generic name is ritonavir, are from a phase 2/3 study involving 775 adults. If approved, the drug would be the first oral antiviral of its kind, a specifically designed SARS-CoV-2-3CL protease inhibitor.

**Multiple states sue over vaccine mandates**

Today, attorneys general in 11 states—Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming—filed a joint suit against the administration, along with several private, nonprofit, and religious employers, the Associated Press reports.

The lawsuit was filed in the St. Louis–based 8th US Circuit Court of Appealsand argues that the authority for mandating vaccines rests with states, not the federal government.

Attorneys general in Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee yesterday filed a lawsuit against the federal government challenging the Biden administration's vaccine mandate for federal contractors, NPR reports. The lawsuit also claims the mandate is an example of federal overreach. The governor of Indiana also said he plans to fight the federal mandate.

Read more; https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/11/pfizer-reports-good-results-against-severe-covid-19-its-antiviral-pill

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## NETEC COVID Webinar

## Influenza in the Age of COVID: 2021

**Friday, November 12th at 1 PM ET**

Continuing education credits will be provided.

***More info and Webinar Registration***

https://unmc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SPtDWnREQIO36CEFvDKjjg

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## Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines – extracts from Nov 5th

**There's More Demand For Boosters Than First Shots Of The Covid Vaccine** *(NPR)* The number of people getting COVID-19 vaccine boosters in the U.S. is now far outpacing the number getting their first shots, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That trend represents a big success for White House's aggressive booster campaign. But it also underscores the administration's flagging effort to achieve its high priority of vaccinating the remaining unvaccinated Americans. More than 21 million people have already received a booster in the short time they've been widely available, according to the CDC website. And more than 786,000 are getting boosters every day now on average. That's nearly triple the number coming in for their first shots, though the rollout to kids under 12 could potentially change that equation.

**Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines: What Parents, Practitioners, and Policy Makers Need to Know** *(JAMA)* The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted Emergency Use Authorization for Pfizer-BioNTech's mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (BNT162b2) for children 5 to 11 years of age on October 29, 2021. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended use of the vaccine among children in this age group on November 2, 2021. Approximately 28 million children are now eligible for vaccination, with only those younger than 5 years remaining excluded from vaccine eligibility. The benefits of pediatric COVID-19 vaccines are clear. Vaccinations protect children, decrease spread to families and communities, and ensure educational continuity. What do parents, practitioners, and policy makers need to know about pediatric COVID-19 vaccines?

**Colorado Hospitals are Nearly Full as the State Battles a Growing Caseload.** *(New York Times)* Colorado is experiencing its worst coronavirus wave in a year and its overwhelmed hospitals are now allowed to turn away new patients. An executive order, signed on Sunday by Gov. Jared Polis, allowed hospitals to redirect incoming patients. Many medical facilities have reported being over 90 percent capacity, with severe staffing shortages.

**HHS's Medical Countermeasures Enterprise Should Be Re-envisioned Post-COVID-19** *(National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine)* As learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise (PHEMCE) should be re-envisioned to better protect the nation from future threats, including bioterrorism attacks, pandemics, and emerging infectious diseases, says a new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The report identifies four priority areas for PHEMCE's improvement: recommitting to its mission; revising its operations and processes; enhancing collaboration with nonfederal partners; and navigating legal and policy issues that have impeded PHEMCE objectives.

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**NASEM Webinar**
**November 8, 2021 12 – 2:15 PM ET**
**Evolving Crisis Standards of Care and Ongoing Lessons from COVID-19: Legal, Ethical & Equity Considerations**
[See more and register: https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/11-08-2021/evolving-crisis-standards-of-care-and-ongoing-lessons-from-covid-19-a-workshop-series-webinar-no-4

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## FBI issues alert on ransomware targeting financial transactions

(AHA Today) Ransomware actors are very likely using significant financial events, such as mergers and acquisitions, to target and leverage victim companies for ransomware infections, the FBI said in an alert this week to the private sector. According to the alert, the actors research material public and nonpublic information about the victim prior to an attack, and threaten to disclose the information publicly to cause potential investor backlash if victims do not pay a ransom quickly. The alert includes recommendations and links to resources to help prevent, protect and respond to a ransomware attack.

John Riggi, AHA senior advisor for cybersecurity and risk, said, "Although we are not aware of specific health care organizations being targeted by ransomware gangs to disrupt the value of a health care-related merger or acquisition, certainly an intentional or unintentional negative business consequence could result if a health care entity involved in a pending transaction became victim to a cyberattack. Thus, it is equally as important to protect sensitive non-public business information from hackers as it is to protect intellectual property."

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## A major coastal flood event, similar to a surge from a hurricane, is underway in Charleston, South Carolina

(CNN – Nov 4) A potentially historic flood event is taking shape across Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, and portions of coastal Georgia, including near Savannah, as water levels will be at heights usually found in powerful hurricanes. The flooding will be exacerbated by a destructive combination of already higher-than-normal tides and a developing storm system, sending tide levels above 8 feet for Charleston and above 10.5 feet near Savannah, signaling major flood stage along the coast. <Read more >

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**CDC Health Alert Update (HAN 00457)**

## Update: Expansion of Recall of LeadCare Blood Lead Tests Due to Risk of Falsely Low Results

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Update as an update to HAN Update 454: Expansion of Recall of LeadCare Blood Lead Tests Due to Risk of Falsely Low Results that CDC issued on October 14, 2021. **The purpose of this HAN Update is to clarify options for retesting children who were tested with the recalled LeadCare lead test kits. The information in this HAN Update remains the same as HAN Update 454, except for the new information added below in bold in the *Recommendations for Clinicians* section.**

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 added or deleted, 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.