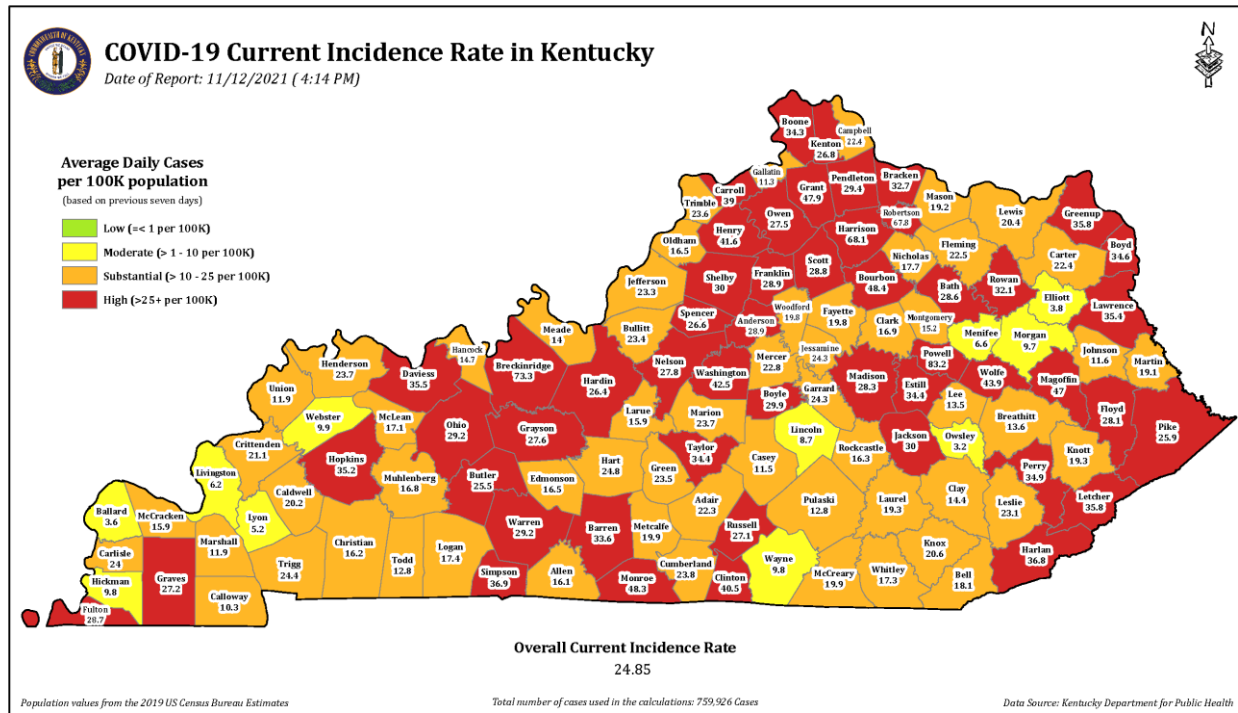




Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for November 12, 2021

KY COVID Update

([KY COVID Info](#)) There were 1,296 new cases reported today, with 417 in patients 18 or under. The positivity rate is 5.53%. There were 70 new deaths, for a total of 10,214. There were 703 hospitalized with COVID, 193 in the ICU and 102 on a ventilator.



US passes 760,000 coronavirus deaths; cases rise in many states; holidays could bring new surge

Read USA Today story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2021/11/12/covid-cases-rising-again-many-states-covid-tests-recalled/6395842001/>

FDA likely to make vaccine booster decision without outside advisory committee weighing in

(Reuters/CNN) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is unlikely to ask its outside vaccine advisers to weigh in on whether the agency should authorize Pfizer ([PFE.N](#)) COVID-19 boosters for all adults, CNN reported on Friday, citing a source. The source told CNN "it's unlikely there is going to be a meeting" of the outside advisers and "there has been no discussion of a meeting" to discuss Pfizer's application.

The FDA said the agency "will determine whether to hold a meeting of the advisory committee ... following its initial review of the information submitted," CNN [added](#).

Pfizer and BioNTech on Tuesday requested the FDA to authorize booster doses of their COVID-19 vaccine in all adults, presenting data showing the shot would help prevent disease across ages.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/fda-likely-make-vaccine-booster-decision-without-outside-advisory-committee-2021-11-12/>

[CNBC: Moderna Says Covid Vaccine Has Fewer Breakthrough Cases Than Pfizer's](#)

Moderna defended the use of its covid-19 vaccine Thursday, saying the protection it offers against severe disease, hospitalization and death outweighs the risk of myocarditis, a rare heart condition seen in a small number of young men who received the shot. The company announced last week that the Food and Drug Administration needed more time to decide whether to authorize its two-dose vaccine for use in children ages 12 to 17 as the agency looks into reports of myocarditis, or the inflammation of the heart muscle. (Lovelace Jr., 11/11)

How Covid antiviral pills work and what that could mean for the pandemic

(NBC) Oral antivirals show huge promise for treating Covid-19. Here's what they do in the body to fight the virus. Story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/covid-antiviral-drugs-merck-pfizer-pills-work-rcna5317>

As Overdose Deaths Soar, DEA-Wary Pharmacies Shy From Dispensing Addiction Medication

(KHN/NPR) Buprenorphine, a controlled substance sold under the brand names Subutex and Suboxone, is a medication to treat opioid use disorder. Research shows it halves [the risk of overdose](#) and [doubles people's chances](#) of entering long-term recovery.

Drug overdose deaths [hit record highs last year](#), and despite medical experts considering medications like buprenorphine the gold standard, less than 20% of people with opioid use disorder typically [receive them](#). The federal government [has taken steps](#) to increase the number of clinicians who prescribe buprenorphine, but many patients struggle to get those prescriptions filled. A recent study found that [1 in 5 U.S. pharmacies do not provide buprenorphine](#).

"Pharmacies are terrified they're going to lose their DEA registration and go out of business," said Charles "Buck" Selby, a former inspector and chief compliance officer for the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy.

Read full story: <https://khn.org/news/article/as-overdose-deaths-soar-dea-wary-pharmacies-shy-from-dispensing-addiction-medication/view/republish/>

Drug With Similar Potency To Fentanyl Detected In Montreal For The First Time

(From [IACP "The Lead"](#)) [CFCF-TV Montreal \(CAN\)](#) Montreal, CAN (11/11) reports, "The synthetic opioid '[etodesnitazene](#)' – a drug with a similar potency to fentanyl – has been detected for the first time in Montreal. The substance was discovered in a purpley-red paste sold on the city's black market, according to an Oct. 29 report from Montreal's regional health authority (DRSP). Traces of fentanyl were also detected in the paste." Although new to Montreal, Etodesnitazene has already been detected in Ontario.

Risks of overdose are particularly high for users who may be "exposed to it unknowingly, in combination with fentanyl," the report states.

Little is known about etodesnitazene. Although the drug was created in the 1950s, it is thought to have only recently entered the illegal narcotics circuit.

Philips ventilator recall troubles deepen as FDA finds new issues

(Reuters) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has asked Philips ([PHG.AS](#)) to conduct more tests on the foam used in its recalled ventilators, after the agency found several new issues at the Dutch company's manufacturing facility.

The medical equipment company recalled some breathing devices and ventilators in June because of a silicone-based foam part that might degrade and become toxic, potentially causing cancer. [read more](#)

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/philips-ventilator-recall-troubles-deepen-fda-finds-new-issues-2021-11-12/>

How Low Can They Go?

Rural Hospitals Weigh Keeping Obstetric Units When Births Decline

(KHN Morning Brief) Many small hospitals have shuttered their labor and delivery units as births decline. For those who resist the trend, some studies suggest that hospitals with low deliveries are more likely to see complications for patients. Doctors and public health experts say there is no magic number to determine when it is best to close an obstetrics unit. (Charlotte Huff, 11/12)

Mouse study points to potential breakthrough against spinal cord injury

(UPI) Severe spinal cord injuries are incurable today in humans, but a new injectable therapy that restored motion in laboratory mice could pave the way for healing paralyzed people. The therapy -- liquid nanofibers that gel around the damaged spinal cord like a soothing blanket -- produces chemical signals that promote healing and reduce scarring, researchers report.

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/11/12/spinal-cord-injury-paralyzed-healing-study-mice/6861636745726/

The KHEF 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 KHEF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.