



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for February 23, 2022

KY COVID Update

([KY COVID site](#)) The positivity rate is 10.8%. There were 2,689 new cases today, with 7696 in patients 18 or under. 1,323 were hospitalized with COVID, 21th 254 in an ICU and 131 on a vent. 80.7% of the ICU beds are currently occupied. There were 25 new deaths, for a total of 13,689 to date.

No Real-World Evidence BA.2 Is More Severe

WHO eases BA.2 concerns; South African data show no increase in severity

(MedPage Today) Concerns that BA.2 may be more severe than the original Omicron variant have been driven by a hamster study, but real-world data suggest the sublineage isn't more virulent, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Clinical severity data from South Africa, the U.K., and Denmark -- "where immunity from vaccination or natural infection is high" -- showed no differences in severity between BA.1 and BA.2, according to WHO's Technical Advisory Group on SARS-CoV-2 Virus Evolution.

The agency's statement took the wind out of BA.2's sails, noting that the sublineage shouldn't get its own Greek letter, but should remain within the Omicron family. It does seem to have a growth advantage over BA.1, but the global circulation of all variants is on the wane even as the proportion of BA.2 sequences reported to GISAID are on the rise, and initial population-level studies suggest a low likelihood of reinfection with BA.2 following a BA.1 infection.

Indeed, the statement comes on the heels of several experts stating that BA.2 is [not likely to reverse the current downward trend](#) of COVID cases in the U.S.

Full story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/special-reports/exclusives/97331>

New COVID-19 vaccine offers 100% efficacy against hospitalization, makers say

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2022/02/23/COVID-19-vaccine-GSK-Sanofi/2711645635697/

Stopping teen drug abuse early can protect health, well-being

(UPI) If they quit early on, there's a good chance that teenage drug abusers can still succeed in life, researchers say. The findings show the importance of stopping drug use by early adulthood in order to protect future health and well-being, according to Jake Najman, a professor at the University of Queensland in Australia, and co-author of a new study. "Adolescent behavior problems predict drug use at 21 years, and drug use and life success at 30 years," Najman said.

Full UPI story link: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2022/02/23/teen-drug-abuse/7741645629136/

Guns overtake car crashes as leading cause of trauma death in U.S.

(UPI) Guns have overtaken car crashes as the leading cause of premature death from trauma in the United States, a new study finds. It also showed that [gun suicides](#) are highest in older white men, while [gun homicides](#) are highest in young Black men.

"Suicide is responsible for the most [years of potential life lost] due to firearm deaths, and continues to increase in the USA at an alarming rate," lead researcher Dr. Joshua Klein, from Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, N.Y., and colleagues wrote.

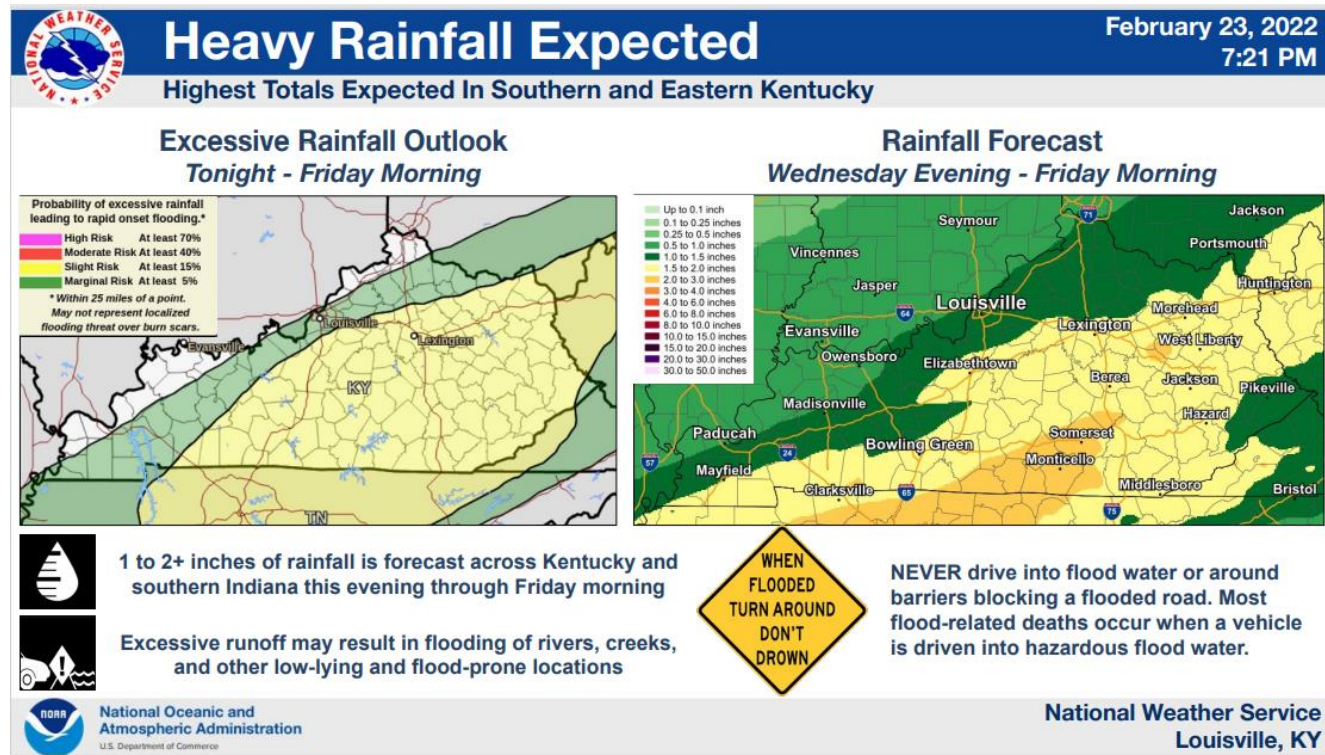
Traumatic injuries are the leading cause of premature death in the United States for people up to the age of 46, and [car crashes](#) have long been the single largest cause of premature death. But gun deaths have been steadily increasing over the past decade, so researchers wondered if gun deaths have eclipsed auto accidents.

Read full story: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2022/02/23/guns-premature-death-trauma/8171645642312/

Related story - [Premature deaths from guns expose another toll of the firearms crisis](#)

Updated NWS Winter Weather and Flooding Briefing for Wednesday Evening

([NWS Louisville](#)) A light wintry mix of precipitation is expected across portions of southern Indiana and north central Kentucky tonight into Thursday morning. While only a glaze of ice is expected for many on grassy and elevated surfaces, a few spots could pick up around a tenth of an inch of ice along with some slick spots on bridges and overpasses. Use caution through the morning commute.



There will also be another round of widespread and locally heavy rainfall mainly across central and southern portions of Kentucky later tonight through tomorrow. This will cause some minor river flooding and some local/areal flooding concerns as well.

([NWS Paducah](#)) - WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 PM CST THURSDAY. Moderate to at times heavy mixed precipitation expected. Ice accumulations from two tenths to near one half of an inch likely from southeast Missouri into far west Kentucky, and near or slightly less than one quarter of an inch the rest of southeast Missouri into southwest Illinois. Sleet accumulations up to one half inch in portions of southeast Missouri and southern Illinois. Minor sleet accumulations across west Kentucky. A few power outages and minor tree damage are likely due to the ice. Travel could be hazardous. The hazardous conditions could impact the morning or evening commute. Most of the ice and sleet accumulation should be tonight into early Thursday morning. For the rest of the day Thursday, temperatures should rise above freezing and transition the precipitation over to all rain, except for those areas from the Ozark Foothills into southwest Illinois.

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 PM CST THURSDAY for Portions of southwest Indiana, western Kentucky and southern Illinois. Mixed precipitation expected. Ice accumulations one tenth to locally two tenths of an inch likely. Minor sleet accumulations also possible. Most of the ice and sleet accumulation should be tonight into early Thursday morning. For the rest of the day Thursday, temperatures should rise above freezing and transition the precipitation over to all rain.

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.