Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation
Emergency Preparedness Update
for February 28, 2022

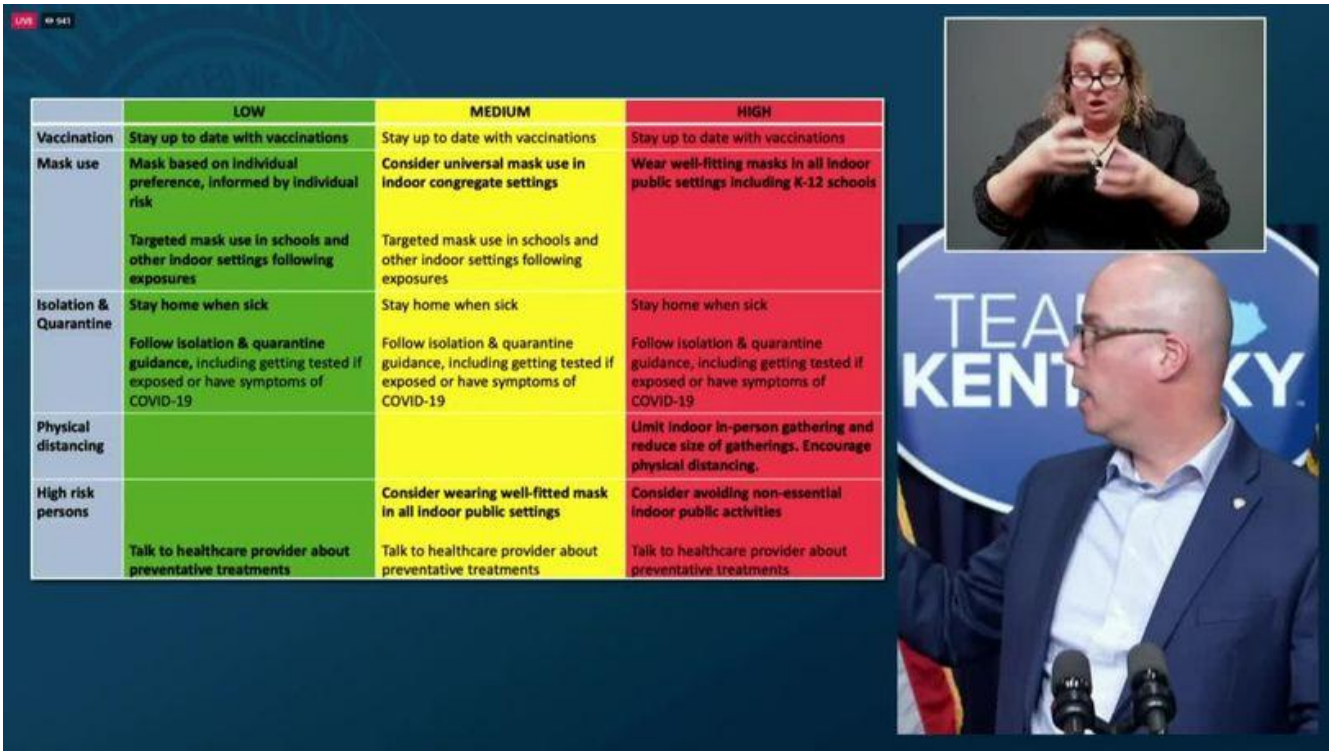
COVID-19 update - Masks no longer recommended for all indoor settings

(WYMT) - Governor Andy Beshear and Department for Public Health Commissioner Dr. Steven Stack discussed Friday's updated U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance during the weekly COVID briefing at the capitol.

Masks are no longer recommended for all indoor settings, however Beshear recommends each person make that choice based on their own level of risk.

"I ask everyone to be thoughtful about your and your family's personal safety. If you have pre-existing conditions, consider continuing to mask up. If you interact with the public a lot, consider continuing to mask up," said Gov. Beshear. "To everybody, let's be respectful and even encouraging of people's decision that they want to continue to mask."

The CDC is now using a new "community transmission" model. This uses the number of new COVID-19 cases at a county level, percent of hospital capacity devoted to COVID-19 patients and the number of new patients with COVID admitted to the hospital in the past week to determine masking advice.



	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Vaccination	Stay up to date with vaccinations	Stay up to date with vaccinations	Stay up to date with vaccinations
Mask use	Mask based on individual preference, informed by individual risk Targeted mask use in schools and other indoor settings following exposures	Consider universal mask use in indoor congregate settings Targeted mask use in schools and other indoor settings following exposures	Wear well-fitting masks in all indoor public settings including K-12 schools
Isolation & Quarantine	Stay home when sick Follow isolation & quarantine guidance, including getting tested if exposed or have symptoms of COVID-19	Stay home when sick Follow isolation & quarantine guidance, including getting tested if exposed or have symptoms of COVID-19	Stay home when sick Follow isolation & quarantine guidance, including getting tested if exposed or have symptoms of COVID-19
Physical distancing			Limit indoor in-person gathering and reduce size of gatherings. Encourage physical distancing.
High risk persons	Talk to healthcare provider about preventative treatments	Consider wearing well-fitted mask in all indoor public settings Talk to healthcare provider about preventative treatments	Consider avoiding non-essential indoor public activities Talk to healthcare provider about preventative treatments

The Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) will use that data to offer guidance for each Kentucky county every week at on **kycovid19.ky.gov**. Officials encouraged every Kentuckian to evaluate their own risk when considering masking public. KDPH will update K-12 school guidance. Vaccination, disease isolation, targeted mask use and test-to-stay programs are strongly encouraged.

Kentuckians are strongly encouraged to align their personal mitigation measures to the risk level of their county and the matching guidance in this table.

Beshear also announced masks are no longer required in state buildings. However, certain state facilities with congregant settings will still wear masks, including: Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs-run nursing homes; Department of Corrections correctional institutions; Cabinet for Health and Family Services-run psychiatric hospitals and immediate care facilities; agencies providing food, beverage and housekeeping services.

Video report and Story link: https://www.wymt.com/app/2022/02/28/masks-no-longer-recommended-all-indoor-settings-gov-beshear-gives-covid-19-update/?outputType=apps

Governor's COVID message: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGvdOIfh-uY

Governor's Press Release with weekend data, and more: https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=1221

Study: 90% of young ECMO-eligible COVID patients at a US hospital died amid rationing

(CIDRAP) Nearly 90% of adult COVID-19 patients who were eligible for—but didn't receive—extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) during the height of the pandemic died in the hospital owing to a lack of resources, even though they were young and had few underlying health issues, according to a natural experiment published late last week in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.

Read full CIDRAP story: https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2022/02/study-90-young-ecmo-eligible-covid-patients-us-hospital-died-amid-rationing

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Deaths among those with dementia rose during COVID-19 pandemic

Read more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2022/02/28/covid-19-pandemic-alzheimers-dementia-death-study/9371646058244/

New tool identifies severe COVID-19 patients at risk for death

Learn more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2022/02/28/COVID-19-blood-test-risk-for-death-study/5231646060544/

Diabetes triggered by COVID-19 may be temporary

See more: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2022/02/28/diabetes-COVID-19-temporary/4241646060761/

CMS wallops nursing homes with planned staffing requirements, increased penalties

(McKingiths) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will establish minimum staffing requirements as part of a broad plan to "crack down on unsafe nursing homes," the White House announced on Monday. The agency said it plans to conduct a new study to determine the level and type of staffing needed to ensure safe and quality care and will issue proposed rules within one year.

The reform measure is part of four new initiatives to ensure that residents get the quality care they need, according to the White House. President Joe Biden plans to raise the initiatives, which are sure to chafe nursing home operators, during his State of the Union address Tuesday evening.

Biden also will call on Congress to supply almost $500 million to increase CMS's survey budget by nearly 25%, an administration statement said.

The new initiatives also include plans to reduce resident room crowding, with CMS planning to explore ways to accelerate phasing out rooms with three or more residents and to promote single-occupancy rooms.

The agency also intends to update the Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing Program by proposing new payment changes based on staffing adequacy and the resident experience, as well as how well facilities retain staff.

Full story: https://www.mcknights.com/news/cms-wallops-nursing-homes-with-planned-staffing-requirements-and-increased-penalties/

Kentucky and Ohio Governor's Pledge to Seek Federal Funding for Brent Spence Bridge Project

(From Press Release) Gov. Beshear and Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine announced today that they will jointly pursue up to $2 billion in federal funding to drastically reduce traffic congestion on and around the Brent Spence Bridge, which connects Covington, Kentucky, to Cincinnati, Ohio. The requested funds would primarily be used to build a new companion bridge over the Ohio River to give drivers an alternative to the Brent Spence Bridge.

As part of today's announcement, Govs. Beshear and DeWine signed a memorandum of understanding confirming the states' intention to work together on the bridge project. The memorandum also directs transportation officials in both states to begin preparations for construction. A more detailed interstate agreement will be signed later this year. To see the full release, click here.

"With today's signing, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the State of Ohio are aligning our efforts to make this project a reality," said Gov. Beshear. "This memorandum spells out our obligations and positions us to quickly apply for these federal dollars, which will allow us not only to build this new bridge, but to do it without tolls! And just as important: This project shows what we in government can do when we embrace cooperation and progress and simply do what is best for our people."

UN climate report: 'Atlas of human suffering' worse, bigger

(AP) Deadly with extreme weather now, climate change is about to get so much worse. It is likely going to make the world sicker, hungrier, poorer, gloomier and way more dangerous in the next 18 years with an "unavoidable" increase in risks, a new United Nations science report says.

And after that watch out.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report said Monday if human-caused global warming isn't limited to just another couple tenths of a degree, an Earth now struck regularly by deadly heat, fires, floods and drought in future decades will degrade in 127 ways with some being "potentially irreversible."

"The cumulative scientific evidence is unequivocal: Climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health," says the major report designed to guide world leaders in their efforts to curb climate change. Delaying cuts in heat-trapping carbon emissions and waiting on adapting to warming's impacts, it warns, "will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all."

Today's children who may still be alive in the year 2100 are going to experience four times more climate extremes than they do now even with only a few more tenths of a degree of warming over today's heat.

Full AP story: https://apnews.com/article/climate-science-europe-united-nations-weather-8d5e277660f7125ffdab7a833d9856a3

NOAA Updates to the Excessive Rainfall Outlook

The prime season for heavy rainfall and flash flooding is quickly approaching. About 3 out of every 4 flash flood reports occur between late April and mid September, and 34 of the 50 U.S. state record 24-hour rainfalls occurred in the same time frame. The Excessive Rainfall Outlook is a product that helps users understand their risk of significant rainfall events on a daily basis, graphically illustrating the chances of rainfall intense enough that it would be expected to cause flash flooding. The product has a brand new interactive web page, and was experimentally extended for two additional days of lead time (Day 4 and Day 5). More information is available on the web page and in the Product Description Document.
If you have any questions, please direct them to the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Weather Prediction Center, Alex Lamers (alex.lamers@noaa.gov).

FEMA's Resilient Nation Partnership Network Releases "Building Alliances for Equitable Resilience" Partner Voices

The Resilient Nation Partnership Network (RNPN) recently released a series of audio stories on equity and resilience, featuring four diverse voices who contributed to the "Building Alliances for Equitable Resilience" resource that was published in April 2021. This is the latest step in a massive collaboration made possible by the reach and power of partnerships. "Building Alliances for Equitable Resilience" and the corresponding audio stories offer insights, reflections and resources that organizations can use to build and apply equitable practices in their day-to-day work. The audio stories, with English and Spanish transcripts, are available on the RNPN website.

Toyota's Japan production halted over suspected cyberattack

Learn more: https://www.newser.com/article/14deafe1eaa6b9956da0ac9ffa0de789/toyotas-japan-production-halted-over-suspected-cyberattack.html

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CISA Support to Critical Communications Requirements - (GETS/WPS/TSP) New Account Enrollment/Assistance

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is reaching out to all state, local, territorial and tribal (SLTT) organizations to ensure that appropriate members of the national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP) community are enrolled in Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) and Wireless Priority Service (WPS), and that their critical circuits are covered under Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP). These tools, which provide priority for landline and cellular calls, are necessary to complete missions under circumstances of telephone network stress. The goal of this outreach effort is to achieve maximum enrollment in GETS, WPS, and TSP among SLTT organizations and critical infrastructure partners.

Request each SLTT and critical infrastructure partners GETS/WPS point of contact (POC) review their list of authorized GETS and WPS users to ensure those in their organization with NS/EP roles and missions are enrolled. POCs are reminded that any individual, who has an NS/EP role, is eligible to subscribe to both GETS and WPS. Where there are identified gaps in enrollment, CISA can assist POCs in establishing the necessary new GETS/WPS accounts, and assign TSP, if necessary.

SLTT and critical infrastructure partners GETS/WPS POC should respond by March 4, 2022 with confirmation of their GETS/WPS user review and/or requests for account assistance to the CISA GETS/WPS Operations Manager, Mr. Zachary Johnson, at zachary.johnson@cisa.dhs.gov or (O) 703- 705-6401/(M) 301-379-2498. Questions on this request, or on GETS and WPS can also be directed to Mr. Johnson.

For assistance with the TSP Operations, please contact Ms. Kerri Pettway, TSP Program Specialist, at kerri.pettway@cisa.dhs.gov or (M) 202-603-3784.
Additional information on GETS, WPS, and TSP is available at www.cisa.gov/about-pts.

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.