



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR ANDY BESHEAR
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Crystal Staley
502-545-3714

Crystal.Staley@ky.gov

Sebastian Kitchen
502-330-0799

Sebastian.Kitchen@ky.gov

**Gov. Beshear: ‘Due to National Shortage, There Will Not
Be Enough Monoclonal Antibody Infusions Anywhere. Get
the Vaccine.’**

*Seventy percent of eligible Kentuckians 12 and older have received at least one
vaccine dose*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Sept. 20, 2021) – Today, Gov. Andy Beshear said Kentucky administered more than 5,000 monoclonal antibody treatment courses last week, but the state will only receive 4,960 courses this week due to a [national shortage](#). They will be allocated to 79 sites around Kentucky based on backorder requests, current inventory and previous week utilization.

“We will have at least one monoclonal antibody treatment provider in each of our Area Development Districts, but there’s not going to be enough anywhere,” said **Gov. Beshear**. “If you’re putting off a vaccine to have an infusion, let me tell you, an infusion is much more invasive, and there are not going to be enough of those anywhere in the commonwealth. Get that vaccine.”

The Governor said 8,750 COVID-19 cases and 88 COVID-19 deaths were reported in Kentucky since Friday. Three of the Kentuckians who died were in their early twenties.

“While we hope that our weekly case numbers are plateauing, we cannot sustain a plateau at this level with the number of people it would put in the hospital,” said **Gov. Beshear**. “On any given day, we’ve only got between 90 and 120 total open adult ICU beds in the state. And that’s with many outpatient and elective procedures canceled to allow more space in the hospital to be converted to ICU units. This cannot become business as usual.”

“This is like a war zone to us. We have staff members experience PTSD, just as a soldier would in the time of war,” said **Sherrie Mays, MSN, RN, vice president and chief nursing officer at Baptist Health Corbin**. “My heart breaks for my staff. I see them out there working every day. They put this hospital and the patients ahead of their families so that our patients can be taken care of.”

She added: “If you have the vaccine, your case is going to be milder. You can’t think that this is just the flu and you’re going to stay home and take care of it. It is COVID, and we have to address it early on.”

COVID-19 Case Information Update

Number of people who have received at least one vaccine dose in Kentucky: **2,652,144**

Number of people who received at least one vaccine dose since Friday: **13,752**

From March 1 to Sept. 15, 87.1% of COVID-19 cases, 92.1% of COVID-19 hospitalizations and 84.6% of COVID-19 deaths in Kentucky have been among those who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated.

The Governor reported that 59% of all Kentuckians, including those that are too young to be eligible, have gotten at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose; 70% of Kentuckians 12 or older, or 70%, of all eligible Kentuckians, have gotten at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose; and 72% of Kentucky adults have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose.

The Governor said Kentucky [ranks third](#) among neighboring states for both percentage of residents who are fully vaccinated and percentage who have received at least one dose.

The Governor said Pfizer and BioNTech [announced](#) today their vaccine has been shown to be safe and highly effective in young children ages 5 to 11. The companies plan to apply to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) by the end of the month for authorization to administer the vaccine to children in this age group.

Sept. 18, Cases: 3,811

Sept. 18, Deaths: 48

Sept. 19, Cases: 2,685

Sept. 19, Deaths: 23

New Cases Today: 2,075

New Deaths: 17

Today's Positivity Rate: 12.18%

Current Hospitalizations: 2,254

Current Intensive Care Admittances: 654

Currently on Ventilators: 452

COVID-19 BinaxNOW Rapid Tests

The Governor said Kentucky will receive an allocation of BinaxNOW rapid COVID-19 tests.

“We are going to be using these on transient and difficult to track populations, such as homeless shelters, jails, prisons and other places where you need a quick response to know whether or not to mix someone with the rest of the population,” said **Gov. Beshear**. “If we have extras, universities are interested, and we will try to make those available.”

COVID-19 Testing, Prevention in K-12 Schools

Today, Gov. Beshear shared Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) [guidance](#) to K-12 schools for preventing the spread of COVID-19 among students, educators and school staff.

Those include instituting multiple, layered prevention strategies; requiring universal masking; encouraging COVID-19 vaccinations among all eligible Kentuckians 12 and older; ensuring physical distancing as much as possible; improving facility ventilation; making sure sick students and staff stay home; making COVID-19 testing available and quarantining unvaccinated individuals after exposures; and collaborating with local health departments.

KDPH has contracted with 19 laboratory service providers to offer COVID-19 testing in K-12 schools in Kentucky at no cost. This service is available to schools in all Kentucky counties, though it is the responsibility of the school or district leadership to set up a testing program for their school community.

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot Update

The Governor said an FDA committee met Sept. 17 and voted unanimously that benefits outweigh risks of a Pfizer-BioNTech booster for individuals 65 and older and individuals at high risk of severe COVID-19.

The FDA also informally considered people in high-risk professions (e.g. health care) for booster eligibility. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advised states to not implement booster programs until the FDA takes regulatory action and the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices committee meets Sept. 22-23 to make recommendations. There is no current timeline on guidance for Moderna and Johnson & Johnson boosters.

Capitol Security Upgrades

Today, Gov. Beshear said upon the recommendation of the Kentucky State Police and federal security partners, the Finance and Administration Cabinet's Department for Facilities and Support Services will be seeking a request for quotes for the installation of bollards on the grounds of the Kentucky State Capitol, making the area between the floral clock and the Capitol rose garden accessible only to pedestrian traffic. The remainder of Capital Avenue will continue to be open to vehicular traffic.

###