

Gov. Beshear: ‘I Am Asking You to Break the Thanksgiving Dinner Rule to Get People Vaccinated’

Kentucky third in nation for new daily COVID-19 cases per capita

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Sept. 13, 2021) – Today, Gov. Andy Beshear said Kentucky currently ranks third in the nation for the highest number of new daily COVID-19 cases per capita, with a seven-day average of approximately 90 new cases reported per 100,000 people.

“I am asking you to break the Thanksgiving dinner rule and have a tough conversation with those you love and care about who are hesitant to get the vaccine,” said Gov. Beshear. “It won’t be easy. But they are more likely to listen to a friend or family member, and that one conversation could save their life.”

The Governor highlighted a recent U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study that found people who were not fully vaccinated this spring and summer were more than 10 times more likely to be hospitalized, and 11 times more likely to die of COVID-19, than those who were fully vaccinated.

“Today, I have 38 COVID patients on my unit. That is every room that we could possibly open and every patient we could possibly take care of,” said Laura Gevedon, RN, shift supervisor for the Pikeville Medical Center COVID unit. “Every patient that we have had say that they regret not getting their COVID-19 vaccine. They wish that they had never listened to anyone who said not to get it. They regret waiting. Get the vaccine and wear a mask.”

She added: “Last week, a man had a BiPAP on and was maxed out on his oxygen, but he was dropping. He told me to take it off and let him die. I told him that he had more fight and we weren’t going to do it. I called his wife and she talked to him convinced him to give it a little while longer. His BiPAP was so loud that his wife couldn’t hear what he was saying, so I asked him what he wanted me to tell her. He wanted me to tell her that he loved her and that he would be on the ventilator by that evening. Two hours later, he was unresponsive so we put him on a ventilator. The next day he passed away. That is my every day.”

“One thing that we have noticed recently is a big influx of COVID-19-positive patients that are younger. The ones that are the sickest are the ones who are unvaccinated,” said Alicia Hume, RN, clinical outcomes specialist at the Medical Center at Bowling Green Emergency Department. “The ones who are vaccinated aren’t getting as sick and typically don’t have to be admitted unless they have some comorbidities or health problems prior to coming in.”

“In addition to helping take care of patients when we have had such a high influx, I also work with our specialty infusion clinic giving the Regeneron antibody infusions. We have seen a lot of success with this, and the folks who are able to get in to get the infusions are all feeling better,” said Melissa Gilpin, BSN, clinical nurse educator at the Medical Center at Bowling Green Emergency Department. “Unfortunately, we just can’t keep up with the demand. We have so many positive patients come in and we don’t have enough time or space to give them this treatment that could be helpful. We are overwhelmed, and our staff is tired. They are wanting to do the best they can for this community. Get your vaccines, wear your mask and stay safe.”

COVID-19 Case Information Update

Number of people who have received at least one vaccine dose in Kentucky: 2,618,081

Number of people who received at least one vaccine dose since Friday: 26,219
Sept. 11, Cases: 4,470, Sept. 11, Deaths: 18, Sept. 12, Cases: 3,111,
Sept. 12, Deaths: 21, New Cases Today: 2,426, New Deaths: 29
Today’s Positivity Rate: 13.70%, Current Hospitalizations: 2,446
Current Intensive Care Admittances: 646, Currently on Ventilators: 411

The Governor said after receiving new census data, the state now will be able to report percentages of Kentuckians 12 and older and ages 12 to 17 who have been vaccinated; demographic information for more than 170,000 additional vaccinated Kentuckians; and the number of Kentuckians vaccinated, rather than the number of people vaccinated in Kentucky.

The Governor said he could now report that 59% of all Kentuckians, including those that are too young to be eligible, have gotten at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose; 69% of Kentuckians 12 or older, or 69% of all eligible Kentuckians, have gotten at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose; and 71% of Kentucky adults have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose.

COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Treatments

Dr. Steven Stack, commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health, updated Kentuckians on the use and availability of monoclonal antibody treatments for COVID-19 patients. During the week ending Sept. 7, 2021, 3,642 treatment courses of monoclonal antibodies were used in Kentucky. As of Sept. 7, Kentucky hospitals have 9,363 monoclonal antibody treatment courses on hand.

Monoclonal antibody treatments are available at 139 locations across Kentucky.

“Monoclonal antibody administration in Kentucky has expanded dramatically,” said Dr. Stack. “In the last eight weeks, we have gone from about 204 monoclonal doses given in the beginning of July all the way up to 3,642 doses given through last Wednesday. That is an 18-fold increase in just eight weeks.”

Dr. Stack explained that monoclonal antibodies are synthetic, laboratory-created antibodies. They give patients a temporary immune boost, ideally helping people who are already sick have a milder disease. They do not teach a patient’s body how to create its own antibodies.

“Monoclonal antibodies are an important tool, but we have another alternative, vaccinations. Vaccines prime your immune system to create natural antibodies that your own body will produce to create a natural immune response that then can protect you for at least eight months or more,” said Dr. Stack. “It’s a lot easier to get vaccinated than to get monoclonal antibodies.”

K-12 School Testing Program

Dr. Stack also updated Kentuckians on the state’s school testing program, and said parents and school leaders can find more information here: <https://gov-status.egov.com/K-12-kentucky-school-testing-program>.

“We stood up, using federal funds, a testing program where every single county in the commonwealth should have access to an approved testing vendor,” said Dr. Stack. “There are probably around 2,000 schools within the commonwealth. There’s no way that is going to work more effectively than having the local school and local district involved to refine and tailor the program to them. We’re going to put together the guidance we have to give in one packet all information that schools will need to know for how to do layered mitigation, how to do testing as a tool to help keep people safe from COVID, to keep sick people out of the school setting and to give other guidance for how to be isolated or quarantined.”

Kentucky National Guard Assisting Overwhelmed Hospitals

The Governor said the Kentucky National Guard is handling COVID-19 testing at some of the state’s most overwhelmed hospitals to assist with staff shortages.

Last week, he announced that along with the four hospitals that already have National Guard teams on the ground at their facilities, 21 more hospitals will receive assistance from an additional 310 soldiers and airmen.

They will assist with non-clinical functions within the hospitals for a maximum of two weeks. Ten to 30 members will be deployed to each facility in the next week. They are assisting with logistical and administrative support to allow hospital staff to focus on patients. To learn more, see the full release.

“There will now be 411 Kentucky National Guard members in 25 Kentucky hospitals helping to expand their capacity and ability to respond to this dangerous surge,” said Gov. Beshear. “Our Guard is stepping up yet again to help the commonwealth and our people. Thank you to you, your families, your employers and your community for your continued sacrifice and service.”

AdventHealth Manchester Offers Monoclonal Antibody Infusion Treatment



Manchester, Kentucky 9-7-21— AdventHealth Manchester is holding daily monoclonal antibody infusion clinics to treat non-hospitalized, COVID-19 patients. The medicine called REGEN-COV contains two monoclonal antibodies and works to prevent COVID-19 symptoms from worsening.

“With the recent increase of COVID-19 cases in our community and the severity of illness we are seeing in our hospitalized COVID patients, we are offering this treatment in hopes of lowering the numbers of hospitalized COVID patients and improving our patients’ symptoms and recovery from COVID-19,” said Anita Cornett, MD, Chief Medical Officer.

What are monoclonal antibodies (MAB) and how do they work?

Monoclonal antibodies are proteins that mimic the immune system’s ability to fight COVID-19 and are made in laboratories to help prevent infection.

Since our immune system relies on antibodies to detect and destroy harmful substances like viruses, monoclonal antibodies are doing the same thing but in a more controlled way, flagging and blocking harmful infections from entering our cells — COVID-19, in this case.

What are the treatments like?

AdventHealth Manchester’s MAB treatments of REGEN-COV are given by intravenous infusion (through your veins). It’s an outpatient procedure for referred patients who tested positive for COVID-19 and are at high risk of developing a more serious case of coronavirus.

Who is eligible for treatments?

MAB infusions should be used for patients 12 and older with an active, mild-to moderate COVID-19 case, who are at risk of progressing to a severe case that would lead to hospitalization. This includes anyone with the following conditions:

- ◆ Cardiovascular disease
- ◆ Chronic kidney disease
- ◆ Chronic lung disease
- ◆ Diabetes
- ◆ High blood pressure
- ◆ Immunosuppressive disease or treatment
- ◆ Medical-related technological dependence
- ◆ Neurodevelopmental disorders
- ◆ Pregnancy
- ◆ Obesity
- ◆ Older age (65 and older)
- ◆ Sickle cell disease
- ◆ Other medical conditions or factors

If you think you or a loved one might be a candidate for MAB treatments at AdventHealth Manchester, talk to your primary care provider. If your doctor thinks you’re at risk of progressing, you should be referred immediately and start the infusion as soon as possible. No visitors are allowed with patients in the MAB infusion clinic at this time, but wheelchair assistance can be provided. For more information on these treatments or anything related to COVID-19, visit [CoronavirusResourceHub.com](https://www.adventhealth.com/coronavirusresourcehub).

Dr. Anita Cornett, CMO was Awarded 2021 AdventHealth Christian Service Award



Manchester, Kentucky 08-31-21— AdventHealth Manchester’s own Dr. Anita Cornett, Chief Medical Officer was awarded 2021 AdventHealth Christian Service Award.

Anita Cornett, MD, loves her longtime career as an internist and addiction specialist in southeastern Kentucky because she gets to care for the total well-being of her patients. She sees adult patients to those late in life at her successful outpatient clinic and as chief medical officer and chief hospitalist at AdventHealth in Manchester.

Dr. Cornett is passionate about caring for each patient’s physical, mental and spiritual health. It’s her goal for you to leave her practice feeling known, cared for and that you matter regardless of your life circumstances.

Dr. Cornett graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine in her home state and completed her residency in internal medicine at William Beaumont Hospital in Michigan. She held fellowships at the CTI Physician Leadership Institute, American College of Physicians and the American Society of Addiction Medicine. Dr. Cornett has consistently received professional recognition and held numerous leadership positions during her over 30-year career.

She leads an active life outside of her profession with a wide variety of personal interests. She enjoys reading, gardening, playing the piano, traveling and spending time with family. She has been married to her husband, Brad, for more than 30 years. They have two children and two grandchildren.