

Weather Record							
Date	4-6	4-7	4-8	4-9	4-10	4-11	4-12
High	76.3	78.6	72.2	79.7	66.9	67.7	69.8
Low	42.8	48.3	58.2	52.8	57.6	48.9	38.8
Prec	0	.11	.03	0	.78	0	0
Reporting period for each day runs from midnight to midnight. Statistics from Kentucky Mesonet's Bengal Station.							

Beshear: Many restrictions will end in Kentucky once 2.5 million are vaccinated

By AL CROSS
KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

Gov. Andy Beshear announced Monday that he would stop restricting capacities of almost all business and other activities once about 900,000 more Kentucky residents have been vaccinated for the coronavirus.

"When we have vaccinated 2.5 million Kentuckians, we will remove capacity restrictions for nearly all venues, events and businesses that cater to 1,000 or fewer patrons," Beshear said at the opening of the state's largest vaccination site, a 28-lane drive-thru operation at Cardinal Stadium in Louisville.

He said reaching that goal would also mean the end of physical-distancing requirements and required closing times for bars and restaurants, an issue that sparked yet another lawsuit against him last week.

"We should all be motivated right now," Beshear said. "If you are a restaurant, a bar, a store, a public pool, a country club, a grocery, a funeral home, a wedding venue, a concert hall, a museum; if you put on festivals, if you are a distillery, this is what you've been waiting for: a clear number and a clear goal to hit."

The governor said he

would still require facial coverings in indoor public spaces "until we have control of this variant," a more contagious strain of the virus that has become dominant in the U.S.

"We've experienced dramatically less loss of life than just about every other corner of America" and less disruption, Beshear said, but "The tough news is, this crisis is not over." To end it, he said, "We get our people vaccinated and we continue to wear our masks and do the right thing."

He urged restaurants and retailers to make sure all their employees are vaccinated, and "Reach out to your customers. Reach out to those who want to get back to normalcy. This is the way and this is the number."

Beshear said 1.55 million Kentuckians have been vaccinated, so the goal could be reached in as little as three and a half weeks, but "realistically, it's probably gonna be four to six weeks."

He reiterated that people need to get the vaccine that's available to them and not wait for the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which has run into supply problems.

He said he believed the timing is right for opening of the mass vaccination site in the state's largest city, but said the state would

close some other large sites and get vaccines "where you go in your everyday, daily lives. For example, he said Kroger Health would close some large sites and focus more on stores.

"We're working every day on being creative, on different incentives and different opportunities," he said, adding that the current focus isn't on "the hesitant or those who are gonna say no; I think we're to the indifferent stage, people that would be willing to get it, or if there's a compelling reason."

Also, he said, the "huge group" of people under 30 who just became eligible for the vaccine need to know that the variant is infecting and hospitalizing more young people than the previously dominant strain.

The Cardinal Stadium site is run by the University of Louisville. It is designed to vaccinate up to 4,000 people per day for the next seven weeks, up to 200,000, U of L President Neeli Bendapudi said: "It'll make a huge difference."

Vaccination appointments at the site are available at www.uoflhealth.org or by calling 502-681-1435. The site will be closed April 29 through May 1, because of Kentucky Derby events, and on May 8 for U of L graduation ceremonies.

National Drug Take Back Day is April 24

Gov. Andy Beshear and the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy are encouraging Kentuckians to participate in the DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day scheduled nationwide on April 24, 2021 from 10 am to 2 pm ET.

"In 2019, we lost 1,316 Kentucky residents to overdose deaths, with a significant number of those overdose deaths caused by opioids," said Gov. Beshear. "Every step we make to prevent a loved one from misusing or abusing prescription drugs is worth the fight. National Prescription Drug Take Back Drug is one of those easy steps we can make to protect all Kentuckians."

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family

and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet.

"Every year Kentucky participates in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day at locations across the commonwealth, such as the local health department, convenience stores and law enforcement agencies," said ODCP Executive Director Van Ingram. "With it being spring time, now is a great time to clean out our medicine cabinets, and this nationwide day is a good reminder for all of us to safely dispose of any expired, unused or unwanted prescription drugs."

In years past, Kentucky has collected more than 160,000 pounds of prescription medications during this event.

Kentuckians who are unable to make it to one of the event locations on April 24 can safely dispose of their prescription drugs at 193 different drug disposal locations throughout 116 counties.

In Green County, that location is the Greensburg Police Department, 105 West Hodgenville Avenue.

Funeral Directors Association of Kentucky, Inc.

- The Voice of Funeral Service in the Commonwealth -

Special COVID-19 Funeral Assistance

Congress has authorized FEMA to provide financial assistance to individuals who incurred COVID-19-related funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.

The maximum financial assistance is \$9,000 per funeral.

FEMA is accepting applications for Funeral Assistance through a dedicated call center.

**COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line Number
844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585**

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time

Details such as eligibility and documentation criteria and the application process – for how funds will be distributed to families are available by calling the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line number.

Funeral Homes are not allowed to call and register/apply for the funds.

Now is the time for eligible families to decide who the applicant and any co-applicants will be and to gather the documents you need to be reimbursed for expenses.

Cowherd & Parrott Funeral Home is reviewing funerals since January 20, 2020 and is ready to assist eligible families who must provide the following documents:

1. A copy of the death certificate. The death certificate must indicate the death "may have been caused by" or "was likely a result of" COVID-19 or COVID-19-like symptoms. Similar phrases that indicate a high likelihood of COVID-19 are also considered sufficient.
2. Proof of funeral expenses incurred. Documentation (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) must include the applicant's name as the responsible person for the expense, the deceased individual's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and that funeral expenses

were incurred after January 20, 2020.

Eligible funeral expenses include but are not limited to:

- Transportation for up to two individuals to identify the deceased individual
- Transfer of remains
- Casket or urn
- Burial plot or cremation niche
- Marker or headstone
- Clergy or officiant services
- Arrangement of the funeral ceremony
- Use of funeral home equipment or staff
- Cremation or interment costs
- Costs associated with producing and certifying multiple death certificates
- Additional expenses mandated by any applicable local or state government laws or ordinances.

If you are eligible for funeral assistance,

you will receive a check by mail, or funds by direct deposit, depending on which option you choose when you apply. **The funds cannot be "assigned" to the funeral home.**

The funeral assistance is made possible under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Cowherd & Parrott Funeral Home welcomes the opportunity to provide this information made possible by the Funeral Directors Association of Kentucky. We will continue monitor the future of the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Program.

Cowherd & Parrott
Funeral Home



Serving the community since 1910.

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