More Than 200 Measles Cases Reported Across State

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

Kentucky health officials continue to respond to the largest measles outbreak in the state in more than 30 years and urge use of the MMR vaccine, as more than 200 cases have been confirmed in 16 counties across the state this year.

As of Thursday, November 19, the Kentucky Department for Public Health reported 218 cases, requiring 17 hospitalizations. All but two cases in 2026 have been in people who were not vaccinated against measles or whose vaccination status was unknown.

Earlier this week, international public health officials announced the U.S. has lost its measles elimination status, ending more than two decades of public health success in stamping out a highly infectious, potentially life-threatening disease.

"Losing our measles elimination status is a disheartening – and entirely avoidable – tragedy for American public health," said Cabinet for Health and Family Services Secretary Dr. Steven Stack. "Misinformation being disseminated by people in positions of leadership and responsibility has contributed to this setback, and the public is paying the price. We have safe and effective tools to prevent measles and other serious infectious diseases. We should be encouraging their use, not creating fear and confusion."

The best way to protect against measles is through the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, which is safe, effective, and widely available at local health departments, doctor's offices and pharmacies. Local health department locations and hours can be found at this link.

Dr. Stack noted, "Measles during pregnancy can result in pregnancy loss, early labor and the baby being born with a low birth weight. The virus can also be transmitted to the newborn and cause severe illness. Pregnant women and young infants under six months of age are unable to be immunized, so protecting them from measles means those around them must be vaccinated."

During his weekly press conference, Gov. Andy Beshear repeated his call for President Donald Trump to remove Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., as secretary of the Health and Human Services Cabinet, and not just because of the measles outbreak.

"We've seen an increased risk for whooping cough, putting newborns in danger," Beshear said. "We've seen tetanus at the highest levels in two decades and a rise in foodborne illness with experts declaring the cyclospora outbreak among the worst in U.S. history. Folks, please listen to your doctor and get your vaccines. They're safe and effective and will protect you and your loved ones."

Kentucky's Unemployment Drops To 4.6% In October

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

Kentucky joined the nation in seeing a drop in the unemployment rate in October, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency within the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet.

Kentucky's seasonally adjusted preliminary October 2026 unemployment rate was 4.6 percent, down from the 4.7 percent recorded in September. The U.S. seasonally adjusted jobless rate for October 2026 was 4.1%, which was down 0.1 percentage points from September, data from the U.S. Department of Labor indicated.

Kentucky's civilian labor force was 2,123,855 in October 2026, an increase of 7,361 individuals from September. The number of people employed in October was 2,026,303, up 9,345 from September. The number of unemployed was 97,552, a decrease of 1,984 from September.

In a separate federal survey of business establishments that excludes jobs in agriculture and people who are self-employed, Kentucky's seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 3,700 jobs to 2,036,000 in October compared to September. Kentucky's nonfarm employment was up 7,300 jobs compared to October 2025.

"Both surveys provided encouraging signals on Kentucky's employment situation," said University of Kentucky's Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) Director Mike Clark. "The household survey indicated that workers are continuing to enter Kentucky's labor market and find employment. Workers found jobs at a faster rate than they entered the labor force, which pushed Kentucky's unemployment rate down slightly in October."

He also noted, "The business survey showed that employers added more workers to their payrolls in October, with most of the gains concentrated in retail trade. "While the jobs gains for October are welcome news, the trend over the past few months shows relatively little change in Kentucky's total employment."

Civilian labor force statistics include nonmilitary workers and unemployed Kentuckians who are actively seeking work. They do not include unemployed Kentuckians who have not looked for employment within the past four weeks.

KYTC Conducting Travel, Speed Survey

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

Kentuckians are being invited to participate in an online survey, to aid highway officials in the development of a safety effort known as a Speed Management Action Plan.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is asking all residents to share their perspectives on speeding and roadway safety, as state officials gather input and analyze data to help shape speed management strategies and identify highway improvements to reduce fatalities and severity of crashes across the state.

"Reducing serious and fatal crashes starts with understanding both the data and the experiences of the people who use Kentucky's roads every day," said Transportation Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Goodman. "This survey gives Kentuckians an opportunity to help guide potential countermeasures to reduce speeding and improve safety for everyone who travels on our roads."

Administered by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the short and anonymous online survey is available through Dec. 19. Feedback will help transportation experts develop a Speed Management Action Plan to better understand where and why speed-related crashes occur across the commonwealth and identify opportunities to make roads safer for all users. According to analysis of Kentucky State Police crash data, approximately 25% of high-severity crashes in Kentucky are attributed to speeding.

The survey will ask participants about speeding on different roadway types, factors that contribute to speeding, strategies that may be effective in encouraging safer driving behaviors and locations where speed reduction efforts should be prioritized.

To complete the survey, go to the Kentucky Speed Management Action Plan on KYTC's Public Engagement Portal at Engage.kytc.ky.gov

Between You and Me x 2

By Monty Carter

Bend The Knee

Last week I was hospitalized for a few days with a high fever. It had the doctors stumped until a repeat test revealed a nasty, sneaky little bacterial infection. I was completely drained, with zero energy, and running on little sleep. While parked in a hospital bed I had time to reflect.

I missed a medical procedure for my 92-year-old mother, and my daughter's first baby shower. My son stepped up and took his Gran Ann for the procedure. My baby girl was more than understanding about missing the shower.

It occurred to me that while I was lying in a hospital bed the world was moving on. It kept going even if I was absent. Therein lies the most humbling message—life goes on whether we are present or not. Humble moments put us in our place and remind us that the world doesn't revolve around us.

I am but a mere speck in the big picture of life. And it is ok! God's word is full of admonitions to pursue humility. To put others first and cast off pride. Jesus spent much of his earthly ministry tending to the marginalized of society. He empowered and raised the broken much to the chagrin of the self-righteous.

Pride is a dangerous slope and a wretched master. It makes us think more highly of ourselves than we ought to. It blinds us to the suffering and pain in others. The Apostle Paul knew all about pride before he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus. In Philippians, he urges us to he urges us to pursue the humility of Jesus:

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil 2:4-11)

The pursuit of humility is a noble errand. It doesn't mean we lose personality and all the things that make us unique. It means we work hard to cast off arrogance, hubris, and pride. It means we wash feet like Jesus. We think of and serve others like Jesus. It is a righteous pursuit. And it is not for the timid. Practicing humility is counter-cultural. It is a game-changer. It can change the world. In fact, the most humbling act in all of history changed the world forever. Now that's a worthy mission!

Agape, Monty

Deaths And Funerals

Diana Yates



Diana Yates, 81, of Uniontown died on Thursday, November 19 in Evansville, Indiana.

She was born June 25, 1945 in Evansville, the daughter of the late Weldon and Marie Shaul.

Diana spent much of her working life caring for the elderly. She was a member of the VFW Auxiliary and an avid bingo player. She was a member of St. Agnes Catholic Church.

She is survived by her son, Mark Yates of Uniontown; her daughter, Sandy Fre3nch of Sturgis; five grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Doug Yates; a son, Sam Yates; a grandson; two brothers; and a sister.

A Mass was held on Tuesday, November 24 at St. Agnes Catholic Church with Fr. Bruce officiating.

Burial was in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to Shriner's Children's Hospital, 2900 North Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607.

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UNION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING AND PUBLIC FORUM

The Union County Schools' Local Planning Committee (LPC) will conduct a PUBLIC MEETING on December 7, 2026, at 5:30 PM CST at the Union County Board of Education Central Office located at 4500 US Highway 60W, Morganfield, Kentucky 42437. A Public Forum for public comment will follow this meeting at approximately 6:00 pm. This is the second of a series of meetings and public forums to develop a District Facilities Plan for Union County Schools. The district's fiscal agent will discuss the financial status of the Union County Schools. The district's architect will present a draft District Facility Plan and the committee will be given the opportunity to discuss and make any desired changes. It will then be presented to the group for their approval. This meeting and future meetings will be informal gatherings to encourage local participation through community suggestions relative to future utilization of existing school facilities and construction of new school facilities. These community suggestions or recommendations will be closely monitored by the Local Planning Committee in the development of a proposed District Facility Plan for the Union County School District.

For additional information contact Dr. Terra Hancock, Superintendent of the Union County Schools, 4500 US Highway 60W, Morganfield, Ky, 42437 at 270-389-1694.

The public is welcome and invited to this series of meetings and public forums.