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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gov. Beshear Updates Kentuckians on COVID-19

Governor also notes window to apply for Food and Beverage Relief Fund closes at midnight

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 18, 2020) – On Friday, Gov. Andy Beshear reminded Kentuckians to follow new holiday guidance issued Thursday and reminded restaurant and bar owners to apply for assistance through the *Team Kentucky* Food and Beverage Relief Fund by midnight tonight, if they have not already done so.

“Christmas is probably my favorite day of the year, and I know we all want to celebrate the way we usually do, but this year we need to do things differently,” said Gov. Beshear. “With vaccines arriving this week, we can see the bright light at the end of the tunnel. Now we just need everyone to keep doing their part to protect one another.”

***Team Kentucky* Food and Beverage Relief Fund**

The Governor reminded Kentuckians that today is the last day to apply for the \$40 million *Team Kentucky* Food and Beverage Relief Fund. Check eligibility and apply [here](#).

Case Information

As of 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, Gov. Beshear reported the following COVID-19 numbers:

- New cases today: 3,179
- New deaths today: 28
- Positivity rate: 8.59%
- Total deaths: 2,344
- Currently hospitalized: 1,712
- Currently in ICU: 410
- Currently on ventilator: 227

Top counties with the most positive cases today are: Jefferson, Fayette, Pulaski, Kenton and Warren. Each of these counties reported 100 or more new cases; Jefferson County alone reported 434.

Those reported lost to the virus today include a 64-year-old woman from Boyd County; two men, ages 67 and 71, from Christian County; a 75-year-old man from Clark County; a 92-year-old woman and an 84-year-old man from Fayette County; a 93-year-old woman from Graves County; a 71-year-old woman from Greenup County; a 70-year-old man from Hardin County; two men, ages 54 and 86, from Hopkins County; a 95-year-old woman and five men, ages 58, 74, 77, 77 and 79, from Jefferson County; a 57-year-old woman from Johnson County; an 84-year-old woman from Kenton County; a 93-year-old woman from Larue County; a 75-year-old woman from Lee County; a 90-year-old man from Marshall County; a 66-year-old man from Mason County; an 83-year-old woman and a 59-year-old man from McCracken County; a 74-year-old man from Pike County; a 95-year-old woman from Taylor County; and a 62-year-old woman from Union County.

School Recommendations and Requirements

The Governor said Kentuckians can now view his new [executive order](#) related to public health precautions in schools. Gov. Beshear first announced these [updated requirements and recommendations](#) on Dec. 14.

More Information

To view the [full daily report](#), [incidence rate map](#), testing locations, long-term care and other congregate facilities update, school reports and [guidance](#), [red zone counties](#), [red zone recommendations](#), the White House Coronavirus Task Force reports for Kentucky and other key guidance visit, [kycovid19.ky.gov](#).

See all of the Kentucky Department for Public Health's winter holiday guidance here: English [full guidance](#), [one-pager](#) and [single slide](#) and Spanish [full guidance](#), [one-pager](#) and [single slide](#).

Kentuckians can also listen to recorded PSAs about the holiday guidance (created in partnership with [RadioLex](#))

here: [Bosnian](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Japanese](#), [Korean](#), [Persian](#) and [Spanish](#).

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