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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gov. Beshear Implements New Restrictions to Save Lives

Economy remains open with new, targeted measures to help stop rampant COVID-19 spread

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Nov. 18, 2020) – Following a record 33 deaths announced Tuesday, Gov. Andy Beshear is issuing new restrictions that will help stop the rampant spread of COVID-19 and save Kentuckians' lives while keeping the economy open.

With more than 250,000 American lives, including those of more than 1,700 Kentuckians, lost to the virus, Gov. Beshear is joining state executives from across the country in implementing new restrictions.

“Since March 6 – the day Kentucky had its first confirmed case – we have been under attack and at war with the coronavirus. It has upended our routines, damaged our economy, threatened our children’s education and taken far too many lives,” Gov. Beshear said. “Now, it is time for Kentucky’s third counterattack on the coronavirus. Let me be clear about a few things. This is not, and will not be, a shutdown. Our economy is open, and there will be no closings based on essential or nonessential services. But today we are announcing significant, but surgical and targeted steps designed to slow the spread of the virus and protect our people.”

While Kentuckians sacrificed a lot to keep Kentucky cases comparatively low early on, the state has experienced a 400% increase in positive cases over the past nine weeks, and the third spike shows that Kentuckians need to buckle down and comply with existing orders, like wearing a facial covering, while adopting new requirements.

The Governor said [requirements](#) for restaurants; bars; social gatherings; indoor fitness and recreation centers; venues and theaters; and professional services are effective at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13. See the full executive order [here](#).

Restaurants, Bars – No indoor food or beverage consumption; carryout and delivery encouraged; socially distance outdoor seating

To help offset the financial impact on restaurants and bars, the Governor also announced he is dedicating \$40 million in CARES Act funding to provide qualifying entities \$10,000 in relief for various expenses, with a maximum award of \$20,000 per business entity. Businesses with at least 50% of their sales via drive-through will not be eligible. To focus on locally owned businesses, publicly traded companies are not eligible to apply. Applications are scheduled to open Nov. 30 and close Dec. 18. Businesses will be required to remain in compliance with all public health orders. Applications will be processed in the order they are received, and funds will be awarded until they are exhausted. Additional details on where to apply will be forthcoming.

Earlier this month, the Governor also [waived alcoholic beverage renewal fees](#) for Kentucky restaurants, bars and temporary venues for 12 months to help during the pandemic.

Private social gatherings – Up to eight people from a maximum of two households

Gyms, fitness centers, pools, other indoor recreation facilities – 33% capacity limit; group classes, team practices and competitions prohibited; masks must be worn while exercising

Venues, event spaces and theaters – Each room will be limited to 25 people. This applies to indoor weddings and funerals, but excludes in-person worship services, for which the Governor will provide recommendations Thursday.

Professional services – Office-based businesses limited to 33% of employees; all employees who are able to work from home must do so; all businesses that can close to the public must do so

In addition, new [requirements](#) for schools will begin Monday, Nov. 23. See the executive order [here](#).

Schools – All public and private schools (K -12) to cease in-person instruction:

- Middle and high schools will remain in remote or virtual instruction until at least Jan. 4, 2021.
- Elementary schools may reopen for in-person instruction Dec. 7 if their county is not in the red zone and the school follows all [Healthy at School](#) guidance.

“As for our schools, I want to thank everyone who is working to continue to educate our children and to make sure they have access to healthy meals,” Gov. Beshear said. “Our children are resilient, but they are sacrificing so much and we need them to sacrifice even more right now so we can protect them from this surge in cases.”

Wednesday’s Case Information

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

- New cases today: 2,753
- New deaths today: 15
- Positivity rate: 9.13%
- Total deaths: 1,712
- Currently hospitalized: 1,553
- Currently in ICU: 359
- Currently on ventilator: 176

Top counties with the most positive cases today are: Jefferson, Fayette, Boone, Kenton, Warren and Christian.

The red zone counties for this week can be found [here](#).

Those reported lost to the virus today include a 15-year-old girl from Ballard County; a 60-year-old man from Barren County; a 75-year-old man from Caldwell County; a 90-year-old man from Calloway County; two women, ages 78 and 91, from Christian County; an 87-year-old man from Clay County; a 43-year-old man from Fayette

County; a 78-year-old man from Hancock County; two women, ages 32 and 73, from Jefferson County; a 78-year-old man from Marshall County; a 68-year-old woman from McCracken County; an 86-year-old woman from Nelson County; and a 79-year-old woman from Pike County.

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.

Thanksgiving Guidance

- English: [Full Guidance](#); [One-Pager](#); [Single Slide](#)
- Spanish: [Full Guidance](#); [One-Pager](#); [Single Slide](#)
- Recorded PSAs (in partnership with [radiolex.us]RadioLex): [Bosnian](#); [Chinese](#); [English](#); [French](#); [Japanese](#); [Korean](#); [Persian](#); [Russian](#); [Spanish](#)

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