



November 2021



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## Featured News

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### Happy Thanksgiving, Team Kentucky!

My family and I wish each of you a safe and happy Thanksgiving. As we celebrate, I will be giving thanks to you and the part you play daily in helping us build a better Kentucky for all our people.

As we enjoy this time with our loved ones, let's remember that COVID-19 is still a serious threat. But this holiday season we have an opportunity to celebrate safely thanks to the effective vaccines and booster. In fact, just this week we learned Kentucky is number one in the region and above the national average in percentage of full vaccinated individuals that have gotten their booster! Keep up the great work.

Make sure when you sit down at your Thanksgiving table with the people you love, from multiple generations, you have the highest level of COVID-19 immunity you can to protect them and yourself. And if you've got kids like mine who are 5 and older, please get them at least their first vaccination dose before Thanksgiving.

Enjoy the holiday and thank you for all you do for the commonwealth.

Gov. Andy Beshear

**All Executive Branch employees are highly encouraged to take the COVID-19 vaccine.** With prior supervisory approval, all Executive Branch employees will be granted up to two (2) hours of scheduled work time to take each of the COVID-19 vaccines. Additionally, Executive Branch employees will be granted up to 7.5/8 hours of leave for recuperation from any side effects that may occur.

- Access over 2,000 online training courses and webinars.
- Connect with team members virtually.
- Apply for career opportunities.



### Download the app!

- Quick access to benefits, careers, pay and other employment resources.
- Receive instant notifications during emergency situations.
- Stay in the know with the latest employee news.

[Click here for vaccination leave time details](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR  
PERSONNEL EVENT  
CALENDAR](#)

### **COVID-19 Testing for Executive Branch State Employees**

With prior supervisory approval, all Executive Branch employees are granted up to two (2) hours of scheduled work time to obtain testing for COVID-19 (timesheet code = EVNT). Testing is now widely available through the Commonwealth with some options listed at <https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-covid-testing>.

As a reminder, employees should not report to work or will be directed to leave work if they are having any of the following symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever
- Chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- New cough
- Nausea/vomiting
- Diarrhea

Furthermore, employees should not report to work or will be directed to leave work if they have been recently diagnosed with COVID-19, or if they are unvaccinated and have been notified that they have been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. The employee should remain or return home and contact their supervisor for further information or instructions.

Lastly, while voluntary, all Executive Branch employees are highly encouraged and are granted up to two (2) hours of scheduled work time to take each of the COVID-19 vaccines. Furthermore, depending on an employee's daily work schedule, if an employee is unable to work or telework due to side effects from the first or second COVID-19 vaccination, an employee may utilize up to 7.5 or 8.0 hours of leave for recuperation from the side effect or to seek treatment for the side effect. Please see [PM 21-02](#) for details or contact your agency HR office.

**BLOOD DONATIONS  
NEEDED!**

[Click here for November  
Blood Donation Information](#)



## **Face Covering Policy**

As part of the continuing COVID-19 "Healthy at Work" initiative, the Commonwealth of Kentucky remains committed to limiting the spread of COVID-19 and ensuring the health and safety of our state employees.

Accordingly, employees, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear a face covering when present in Executive Branch buildings/offices and in state vehicles, where another employee is present. This policy will be continually monitored, re-evaluated, and revised, if necessary.

[Click here to view Personnel Memo](#)



## 2022 Holidays for State Personnel

State offices shall be closed and state employees shall be given a holiday on the following days:

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday	Monday, January 17, 2022
Good Friday (1/2 day)	Friday, April 15, 2022
Memorial Day	Monday, May 30, 2022
Independence Day	Monday, July 4, 2022
Labor Day	Monday, September 5, 2022
Veterans Day	Friday, November 11, 2022
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 24, 2022 Friday, November 25, 2022
Christmas	Friday, December 23, 2022 Monday, December 26, 2022
New Year's Day	Friday, December 30, 2022 Monday, January 2, 2023



*(pictured Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer and Deputy Commissioner Lynice Noel)*

## **Kentucky Dept. Veterans Affairs Recognizes Louisville Leaders**

On October 29, Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs presented Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer and Louisville Metro Veterans Coordinator John Miles plaques of appreciation for their support of veterans in Louisville community.

This event was held at Metro City Hall in Louisville, KY at the Mayor's Week of Valor Press Conference.

[Click here to see full list of Week of Valor events](#)



## Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs Honors Veterans at Pow Wow

In September, The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA) was asked by the Richmond, KY Native American Pow Wow Committee to speak about the services they offer at their annual event. KDVA H.R. Executive, John Ostroske spoke on Saturday and Sunday at the event, sharing about the quality of life in KDVA's long term facilities, the dignity of services in KDVA's cemeteries, the expert assistance given to veterans seeking federal V.A. benefits, as well as statewide programs for women veterans, homeless veterans and veterans seeking employment. He also spoke of initiatives KDVA is involved in, such as the Governor's Challenge to reduce veteran suicide and partnering with the Skill-Bridge Program that assists military

service members find internships and possible jobs before they leave the military.

Ostroske shared how the staff of KDVA have a sense of mission, rather than just doing a job. Most are veterans themselves and understand veteran issues. He shared several examples of staff dedication and how lives have been impacted by the services provided.

Ostroske, who is a veteran and a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, honored the veterans present for their service, giving special recognition to the Color Guard. He noted that Native Americans have fought in every war of the United States, and have a culture of honoring and supporting veterans.



## Kosair Kids® Financial Assistance Program

The Financial Assistance Program provides direct financial assistance to families in Kentucky and Southern Indiana. The program is designed to help with medical, equipment, and therapy bills of children 17 years of age and under, or still attending high school, whose families cannot otherwise afford to pay. In addition, our staff provides support in purchasing needed medical equipment/devices. Each application receives a full review to determine how best Kosair Charities can aid the family.

### Fast Facts:

- All requests for invoices payable to Norton Children's Hospital should be submitted to Norton Healthcare.
- Beginning October 1, 2019 all requests for invoices payable to Kids Center for Pediatric Therapies should be submitted directly to Kids Center for Pediatric Therapies.
- Bills in collection and routine medical procedures are not eligible for consideration.
- There is no financial restriction for assistance; every application is looked at individually by a committee to determine need.
- Examples of provided assistance include (but not limited to):
  - auditory evaluations and hearing aids.
  - physical, occupational, and speech therapies.
  - medical equipment such as wheelchairs, power chairs, and custom bicycles & tricycles.

- o medical bills relating to non-routine medical and dental procedures.

For more information, please contact Kim Panter at [kpanter@kosair.org](mailto:kpanter@kosair.org) or [502-814-9872](tel:502-814-9872).



## The Mattingly Family's Story

When the Mattingly's daughter was born at 27 weeks they had no idea how they would get through the road ahead...the Ronald McDonald House, supported by CHC, a KECC Charity, was there for them in ways they could never imagine.

**Click here to WATCH "The Mattingly Family - YouTube**

Your support of KECC helps to make it happen! Visit <https://khris.ky.gov> to make a pledge of \$24 or more today!



## Winter Safety Tips: Recognize, Understand, Act

Did you know that the most dangerous part of our workday is when we are on the road? However, when it comes to severe

injuries, they can also happen in our parking lots as we exit cars and walk into our workplace during the winter season.

While we cannot avoid winter conditions entirely, all of us can act defensively this winter season to minimize risk and avoid injuries by practicing the following these tips:

[Click here for tips](#)



## Celebrating 35 Years of Training & Development: Governor's LEAD Conference

The Kentucky Personnel Cabinet hosted the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Governor's Conference on Leadership, Equality, Accessibility and Diversity (LEAD), Nov. 18-19.

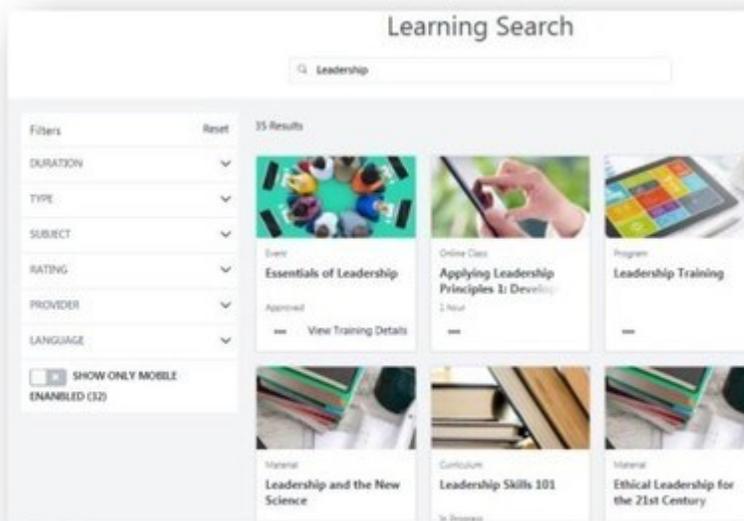
This year's two-day virtual event attracted 1,049 registrants from both public and private sectors representing several states across the U.S.

The event featured an impressive line-up of presenters, addressing topics such as inclusive leadership, strategies for self-care and understanding today's multi-generational workplace. [Click here for agenda](#)

This year's event theme was *Diversity and Inclusion: Powering a Better Kentucky*.

The 2021 virtual event was emceed by KET Director of Public Affairs and Moderator Renee Shaw, featured an opening address from Gov. Andy Beshear and a keynote presentation from nationally acclaimed diversity, inclusion and bias expert, Risha Grant.

The annual LEAD Conference also recognized the accomplishments of Kentuckians, state agencies and employees who have made significant accomplishments in the areas of diversity and inclusion with the George W. Wilson Sr. Equity Achievement, Charles W. Anderson Laureate and the inaugural IMPACT awards. This year's Anderson Award recipient was Edgardo Mansilla, Executive Director of the Americana Community Center in Louisville, KY.



## Governmental Services Center to Launch "Playlists"

Playlists will be collections of learning content curated by the Personnel Cabinet located on the Learner homepage in the *Featured* carousel. Employees can follow Playlists and suggested training to assist in their career development. Managers will be able to share playlists with their employees.

[About the Personnel Cabinet](#)

The Personnel Cabinet provides leadership and guidance to: attract, develop, motivate and retain a talented, diverse workforce; foster an understanding of and adherence to regulatory requirements; and create a positive, supportive work environment that values all employees.

The Personnel Cabinet is located at 501 High Street, Frankfort, KY 40601  
Normal business hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### **EEO Statement**

The Commonwealth of Kentucky does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy or related medical condition, marital or familial status, ancestry, political affiliation, genetic information, or veteran status in accordance with state and federal laws.

#### **CONTACT US**