



The KentuckyCare team prepares for a new day of providing services out of its mobile medical unit, situated at one of the state park emergency accommodation locations.

FAST FACTS

- On December 10–11, a series of tornadoes struck the midwestern United States.
- 52 tornadoes were reported in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio.
- In Kentucky alone, nearly 90 deaths were reported and nearly 1,000 persons were displaced.
- COVID-19 positivity in the state has dropped to 28.5% yet remains at second-highest level of weekly cases.

From late in the evening on December 10 through the morning of December 11, a series of severe tornadoes tore through the midwestern United States. The storm ravaged a path more than 250 miles long, devastating counties throughout the region.

At the end of January, six weeks after the tornadoes hit, Governor Andy Beshear stated it may take up to two years for the city of Mayfield to be cleaned and rebuilt.¹ The removal of debris is expected to take a few more months, with approximately 40% of the debris from the storm in Mayfield. More than 350 Kentucky residents and nearly 60 first responders remain housed in Kentucky state park emergency accommodations. The governor shared details on the state's latest relief efforts, which include \$1.4 million to be distributed to more than 1,400 families and individuals affected by the tornadoes. In an effort to provide semi-permanent accommodations, the state purchased 200 travel trailers to allow displaced persons to locate back home during the recovery process.

In the wake of the tornadoes, a surge of COVID-19 became a significant concern for those in congregate settings and for already overwhelmed health facilities. On January 31, for the first time in more than a month, Kentucky health officials reported a drop in COVID-19 positivity rates—down to 28.5% from 33.1% one week prior.² Kentucky vaccination trends continue to move in the right direction, with nearly 6,000 residents receiving a first dose and 5,500 receiving a second dose of the vaccine, and nearly 13,000 receiving a booster over the past weekend.

International Medical Corps Response

Following the tornadoes, International Medical Corps immediately mobilized an emergency response team to assess damage and determine needs in the hardest-hit communities—including Mayfield, Kentucky, where the collapse of a large candle factory and the resulting deaths marked the most devastating tornado event in the state's history. International Medical Corps has partnered with KentuckyCare, a federally qualified health center (FQHC) in the ARcare health network

¹ <https://www.wkyufm.org/post/beshear-tornado-clean-rebuild-mayfield-could-take-two-years>

² <https://www.kentucky.com/news/coronavirus/article257899158.html>

that delivers comprehensive primary care, urgent care, vaccination and mental health services with multiple locations in Graves County, including one location in Mayfield and several in the surrounding communities.

In January, International Medical Corps provided staffing support to the FQHC in the wake of the tornado response. This support enabled providers to operate the mobile medical units and manage the patient surge during the aftermath of the tornadoes.

International Medical Corps has begun procuring clinical and laboratory equipment and supplies—including molecular diagnostic equipment, rapid tests and personal protective equipment—for KentuckyCare clinics, which will help the FQHC in its ongoing management of COVID-19 and influenza. We are procuring additional laboratory supplies to support day-to-day patient visits, covering such areas as family planning and non-communicable disease detection and management.

KentuckyCare is temporarily utilizing an ARcare mobile medical unit (MMU) that has been positioned next to its new Murray clinic, which is being developed to provide longer-term care for patients affected by the tornado and the recent surge of COVID-19. International Medical Corps is working with KentuckyCare to support the development of this new clinic by procuring clinical equipment and supplies—including exam tables, lighting systems, electronic medical equipment, monitoring and laboratory equipment—to expedite the opening of the new location.



Clinical staff stand in front of one of ARcare's mobile medical units.