



The ARcare mobile medical unit, supported by International Medical Corps, continues to serve those displaced by the tornadoes.

FAST FACTS

- On December 10–11, a series of tornadoes swept through 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 19.6%, yet ICU-bed occupancy remains high, at 86% statewide.

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 Kentucky region. More than 10 weeks after tornadoes decimated Mayfield, KY, clean up continues to take place.

Focusing on debris removal, the recovery efforts in Graves County continue. Currently, the removal of hazardous trees and stumps left behind from the tornadoes is being assessed, with FEMA stating that the first pass of debris removal in Graves County and in the city of Mayfield has been completed. The US Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, cleared more than 280,000 cubic yards of debris in the first phase alone. At the request of FEMA for additional support, the Corps plans to remove leaning trees, hanging tree limbs and stumps from rights of way in Graves County that pose a threat to power and transportation, ensuring the expedited recovery of Mayfield and the greater county of Graves.

The most recently approved funding for tornado relief includes \$9 million in FEMA housing assistance, \$3.5 million in assistance under FEMA's Other Needs Assistance program, \$36.6 million in home and business loans, and the provision of travel trailers and other forms of temporary housing in Caldwell, Graves, Hopkins, Marshall, Muhlenberg and Warren counties. FEMA has approved rental assistance at 25% above fair market value for those affected by the storms in these counties.

In the wake of the tornadoes, COVID-19 continues to be a significant concern for those in congregate settings and for already overwhelmed health facilities. From March 2020, when COVID cases were first reported in Graves County, rates steadily climbed and, as of February 22, the total positive case count was 3,932, with 70 deaths. Positivity rates continue to fall and are currently at 19.6%; however, vaccination levels remain fairly low. As reported at the Governor's press conference on February 14, only 50% of residents of Graves County had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and only 44% are fully vaccinated. Though positivity rates and hospitalization rates continue to decrease, ongoing preventative measures and vigilance remains high in vulnerable areas to decrease outbreaks.

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) that is part of the ARcare health network and 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.

After providing staffing support to KentuckyCare in January, International Medical Corps has moved into the next phase of its response. With many KentuckyCare patients displaced and in need of care, the FQHC is looking to expedite the opening of its new clinic, situated adjacent to the tornado-affected area. To support this expedited opening, International Medical Corps has initiated procurement of clinic furniture, including examination tables, chairs, Mayo stands, stools and biohazard bins, as well as information and communication technology equipment, including laptops, computers, docking stations and scanners. The next phase of procurement will include patient monitors, a defibrillator and laboratory supplies, such as diagnostic equipment and test kits.



Layers of debris in Mayfield, Kentucky, require multiple phases of removal to ensure safe access to roads and power lines.

International Medical Corps will continue adapting its response alongside KentuckyCare as needed. With people displaced by the tornadoes being moved out of temporary emergency housing and into semi-permanent accommodations, the demand for care may change at KentuckyCare's various clinic locations. International Medical Corps will continue to monitor any changes in need at the clinics.