

Applications taken for GoTeachKY ambassadors

FRANKFORT – The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is looking for new GoTeachKY ambassadors for the 2025-2026 school year.

The mission of GoTeachKY, an initiative of KDE, is to ensure that all students across the Commonwealth have equitable access to effective educators. GoTeachKY seeks to recruit the next generation of teachers in Kentucky, helping remedy the critical teacher shortage that affects every state in the U.S.

GoTeachKY ambassadors will act as the face of the GoTeachKY initiative, connecting with prospective educators and community members primarily through digital platforms like social media and Microsoft Teams. They also will foster positive in-person connections with colleagues and students at secondary and post-secondary schools. As representatives of the teaching profession, ambassadors will provide valuable information to those considering teaching careers and contribute to the elevation of the teaching profession.

To be eligible for the GoTeachKY Ambassador program, participants must:

- Hold a valid Kentucky teaching certificate in good standing with Education Professional Standards Board;
- Hold a teaching position in a Kentucky public school (and anticipate being employed in this role during the next school year);

Have at least four years of experience as a teacher, principal or other certified school staff member, up to and including the current school year;

Have daily meaningful interaction with students and educators in his/her school role;

Be proficient in using social media platforms;

Have strong written and oral communication skills;

Be able to attend the state Educators Rising Competition all day March 5, 2026, in Louisville. Substitute reimbursement will be available for your district for the day; and

Be willing to work on a small group project with a regional group related to school climate that you will speak about to the group during meetings.

GoTeachKY ambassadors also must be able to attend a minimum of 80% of monthly meetings (The first meeting is in person and required. Reimbursement for your substitute will be available.) The meeting dates are:

- Oct. 15, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. ET (in Frankfort, required)
- Nov. 12, 4:30-5:30 p.m. ET (online)
- Dec. 10, 4:30-5:30 p.m. ET (online)
- Jan. 21, 2026, 4:30-5:30 p.m. ET (online)
- Feb. 18, 2026, 4:30-5:30 p.m. ET (online)
- March 18, 2026, 4:30-5:30 p.m. ET (online)
- April 15, 2026, 4:30-5:30 p.m. ET (online)

May 20, 2026, 4:30-5:30 p.m. ET (online)

Jun 17, 2026, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. ET (in Frankfort)

Ambassadors will receive a \$75 monthly stipend with opportunities to earn additional compensation.

Are you ready to apply? Visit the GoTeachKY Ambassador Program Application to get started today! Applications close on Sept. 30. Please forward to your network of outstanding educators as well.

Please note: This application does have a section to upload a video file answering the question, “Record a short video (less than 3 minutes) answering the following question. Who inspired you to become a teacher and how did they inspire you?” You may want to record this video and upload it to a cloud platform such as Google Drive prior to starting this application. The name and photo associated with your Google account will be recorded when you upload files and submit this form.

For more information, please email Justin Edwards and Jarvis Terrell at the Kentucky Department of Education.

Make sure to visit GoTeachKY and follow GoTeachKY on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn for more resources to help accomplish the GoTeachKY mission: to ensure that all students across the Commonwealth have access to effective educators.

Kentucky advising check height of bridges

FRANKFORT – Team Kentucky is joining state transportation agencies across the eastern U.S. this week to spread the word about how drivers can safely pass low clearance bridges to avoid preventable structure and vehicle damage and ensure safety on the Commonwealth’s roadways.

“Whether driving is your career, you’re moving here, or enjoying a Kentucky vacation, knowing your vehicle’s height can help protect you,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “Along with buckling up, following speed limits, and eliminating distractions behind the wheel, it’s an important step in staying safe on the road.”

The “Check Your Height, Know It’s Right” public awareness campaign, which runs Tuesday, July 22, through Saturday, encourages operators of commercial trucks, rental vans, RVs, and even cars and pickups to check that their vehicle is not too tall to fit safely under bridges that extend over state and local roads.

These overhead collisions, commonly known as bridge hits, not only damage vehicles and infrastructure but also cause delays and put the public and emergency responders at risk.

“To reduce that risk, all drivers should know the height of their vehicle and be observant for and comply with posted low-clearance signs,” said Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary Jim Gray. “We should all watch for and adhere first to signage indicating bridge heights and not rely solely on navigation devices or apps.”

The Transportation Cabinet is adopting the “Check Your Height, Know It’s Right” campaign with the support of The Eastern Transportation Coalition, a partnership of 19 states and D.C. focused on

connecting public agencies across modes of travel to increase safety and efficiency. This campaign builds on an innovative New York State Department of Transportation initiative that has served as the vanguard for this multi-state collaborative effort.

The campaign targets all classes of drivers, both CDL and passenger vehicle drivers, operating commercial trucks or leased trucks (delivery and moving box-type trucks), recreational vehicles, and vehicles hauling equipment or livestock trailers. Crash data shows that drivers may not always consider vehicle or load height and related restrictions during operation. For example, a typical 26-foot moving/delivery truck may have a height ranging from 11 feet to 13 1/2 feet.

Kentucky has about 180 bridges posted with vertical clearance lower than the 14-foot federal standard.

The coalition also found that drivers often rely on mobile GPS mapping tools to choose their routes and to provide directions, but those GPS tools are not designed to be used with non-passenger vehicles (i.e. overheight commercial vehicles, leased/rental/delivery box trucks) and do not flag potential low bridge clearance issues.

That’s why the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet encourages all drivers to follow these tips:

Measure vehicle, check door decal or owner’s manual for max height before traveling

If hauling equipment or livestock, check trailer and load height

Don’t rely on GPS; heed height warning signs before bridges and overpasses

Ensure dump truck beds are lowered, or tall equipment is stowed properly before entering highway

First medical marijuana dispensary to open in fall

BY MELISSA PATRICK
KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

Kentucky’s first medical marijuana dispensary is expected to open in the fall, according to Gov. Andy Beshear.

“Great news, Kentucky — today, we approved the state’s first medical cannabis dispensary for operations in Beaver Dam,” Beshear said in a July 31 social media post. “The Post Dispensary is expected to open its doors this fall.”

“This is another step forward as we work to ensure Kentuckians with serious medical conditions have access to the medicine they need and deserve,” he wrote.

The announcement comes about two weeks after Beshear announced that Armory Kentucky LLC, a cultivator based in Mayfield, had introduced the “first medical cannabis inventory in Kentucky history,” following approval of its facility inspection.

“This administration made a commitment to Kentuckians suffering from

cancer, PTSD, multiple sclerosis and other eligible conditions, and I am proud we are making progress to deliver safe, affordable access to medical cannabis,” Beshear said in a July 15 news release. “Through work with the General Assembly to move up business licensing by six full months and providing licensees with the tools they need to get up and running, we are closer than ever to providing Kentuckians with life-changing relief.”

The release added that “additional licensees, including processors and testing labs, are expected to begin operations in the coming weeks.”

The announcement also follows a letter from Beshear dated July 22 to President Donald Trump urging him to reject congressional spending language that would prevent the U.S. Department of Justice from rescheduling marijuana from a Schedule I drug, defined as one with a high potential for abuse and no recognized medical purpose, to a Schedule III drug, which would define

marijuana as having a moderate to low potential for physical and psychological dependence.

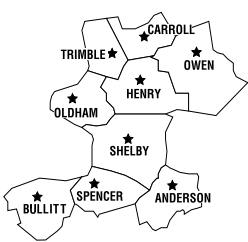
“Patients suffering should have access to safe cannabis for treatment, and rescheduling would help provide more Americans – and Kentuckians – relief,” Beshear said in a news release. “This step would also help make our communities safer and fuel more meaningful research around cannabis that could help more people.”

Beshear’s letter was in response to fiscal year 2026 appropriations language passed out of the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies that would prohibit the U.S. Department of Justice from using funds to reschedule cannabis from its current Schedule I listing.

“This is not common-sense law,” Beshear wrote in the letter to the president. “It stops a process that is already underway to accomplish a policy end that is overwhelmingly supported by the

medical and scientific communities, as well as the American people, of every political party. Congress should not take the decision-making process out of the hands of medical and scientific experts when they don’t like the results.”

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Another measles case detected in state

BY SARAH LADD
KENTUCKY LANTERN

Louisville has confirmed a second case of the highly contagious measles, bringing the total cases in Kentucky to 14.

Dr. Kris Bryant, the associate medical director at the Louisville health department and a pediatric infectious disease specialist at Norton Children’s Hospital, said the latest patient is “a known contact” with the city’s first case of 2025, which was reported in mid-July.

“This individual has been in quarantine since becoming aware of their exposure, and so there are no new public exposures as a result of this case,” Bryant said during a Tuesday press conference.

The city’s latest case, which health officials confirmed Monday, is unrelated to an outbreak in central Kentucky, she said. An outbreak is defined as three or more related cases.

Of the 14 cases across Kentucky, 13 were in unvaccinated individuals and one was in a person who only received part of the recommended vaccine series, Bryant said.

The Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention recommends a two-dose measles vaccination series for children. The two-dose MMR vaccine is recommended for children at 12 to 15 months old, followed by a second dose between 4 and 6 years of age. One infected person can infect nine in 10 unprotected people around them, the CDC says, making measles extremely contagious. Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes and a rash.

Measles can lead to serious complications, including pneumonia, brain swelling and death. Three people have died from measles in the United States in 2025, according to the CDC.

Measles has made a comeback in Kentucky and beyond as routine vaccinations have declined. A school immunization survey for the 2024-2025 school year shows that about 87% of Kentucky kindergarteners are fully vaccinated against measles, which is lower than the national average of 93%.

“We encourage everyone to protect themselves with vaccination,” Bryant said. “If you are a parent with a child heading back to school, please make an appointment with your child’s pediatrician or primary care provider.”

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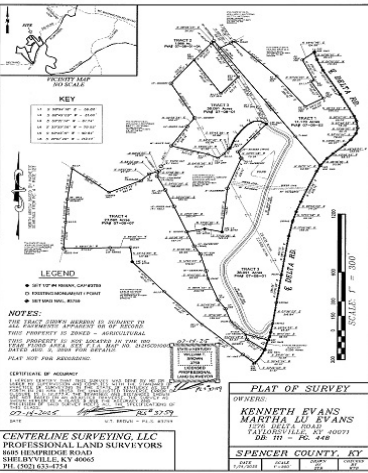
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