



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for February 25, 2020

**Just out from CDC...**

### **Coronavirus Spread in the U.S.: *When, Not If*** ***CDC says preparations for domestic transmission should begin***

(MedPage Today) The U.S. should prepare for community transmission of the COVID-19 coronavirus, CDC officials said on Tuesday. "We expect to see community spread [of COVID-19] in this country. It's not a question of 'if' anymore," said Nancy Messonnier, MD, director of the CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, on a media call.



Currently, the U.S. has 14 COVID-19 cases that are travel-associated or in close contacts of travelers, and 43 cases from citizens brought home from the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship and Wuhan, China. But she cited the "rapidly evolving and expanding" situation, including the explosion of sustained person-to-person community spread in a variety of countries, including South Korea, Italy, Iran, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, and Singapore.

In the vein of "when, not if" the U.S. will experience community spread, Messonnier advised people to ask whether their providers have telemedicine capability, and said parents should consider "what to do about childcare" if schools are closed.

She outlined community mitigation guidelines, based on those outlined for pandemic influenza a decade ago. These non-pharmaceutical interventions include personal practices, including covering coughs and washing hands, as well as community and environmental measures such as surface cleaning.

Community measures are the most dire, and include social distancing, or limiting contact in face-to-face settings, employing such options as closing schools, telework or teleschool for children, and recommending that cities potentially "modify, postpone, or cancel mass gatherings."

This included a special advisory for the healthcare system: triaging patients, conducting patient visits via telemedicine, and delaying elective surgeries.

Obviously, this would be based on the outbreak's severity and breadth, but CDC called on a variety of industries, including the healthcare, education, and business sectors, to start preparing now because when the virus hits the community, it hits quite rapidly.

Full MedPage Today story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/publichealth/85075>

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### **White House Wants \$2.5 Billion for COVID-19** ***Pelosi says that's not enough***

(NBC) The White House is asking Congress for \$2.5 billion to respond to the coronavirus illness known as COVID-19 that has killed more than 2,600 people in mainland China, but House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called the request inadequate.

The administration's supplemental funding plan was designed "to accelerate vaccine development, support preparedness and response activities and to procure much-needed equipment and supplies," said Office of Management and Budget spokeswoman Rachel Semmel.

Pelosi, D-Calif., said in a statement that the administration's request "is long overdue and completely inadequate to the scale of this emergency." She also accused the Trump administration of leaving vacant critical positions at the National Security Council and Department of Homeland Security.

The White House request came as key government accounts were running low. The Department of Health and Human Services had already tapped into an emergency infectious disease rapid response fund and was seeking to transfer more than \$130 million from other HHS accounts to combat the virus but is pressing for more. The administration is requesting \$1.25 billion in new funding and wants to transfer \$535 million more in funding from an Ebola preparedness account, which has been a top priority of Democrats. The White House anticipates shifting money from other HHS accounts and other agencies to complete the \$2.5 billion response plan.

The White House request of \$2.5 billion includes more than \$1 billion for the development of a vaccine, as well as money for therapeutics and the stockpiling of personal protective equipment like masks.

Full NBC story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/white-house-seeks-2-5b-coronavirus-pelosi-says-s-not-n1142276>

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**Coronavirus live updates from CBS**

- Italy reports 10 virus deaths as cases spike 45% in last day. Civil protection officials reported 322 confirmed cases of the virus, 100 more than a day earlier.
- South Korea was racing to contain the largest outbreak of the virus outside China, as the COVID-19 disease claimed more lives there. The nearly 1,000 cases and 10 confirmed deaths from the illness in South Korea pushed the global tally of patients over 80,000 and the death toll closer to 3,000.
  - CDC upgrades travel notice for South Korea to "Avoid nonessential travel"
- Iran has also reported more deaths from the disease, amid fears the Islamic clerics who run the country could be under-reporting cases there.
  - Iranian parliamentarian tests positive for coronavirus
  - Iran's deputy health minister has coronavirus
- Iraq confirms five new coronavirus cases
- Coronavirus spread in U.S. is inevitable, CDC says
  - Trump says U.S. "very close to a vaccine" for coronavirus
  - Chinese researchers claim to have developed coronavirus vaccine
- U.S. stocks slide again after coronavirus selloff

Read full CBS Update: <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/coronavirus-outbreak-death-toll-infections-latest-news-updates-2020-02-25/>

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**How coronavirus in China could cause drug shortages in America**

(CBS) The raging coronavirus outbreak that has shut down employers and paralyzed business in China could soon constrain the production of core ingredients for critical drugs and medical products sold thousands of miles away in the U.S. Restrictions on travel to and from China have forced the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to postpone inspections of Chinese factories. This delay could interfere with China's ability to continue supplying the U.S. with the active pharmaceutical ingredients for antibiotics and other medications used to treat serious illnesses, including tuberculosis, experts said.

At particular risk of running short is the U.S. supply of antibiotics such as amoxicillin, doxycycline, penicillin and other key drugs, with experts noting that 90% of their core components are sourced in China. Demand for the anesthetics epinephrine and propofol, as well as pain reliever fentanyl, is also increasing at hospitals in China that are treating patients with coronavirus. Their supply is limited, and China could start stockpiling medical ingredients to treat its own citizens, some experts warn.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coronavirus-could-cause-drug-shortages-in-u-s-fda-warns/>

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**Judge halts plan to move virus patients to Costa Mesa**

(AP) — A court temporarily blocked the U.S. government from sending up to 50 people infected with a new virus from China to a Southern California city for quarantine after local officials argued that the plan lacked details about how the community would be protected from the outbreak.

A federal judge issued a temporary restraining order late Friday to halt the transportation of anyone who has tested positive for the new [coronavirus](#) to Costa Mesa, a city of 110,000 in the heart of Orange County. U.S. District Judge Josephine L. Stanton scheduled a hearing on the issue Monday.

City officials quickly sought court intervention after learning from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services that U.S. officials planned to start moving patients to a state-owned facility in Costa Mesa as early as Sunday. Full story: <https://fox40.com/news/coronavirus/judge-halts-plan-to-move-virus-patients-to-costa-mesa/>

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**Feds backtrack on transfer of quarantined coronavirus patients  
FEMA facility in Anniston, AL**

(ABC) Plans to move American coronavirus patients to an Alabama facility were canceled Sunday after local officials and residents expressed concerns. Hours after Anniston County's City Council voted Sunday to pursue legal action against the federal government over its proposal to transfer patients from the Diamond Princess cruise ship to the town's FEMA facility for quarantine, U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby and Gov. Kay Ivey announced on Twitter that plans had changed.

Learn more: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/feds-backtrack-transfer-quarantined-coronavirus-patients-alabama/story?id=69162771>

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**US ranks lower than 38 other countries  
when it comes to children's wellbeing, report says**

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/18/health/children-health-rankings-unicf-who-lancet-report/index.html>

**Did you know?**

**In Kentucky Schools, Hundreds of Students Are Legally Struck By Staff**

(WFPL) In 19 Kentucky school districts, when a student misbehaves, teachers or principals can still use a paddle to spank students on the behind. Last year, educators used paddling to discipline students at least 284 times — mostly in Eastern and South-Central Kentucky. The state keeps track of how often schools use it, and on who.

Kentucky is one of 19 states where corporal punishment is legal in public schools. That means it's legal for educators in public schools to inflict pain as a form of discipline, usually through spanking. But state lawmakers are considering legislation that would ban the practice.

WFPL podcast & report: <https://wfpl.org/in-kentucky-schools-hundreds-of-students-are-struck-by-staff-each-year-and-its-legal/>

**Childproof packaging removed in most accidental child poisonings**

Learn more: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Childproof-packaging-removed-in-most-accidental-poisonings-in-children-study-says-568145961.html>

**Critical shortage of forensic nurses frustrates rape victims**

(ABC) A nationwide shortage of sexual assault nurse examiners means that rape victims are often forced to drive from hospital to hospital to find someone trained to examine them. The United States is currently experiencing a nationwide shortage of sexual assault nurse examiners, known as SANEs. A 2016 study of six selected states by the U.S. Government Accountability Office showed that the number of forensic nurses did not meet the need for exams, particularly in rural areas.

Learn more: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/national-shortage-forensic-nurses-frustrates-rape-victims-69075114>

**KHA Sexual Assault Response website:** <http://www.kyha.com/sexual-assault-response>

**Building dedicated to first aid in the Gorge opening soon**

(WLEX) Thousands of hikers and campers from across the country visit Red River Gorge every year. There's a dedicated army of Search and Rescue team members from several counties who make sure they get home safely if they get into trouble. Now, the Powell County squad has a building to call their own.

Read more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/building-dedicated-to-first-aid-in-the-gorge-opening-soon>

**Crossroads Church partners with non-profit to pay off more than \$45 million of people's medical debt**

(WKYT) Crossroads Church locations in Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, and Indiana kept in mind the message: "The Bible is very clear about saying that we should care for one another" while raising money to take care of other people's burden of medical debt.

More like a saving grace for about 45,000 households who are now free of the more than \$45 million total in debt. Almost \$2 million of that total was paid off for people in Central Kentucky.

Read more: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Crossroads-Church-partners-with-non-profit-to-pay-off-more-than-45-million-of-peoples-medical-debt-568158591.html>

**Grants available to help counties clean up from floods**

(AP & WLEX) A total of \$500,000 in grant money is being made available to Kentucky counties to help with cleaning up flood debris, officials said. The funds will go toward environmentally responsible disposal of solid waste. 12 counties that have received a state of emergency declaration from the governor can apply for up to \$50,000 each to cover the cost of collecting, transporting and disposing of municipal solid waste from flooding. The counties eligible to apply for funds include Bell, Clay, Harlan, Hickman, Knox, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, McCreary, Metcalfe, Perry and Whitley. Full story: <https://www.lex18.com/media/v/content/ac742f85bfe2010271deff57d5a7df03>

**Turning 80 lowers odds heart attack patients will get some life-saving care**

(Reuters Health) Age, they say, is just a number. But when someone turns 80, their chance of getting life-saving bypass surgery to treat a heart attack immediately drops by 24%, according to a new study.

**Alexa, Siri, and Google Home record you more often than you think**

Learn more: <https://www.vox.com/recode/2020/2/21/21032140/alexa-amazon-google-home-siri-apple-microsoft-cortana-recording>

The KHEREF Emergency Preparedness Update is assembled several times a week. When events make it necessary, the Update may be sent out several times a day to keep our hospital and the healthcare community advised on preparedness news and information. Most of this information is compiled from open sources, and where possible reference links will be provided. There is an archive of [Emergency Preparedness Updates available here](#). If you would like to add or delete, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact [rbartlett@kyha.com](mailto:rbartlett@kyha.com) (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.