



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 2, 2020

## **Severe Weather Awareness Week**

Learn more: <https://www.lex18.com/severe-weather-awareness-week>



### **Coronavirus: 6 Deaths Now Reported In U.S.; Cases Reported In Florida And New York**

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/03/02/811161998/coronavirus-2nd-person-dies-in-u-s-new-cases-reported-in-florida-and-new-york>

### **There are now 102 cases of coronavirus in the US**

<https://cnn.it/3aifVSI>

### **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Hospital Preparedness Assessment Tool**

(CDC) All U.S. hospitals should be prepared for the possible arrival of patients with Coronavirus Disease. 2019 (COVID-19). All hospitals should ensure their staff are trained, equipped and capable of practices needed to:

- Prevent the spread of respiratory diseases including COVID-19 within the facility
- Promptly identify and isolate patients with possible COVID-19 and inform the correct facility staff and public health authorities
- Care for a limited number of patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 as part of routine operations
- Potentially care for a larger number of patients in the context of an escalating outbreak
- Monitor and manage any healthcare personnel that might be exposed to COVID-19
- Communicate effectively within the facility and plan for appropriate external communication related to COVID-19

The following checklist does not describe mandatory requirements or standards; rather, it highlights important areas for hospitals to review in preparation for potential arrivals of COVID-19 patients.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/hospital-preparedness-checklist.pdf>

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\), Division of Viral Diseases](#)

## KY EMS preps for corona

<https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/First-responders-in-Madison-County-taking-precautions-for-coronavirus-568413601.html>

### Health care braces for shortages of supplies due to coronavirus

(CNN) The US Food and Drug Administration has contacted dozens of medical device manufacturers whose facilities in China may be at risk of creating shortages in the supply chain -- and indeed, some facilities have already been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak.

The agency reached out to 63 companies with a total of 72 facilities in China that make essential medical devices, according to a [statement](#) late Thursday by FDA Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn. Hahn said that "several of these facilities in China are adversely affected" by the epidemic. Their workforces have taken a hit from the outbreak, including employees being quarantined.

While the agency reported its first drug shortage due to the outbreak, Hahn says there are no widespread device shortages to report at this time. However, the FDA "has heard of spot shortages of some medical devices," an agency spokeswoman told CNN in a statement last Wednesday.

Of particular concern is personal protective equipment such as masks, respirators, gloves and surgical gowns. "The FDA has heard reports of increased market demand and supply challenges for some of these products," Hahn said. Orders are up, he added, as US hospitals "are preparing for potential future need if the outbreak were to become more severe."

Earlier this week, US Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said some of the requested \$2.5 billion in supplemental funds would be used to funnel personal protective equipment into the national stockpile.

Correcting an earlier figure, he told a House Appropriations subcommittee Wednesday that there are 12 million N95 respirators in the Strategic National Stockpile that meet national standards, an additional five million that "may have expired" and that the US would need roughly 300 million additional masks for health care workers.

But Azar cautioned that manufacturing these supplies domestically and getting them into the stockpile won't happen overnight. "It will take time because China ... does control a lot of the raw materials as well as the manufacturing capacity," he said.

Full CNN story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/29/health/fda-medical-device-mask-hospital-shortage/index.html>

### Potential dangers of mistakes by pharmacists

(WKYT Investigation) Medication errors can range from inconvenient to deadly. Once doctors write a prescription, there's a high expectation on the pharmacists to get it right, every time. There is no room for error. Pharmacists say they're doing more in a day than they've ever had to do before, and the extra work could lead to extra errors. State pharmacy associations across the nation are addressing their concerns.

As for the errors, WKYT pulled the paperwork from the Kentucky Board of Pharmacy. In the last two years, the board has received more than 30 complaints of medication errors. The complaints range from concerning to See and rhilling.

Read more: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/WKYT-Investigates--Pharmacy-Problems-568398031.html>

The KHREF 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 KHREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.