



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 3, 2020 - Update #1

25 people are dead after a tornado ripped through metro Nashville

(CNN) Severe storms and at least one [tornado](#) slammed through central Tennessee, killing 25 people and wrecking hundreds of buildings hours before dawn on Tuesday. Initial surveys indicated [EF-3 tornado damage](#) in East Nashville, Nashville's Donelson neighborhood and in Mt. Juliet, a town about 20 miles east of Nashville, the National Weather Service said.

Hours after the powerful storm hit the area, local officials were still searching through piles of rubble for survivors. Nighttime tornadoes are not unusual in the Southeast, where [tornado season extends into the winter months](#), when daylight is shorter.

Full CNN story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/03/weather/nashville-tornado-tuesday/index.html>

Related: Rescue officials release list of 77 missing in Putnam County tornado search

Learn more: <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/2020/03/03/rescue-officials-release-list-77-missing-people-putnam-county-tennessee-tornado-search/4946573002/>

Tornado & Straight Line Winds in Warren & Allen counties March 2-3

See NWS site for more:

<https://www.weather.gov/lmk/WarrenAllenCountyTornadoandStraightLineWindsMarch2nd2020>

Tornado Safety & Shelter tips from National Weather Service

<https://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/safety.html>

Remember: KY Tornado Drill Wednesday at 10:07 AM ET/9:07 CT

COVID-19 Latest KY Now Testing for COVID-19

Clinical Features	&	Epidemiologic Risk
Fever ¹ or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)	AND	Any person, including healthcare workers ² , who has had close contact ³ with a laboratory-confirmed ⁴ COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever ¹ and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization	AND	A history of travel from affected geographic areas ⁵ (see below) within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever ¹ with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza) ⁶	AND	No source of exposure has been identified

(R. Bartlett) At a meeting this afternoon of Kentucky's Emergency Support Function (ESF) - 8 partners in the KY Emergency Management's Operation Center, Doug Thoroughman, Acting State Epidemiologist, confirmed that the Kentucky State Lab is officially able to start testing for the COVID-19 virus. He added that they have tested several samples to date, with at least two negative and some pending as of 3:00 PM. There are NO COVID-19 cases in Kentucky at this time. They have monitored about 122 travelers, with some being asked to self-quarantine and some in medium to low risk groups doing regular reports on their vital signs.

The CDC guidelines for Evaluating and Reporting Persons Under

Investigation (PUI) were [updated February 27th](#). There is similarity between this coronavirus, and what is known about [Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome \(SARS\)](#) and [Middle East Respiratory Syndrome \(MERS\)](#). The criteria falls into three groupings:

The CDC guidance for Health Departments on Reporting a PUI or Presumptive and Lab Confirmed cases was also [updated on March 1st](#). It was noted in this update that Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is a disease caused by the newly emerged coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (a new term for many readers).

While there are no cases at this time in Kentucky, state officials emphasized that it is time to begin [preparing for potential community transmission](#). Prevention begins with most of the same precautions that have been preached for years related to [flu prevention](#). There have been 21,000 flu cases in Kentucky, resulting in 80 deaths including 4 pediatric patients (about a 0.1% death rate), so following these same recommendations will have additional benefits.

The Kentucky Board of EMS has posted on their website some information for EMS providers:

https://kbems.kctcs.edu/news_and_events/2020-coronavirus.aspx

CBS: Coronavirus latest updates

(CBS - 9:15PM ET March 3) Coronavirus death toll rises to 9 in Washington state.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/coronavirus-outbreak-death-toll-us-infections-latest-news-updates-2020-03-03/>

Related: 2 dozen first responders quarantined in Washington state

Each firefighter is believed to have possibly come in contact with the coronavirus cases at Life Care Center, a nursing facility in Kirkland.

Read more: <https://www.wftv.com/news/trending/coronavirus-2-dozen-first-responders-quarantined-washington-state/RJRADMRRZNBRDLEXFREY2BBH2Q/>

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 (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.