



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 6, 2020

Indiana confirms case of coronavirus, declares public health emergency

(WDRB) -- Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb said Friday the state has confirmed its first case of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and he declared a public health emergency. The patient, a man who lives in Marion County, had recently traveled to Boston.

The man was tested at Community Hospital North in Indianapolis, and officials said they are confident that the man did not transmit the virus to healthcare workers.

The individual, who officials described as healthy, was reported to be in stable condition and "in isolation" outside the hospital. Officials wouldn't say where, but said he is "in self-isolation at this time."

"The patient will remain in isolation for 14 days and will not be released until specimens taken two consecutive days at the end of that period test negative for COVID-19," Holcomb's office said in the news release.

Full story: https://www.wdrb.com/news/watch-live-indiana-officials-brief-media-on-coronavirus/article_92834a1e-5fbd-11ea-b311-b7179ddb59bd.html

----- *Related story??* ----

UPDATE: Tennessee's COVID-19 patient traveled to Boston from Nashville

The patient was asymptomatic while traveling, but currently has a mild illness and is isolated at home.

See more: <https://www.wrcbtv.com/story/41857929/update-tennessees-covid19-patient-traveled-to-boston-from-nashville-tn-dept-of-health-says>

World Now Has Almost 100K Coronavirus Cases WHO: "This is a time for pulling out all the stops."

(CNN) The director-general of the World Health Organization has warned governments that the continued international spread of the [novel coronavirus](#) is "**not a drill**" and will require significant action if public health authorities are to contain the deadly outbreak.

The call to action comes as the [global number of people infected](#) by the virus nears 100,000 -- a grim milestone that now appears inevitable with self-sustaining clusters continuing to expand in South Korea, Japan, parts of Europe, Iran and the United States.

WHO chief Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Thursday that although public health authorities across the globe have the ability to successfully combat the spread of the virus, the organization is concerned that in some countries the level of political commitment does not match the threat level.

"This is not a drill. This is not the time to give up. This is not a time for excuses. This is a time for pulling out all the stops. Countries have been planning for scenarios like this for decades. Now is the time to act on those plans," Tedros said. "This epidemic can be pushed back, but only with a collective, coordinated and comprehensive approach that engages the entire machinery of government."

The virus has [spread to more than 80 countries and territories](#) since it was first identified in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December last year. Health experts have suggested that newly emergent clusters in Europe and the Middle East could accelerate the global spread of the disease.

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/06/asia/coronavirus-covid-19-update-who-intl-hnk/index.html>

Coronavirus updates live: U.S. death toll climbs to 14

(CNN) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is arming consumers with a [list of disinfectants](#) that people can use to protect themselves from the [novel coronavirus](#). The federal agency released a five-page list of chemicals and products Thursday that it says are strong enough to ward off "harder-to-kill" viruses than SARS-CoV-2, the virus that's responsible for the disease.

One important fact to note, however:

- [Handwashing](#) with soap and water is still the best way to prevent transmission of the virus, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). That's because from what we know so far, the novel coronavirus is thought to spread primarily by people and their respiratory droplets -- think coughs, sneezes, spit.
- In other words, person-to-person transmission is most common.

See more info: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/05/health/epa-disinfectants-coronavirus-trnd/index.html>

Additional Coronavirus news headlines:

- **Military alert:** Pentagon officials said efforts to develop vaccines [may not be quick enough](#) to wipe out the virus before a "second wave" next winter.
- **US entry denied:** The Department of Homeland Security has [refused entry into the United States to 241 people](#) within the past month because of the novel coronavirus.
- Coronavirus cases in Pennsylvania
- Czech Republic will fine you up to \$130,000 if you break quarantine
- President Trump signed the coronavirus spending bill Friday morning.
- Dow tumbles 800 points as coronavirus fears grip Wall Street
- Miami cancels 2 major music festivals because of coronavirus
- EU Ambassadors' meeting canceled after second staff member tested positive for coronavirus
- Two British Airways staff test positive for coronavirus
- Main crossing point between Bethlehem and Jerusalem, was locked shut.
 - Doors were closed at the Church of the Nativity, regarded as the birthplace of Jesus

These stories and more: <https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-outbreak-03-06-20-intl-hnk/index.html>

CNN: FDA issues list of disinfectants you can use against coronavirus

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/05/health/epa-disinfectants-coronavirus-trnd/index.html>

Additional CDC Corona Tools

[Interim Guidance for Public Health Personnel Evaluating Persons Under Investigation \(PUIs\) and Asymptomatic Close Contacts of Confirmed Cases at Their Home or Non-Home Residential Settings](#) – This guidance is intended to address recommended infection prevention and control practices when these activities are performed at a home or non-home residential settings, which warrant additional considerations beyond those described for healthcare settings.

[Reporting a Person Under Investigation \(PUI\) or Laboratory-Confirmed Case for COVID-19](#) – Information for health departments on reporting and specimen referral for Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) and laboratory-confirmed cases.

[Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Persons with Potential 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Exposure](#) – Interim guidance for assessing risk of potential exposures to COVID-19 and implementing public health actions.

[Interim Guidance for Healthcare Facilities: Preparing for Community Transmission of COVID-19 in the United States](#) - February 29, 2020

[Frequently Asked Questions about Personal Protective Equipment](#) - February 29, 2020

NIOSH - [Recommended Guidance for Extended Use and Limited Reuse of N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators in Healthcare Settings](#)

[Release of Stockpiled N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators Beyond the Manufacturer-Designated Shelf Life: Considerations for the COVID-19 Response](#)

[Checklist for Healthcare Facilities: Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators during the COVID-19 Response](#)

- **PDF Version of Checklist:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/checklist-n95-strategy-h.pdf>

[NIOSH Interim Guidance on the Use of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear \(CBRN\) Full Facepiece, Air-Purifying Respirators/Gas Masks Certified Under 42 CFR Part 84](#) [Note: This is from July, 2005, but is being included with some of the COVID-19 inquiries related to PPE.]

Additional "What's New" items:

See: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/index.html>

- [If you have returned from Hubei Province within the last 14 days, Check and Report Everyday](#) Wednesday, March 4, 2020
- [Interim Guidance for Public Health Professionals Managing People With COVID-19 in Home Care and Isolation Who Have Pets or Other Animals](#) Wednesday, March 4, 2020
- [Evaluating and Reporting Persons Under Investigation \(PUI\)](#) Wednesday, March 4, 2020

- [Active Monitoring of Persons Exposed to Patients with Confirmed COVID-19 — United States, January–February 2020](#) Tuesday, March 3, 2020
- [Interim Guidance: Get Your Mass Gatherings or Large Community Events Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) Tuesday, March 3, 2020
- [Recommended Precautions for Preventing Spread of COVID-19 in Election Polling Locations](#) Monday, March 2, 2020
- [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#) Monday, March 2, 2020
- [Interim Guidance: Public Health Communicators Get Your Community Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) Monday, March 2, 2020
- [Resources for Healthcare Facilities](#) Saturday, February 29, 2020
- [Strategies to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities](#) (LTCF)
- [CDC - FAQ for Diagnostic Tools and Virus](#)

KY LAB TESTING NOTES (From March 4 KDPH Webinar)

KDPH/Division of Laboratory Services has initiated in-house testing of respiratory specimens for detection of 2019-Coronavirus.

- **All requests for state laboratory testing must be approved by KDPH prior to collection of specimens.** Call KDPH at 502-564-3261 during regular business hours or 888-973-7678 after hours and on weekends to determine if individuals meet the Person Under Investigation (PUI) criteria, and obtain approval for testing.
- Results are for presumptive identification of 2019-Coronavirus RNA. All specimens with positive or inconclusive results will be reflexed to the CDC for confirmatory testing
- If you have access to Outreach, please order the test code "NCOV". Please ensure the approval number is included when placing the order. Print a copy of the requisition and submit with the specimen.
- If you do not have access to Outreach, please complete the Virology paper requisition (Lab Form 275) available on the DLS website <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dls/Pages/default.aspx> and submit with the specimen. Please write the approval number at the top of the requisition.
- Results will be available within one (1) business day after receipt of specimens. Samples received by noon (eastern) will be tested and reported by the end of the work day.
- They are using the CDC Real Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel provided under FDA Emergency Use Authorization.

Lab results should not be sent without pre-authorization; samples sent without pre-approval will NOT be tested.

>> NOTE: KY Public Health has provided us with TWO documents related to COVID-19 Lab Testing. These are attached. Please share them with your hospital lab and ED team >> This process may change as commercial labs come on line. <<

----- **Recommendations from the CDC** -----

[Steps Healthcare Facilities Can Take Now to Prepare for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

Be Prepared:

- **Stay informed about the local COVID-19 situation.** Know where to turn for reliable, up-to-date information in your local community. Monitor the CDC COVID-19 [website](#) and your state and local health department [websitesexternal icon](#) for the latest information.
- **Develop, or review, your facility's emergency plan.** A COVID-19 outbreak in your community could lead to staff absenteeism. Prepare alternative staffing plans to ensure as many of your facility's staff are available as possible.
- **Establish relationships with key healthcare and public health partners in your community.** Make sure you know about healthcare and public health emergency planning and response activities in your community. Learn about plans to manage patients, accept transfers, and share supplies. Review any memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with affiliates, your healthcare coalition, and other partners to provide support or assistance during emergencies.
- **Create an emergency contact list.** Develop and continuously update emergency contact lists for key partners and ensure the lists are accessible in key locations in your facility. For example, know how to reach your local or state health department in an emergency.

Communicate with Staff and Patients:

- **Communicate about COVID-19 with your staff.** Share information about what is currently known about COVID-19, the potential for surge, and your facility's preparedness plans.

- **Communicate about COVID-19 with your patients.** Provide updates about changes to your policies regarding appointments, providing non-urgent patient care by telephone, and visitors. Consider using your facility's website or social media pages to share updates.

Protect your workforce:

- **Screen patients and visitors for symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., fever, cough, difficulty breathing) before entering your healthcare facility.** Keep up to date on the recommendations for preventing spread of COVID-19 on [CDC's website](#).
- **Ensure proper use of personal protection equipment (PPE).** Healthcare personnel who come in close contact with confirmed or possible patients with COVID-19 [should wear](#) the appropriate [personal protective equipment](#).
- **Conduct an inventory of available PPE.** Consider conducting an inventory of available PPE supplies. Explore strategies to [optimize PPE supplies](#).
- **Encourage sick employees to stay home.** Personnel who develop respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) should be instructed not to report to work. Ensure that your sick leave policies are flexible and consistent with public health guidance and that employees are aware of these policies.

Protect your patients:

- **Stay up-to-date** on the best ways to [manage patients with COVID-19](#).
- **Separate patients with respiratory symptoms so they are not waiting among other patients seeking care.** Identify a separate, well-ventilated space that allows waiting patients and visitors to be separated.
- **Consider the strategies to prevent patients who can be cared for at home from coming to your facility potentially exposing themselves or others to germs, like:**
 - Using your telephone system to deliver messages to incoming callers about when to seek medical care at your facility, when to seek emergency care, and where to go for information about caring for a person with COVID at home.
 - Adjusting your hours of operation to include telephone triage and follow-up of patients during a community outbreak.
 - Leveraging telemedicine technologies and self-assessment tools.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/steps-to-prepare.html>

Gov. Beshear, health officials continue state response efforts for Coronavirus Warns of scams

(KyForward News) As of Thursday afternoon, Kentucky has tested, or is in the process of testing, seven individuals. Four tests have been negative and three are pending. All of these individuals were not at high risk and were tested out of an abundance of caution.

Read more: <https://www.kyforward.com/gov-beshear-health-officials-continue-state-response-efforts-for-coronavirus-disease-2020-warn-of-scams/>

Danger: 'Coronavirus' Android app that steals information

An Android app that goes by the name 'Coronavirus' has been spotted that requests victims to re-enter the pin or pattern on the device and uses it to steal information.

The app repeatedly seeks accessibility service capabilities, according to cyber security solution provider SonicWall's Capture Labs Threats Research Team. With additional capabilities based on traces present in the code, the attacker can control the device remotely making this malware a Remote Access Trojan (RAT). The malware persistently tries to invade and embed itself in the device through multiple means, it said in a statement.

The security experts advise the phone users to be on guard while downloading apps, clicking links and giving out information.

Read more: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/now-a-coronavirus-android-app-that-steals-information/article30998680.ece#>

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 added or deleted, 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.