



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 9, 2020

Kentucky has two more confirmed COVID-19 cases

(WYMT) Governor Beshear and state health officials are making a second announcement Monday regarding coronavirus updates in Kentucky. Beshear announced that two more people have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the state. One is in Harrison County and the other is in Fayette County. This brings the total of confirmed cases in Kentucky to six.

The governor said state officials have tested 34 people so far, with 28 people testing negative and six testing positive.

See more: <https://www.wytm.com/content/news/Watch-LiveGovernor-Beshear-gives-update-on-coronavirus-568623581.html>

Governor's Press Release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prld=81>

D.C. coronavirus patient fell ill after conference at Louisville hotel.

(Courier-Journal) The Rev. Timothy Cole was diagnosed with COVID-19 on Saturday, becoming Washington, D.C.'s first confirmed case. Two weeks before, he was in Louisville for a conference held at the downtown Omni Hotel.

Cole's home church, Christ Church in Georgetown, has said in statements that Cole returned to D.C. on Feb. 22, then began feeling ill two days later. About a week later, he was diagnosed with the flu. And four days after that, he was diagnosed with COVID-19.

Full story: <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2020/03/09/coronavirus-washington-d-c-patient-went-conference-omni-louisville-hotel/5002207002/>

Related - He then went home and served communion...

Hundreds exposed to D.C. church rector with coronavirus asked to self-quarantine

(The Hill) Health officials in Washington, D.C., are advising hundreds of people who visited a historic church in Georgetown to self-quarantine after its rector tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

Full story: <https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/prevention-cures/486605-hundreds-exposed-to-dc-church-rector-with-covid>

Other Coronavirus news:

- (CIDRAP) [Italy expands COVID-19 lockdown to whole country](#)
- (CBS) [Coronavirus updates: Fear batters the economy as U.S. death toll rises to 26](#)
 - Ohio announces first three coronavirus cases
- (CIDRAP) [Study highlights ease of spread of COVID-19 viruses](#)
 - "The virus quickly produces high viral loads, sheds efficiently, and grows well in the nose and mouth."
- (CIDRAP) [CDC urges readiness as US COVID-19 count passes 600](#)
- (CDC) [Updated Guidance on Evaluating and Testing Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

Where That \$8.3 Billion In U.S. Coronavirus Funding Will And Won't Go

(NPR) The coronavirus funding bill signed into law by the president Friday puts much more money toward treating and preventing the spread of COVID-19 than his administration requested from Congress last week. Read and hear more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/03/06/812964894/where-that-8-3-billion-in-u-s-coronavirus-funding-will-and-wont-go>

COVID-19 Hotline 1-800-722-5725

KY Public Health site: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/pages/covid19.aspx>

---- From KDPH Website ----

[Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Guidance for Kentucky Counties with Confirmed Cases - March 9, 2020](#)
[Home Quarantine Guidance - March 8, 2020](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2019 novel coronavirus site](#)

When To Seek Care

To ensure the sickest people receive care, help minimize the spread of infection and maintain resources, please follow the guidelines below when considering whether to seek medical care.

Stay home

If you are worried-well, **please stay home.**

Going to a hospital or doctor's office adds to a higher concentration of people and further overwhelms medical staff.



Call for advice

If you are **ill, but would not have sought care** if not for COVID-19, do not seek care at an ER, hospital or doctor's office.

If you want advice, **call the Kentucky state hotline (1-800-722-5725) or call your local healthcare provider.**

Seek care

If you are **sick and feel you have an emergency**, please call your doctor or **seek medical care.**

Hospitals and medical staff across the commonwealth stand ready to serve you.



Please visit kycovid19.ky.gov for the latest updates on COVID-19 in Kentucky or call the Kentucky state hotline at **1-800-722-5725**

CDC updates guidance for COVID-19 testing, health care personnel

([AHA Today](#)) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention over the weekend updated its guidance for evaluating and testing patients for novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and for assessing and managing health care personnel with potential exposure to patients with the virus.

The documents [prioritize testing](#) for symptomatic older adults and individuals with chronic medical conditions and/or immunocompromised, and [update recommendations](#) for health care professional contact tracing, monitoring and work restrictions, among other changes.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services also has released answers to [frequently asked questions](#) regarding Medicare payment for laboratory tests and other COVID-19-related services.

According to CDC, novel coronavirus cases have now been reported in 34 U.S. states, with worldwide cases topping 110,000 over the weekend. The agency is focusing its [community recommendations](#) on individuals at high risk, such as older adults and those with underlying health conditions.

The Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority Friday solicited [proposals](#) for advanced development and licensure of COVID-19 diagnostics, vaccines, and medicines such as therapeutics or antivirals.

As the outbreak continues, the AABB Interorganizational Task Force on Domestic Disasters and Acts of Terrorism, of which AHA is a member, is concerned about the possibility of blood shortages and is [encouraging](#) Americans to make and keep blood donation appointments and organized blood drives to minimize supply disruptions and ensure availability for patients.

To improve the nation's supply chain for critical supplies needed to fight the virus, the Trump administration is allowing tariff exception requests for suppliers of a broad range of medical products from China, including face masks and gloves. Without an exception, such products are subject to a 7.5% duty under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. One supplier, Medegen Medical Products, LLC, [requested](#) an exception for single-use polypropylene medical masks to provide personal protection for health care workers. The move follows an announcement by the Chinese government encouraging the exportation of personal protective equipment, including protective suits.

Following last week's CMS update on coronavirus payment and coverage through federal entitlement programs, private payers are beginning to adjust their policies. Blue Cross Blue Shield's 36 individual plans said they are eliminating prior authorization for COVID-19 services; covering the full cost of diagnostic tests for COVID-19; increasing access to prescription medications; and expanding access to telehealth and nurse/provider hotlines.

New influenza cases in Kentucky dropped slightly in last week of February; Vaccine remains best defense

(KyForward News) In the last week of February, Kentucky reported fewer new cases of influenza and fewer deaths from it than it did the week before.

The latest [weekly report](#) from the state Department for Public Health shows that in the week ending Feb. 29, Kentucky counted 1,591 new cases, down from 1,943 new cases the previous week. Five flu deaths were reported in the state, down from 14 the previous week and 16 the week before that. During the flu season, the state has reported 22,591 cases of flu and 85 deaths, four of children.

The actual number of cases is higher, because not all flu cases are counted; flu does not have to be reported, and three counties did not contribute to the last report.

Nationwide, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) estimates that so far this season, at least 34 million people have had the flu, causing 350,000 hospitalizations and 20,000 deaths. Of those, 136 were children

Full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/new-influenza-cases-in-kentucky-dropped-slightly-in-last-week-of-february-vaccine-remains-best-defense/>

CDC Clinician Webinar:

[Information for Clinicians Caring for Children and Pregnant Women](#)

Date: Thursday, March 12, 2020

Time: 2:00pm–3:00pm (ET)

Please click the link on the right to join: <https://zoom.us/j/200932054>

Or iPhone one-tap: US: +16468769923,,200932054# or +16699006833,,200932054#

Or Telephone: US: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 200 932 054

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/anixAVglV>

Continuing Education will not be offered for this COCA Call.

If you are unable to attend this live COCA Call, it will be available to [view on-demand](#) a few hours after the call

Epidemiology study highlights diversity of CRE in US hospitals

(CIDRAP) A study examining the clinical and molecular epidemiology of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriales (CRE) in US hospital patients indicates there is greater diversity in CRE than previously thought, a finding that could have implications for how hospitals treat and control the pathogens.

The [study](#), published late last week in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, looked at clinical and whole-genome sequencing data on a cohort of patients at 49 US hospitals in 15 states who were colonized or infected with CRE according to Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2015 CRE guidelines. CRE are considered an urgent healthcare threat by the CDC because they are frequently multidrug resistant and can carry mobile resistance elements that are easily shared with other bacteria.

Read more: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/03/epidemiology-study-highlights-diversity-cre-us-hospitals>

CDC Info on CRE in the US: <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cre/trackingcre.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 (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.