



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 11, 2020

Gov. Beshear Provides Guidance on Public Events, Schools, Prisons as State Continues Preparations and Response to COVID-19

Actions and preparations announced by Gov. Beshear on Wednesday include:

- Instructed school districts to be prepared to close on short notice, as short as 72 hours.
- Closed all state [prisons](#) to visitors.
- Encouraged every individual in Kentucky, in particular those over 60 and those with chronic medical conditions, to do what they can to avoid large gatherings and minimize time in groups and public spaces.
- Cancelled the Governor's Prayer Breakfast out of an abundance of caution.
- Asked places of worship to cancel services temporarily due to the proximity .
- Suspended out-of-state travel for state employees.
- Urged more businesses to allow employees to tele-commute and to provide paid sick leave.
- Asked people to spread out in meeting and work spaces by increasing distance between seats and taking other similar actions.

Full press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prld=85>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [March 11, 2020](#)

[WHO declares the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic](#) (STAT) The World Health Organization on Wednesday declared the rapidly spreading coronavirus outbreak a pandemic, acknowledging what has seemed clear for some time — the virus will likely spread to all countries on the globe.

[Why 'flattening the curve' may be the world's best bet to slow the coronavirus](#) (STAT) For many countries staring down fast-rising coronavirus case counts, the race is on to "flatten the curve."

[Some Hospitals Are Close to Running Out of Crucial Masks for Coronavirus](#) (The New York Times) As hospitals around the country prepare for an influx of highly infectious coronavirus cases, their supplies of a crucial type of respirator mask are dwindling fast.

[Exclusive: Email crash impeded HHS response to coronavirus](#) (Politico) As health department officials worked quickly to negotiate an emergency funding package to fight the spreading coronavirus outbreak on Feb. 23, they came to a frustrating realization: Their email system had crashed.

[CDC developing serologic tests that could reveal full scope of U.S. coronavirus outbreak](#) (STAT) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is developing tests that could provide public health officials crucial information about how broadly the coronavirus has spread in the United States, even among mild cases or people without symptoms, the agency's director said Wednesday.

CBS Coronavirus Update:

- Trump bans all travel from Europe for 30 days
- There are now more than 1,000 cases in the United States – eight times more than just a week earlier. At least 38 people have died of the virus nationwide.
- World Health Organization declares coronavirus outbreak is a pandemic
- Tests show new virus lives on some surfaces for up to 3 days
- Azar contradicts Trump's claim that "anybody" can get tested
- Senator Feinstein says she believes Capitol should be temporarily closed
- Italy's patient zero identified as German

Read full update: <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/coronavirus-updates-cases-fears-deaths-us-latest-2020-03-11/>

CDC COVID-19 What's New?

- [Interim Guidance for Outpatient Hemodialysis Facilities](#) Tuesday, March 10, 2020

HHS Offers Guidance on COVID-19

Guidance on Infection Control For Healthcare Workers

Yesterday, CDC released updated guidance on infection prevention and control recommendations. Healthcare workers are fighting this outbreak on the front lines, and this guidance is intended to provide assistance to healthcare settings that are handling suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19. This guidance is applicable to all U.S. healthcare settings, but not for non-healthcare settings. There is separate guidance for that. The new guidance on infection control can be found [here](#).

Guidance for Hospitals with EDs

CMS has issued guidance for hospitals, including critical access hospitals, which addresses requirements that hospitals must adhere to on how to screen, treat and transfer suspected or confirmed individuals with COVID-19. The guidance on Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) requirements can be found [here](#). CMS also issued a call to action to hospital emergency departments to screen all patients for COVID-19 and reinforce hospitals' obligation to patients, visitors, and healthcare workers. The memo includes information on patient screening, treatment and transfer requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The memo can be found [here](#) and a press release about the call to action can be found [here](#).

Guidance for Nursing Homes on Infection Control and Surveying:

CMS released updated guidance for infection control and prevention of COVID-19 in [nursing homes](#). CMS also released a frequently asked questions document to further explain the changes in guidance issued on March 4 that suspends all non-emergency survey inspections. This guidance and FAQ will help to enable State Inspectors to address the spread of COVID-19. The FAQ document can be found [here](#).

Guidance for Home Health Agencies and Dialysis Facilities:

On March 10, 2020, CMS released guidance and Q/A for home health agencies on admitting, treating and releasing patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Home health agencies should continue to follow all CDC guidance for health care facilities and home health agencies. The memo released can be found [here](#). CMS also released information for [dialysis facilities](#) that aligns with the CDC guidance. CDC guidance for outpatient dialysis facilities to reduce the spread of contagious respiratory pathogens. The recommendations can be found [here](#).

Funding for States to Address COVID-19

Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announced](#) upcoming action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide resources to state and local jurisdictions in support of our nation's response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The \$8.3 billion dollar Supplemental passed by Congress included [statutory language](#) which prescribed the exact formula for disbursing the money: states will receive 90% of their [2019 CDC PHEP grants](#). This marks the first tranche of funding to states from the \$8.3 billion supplemental. Today, CDC is contacting State Health Officers to move forward with awarding over \$560 million to states, localities, territories, and tribes. CDC will use existing networks to reach out to state and local jurisdictions to access this initial funding. To view the list of CDC funding actions to jurisdictions, click [here](#).

Helping Communities Know Mitigation Strategies

Yesterday, CDC released their "[Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission](#)." Essentially, this is a guide describing possible mitigation strategies for communities dealing with transmission at three different levels: (1) None/Minimal, (2) Moderate, or (3) Substantial. Community mitigation strategies, which are non-pharmaceutical interventions, are often the most available interventions to help slow the transmission of COVID-19 in communities. The Mitigation Plan includes a set of actions that persons and communities can take to slow the spread of respiratory virus infections. The Community Mitigation Plan can be found [here](#).

Guidance for Preparing Workplaces

This week, the Department of Labor released practical guidance for how to prepare workplaces for COVID-19. This guidance will help to educate workers and employers about the COVID-19 outbreak. The guidance can be found [here](#).

Guidance for Laboratories

The CDC has been actively working to address the need for testing across the country. In addition to public health laboratories, private labs are doing testing. In addition to reviewing the [Updated Guidance on Evaluating and Testing Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019](#), the CDC recently updated the [FAQ website for laboratories](#), and we encourage you to read through the site to answer preliminary questions, though we stand ready to answer other questions that you may have.

CDC link: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020/han00429.asp>

CDC FAQ on Lab Testing (March 10): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/testing-laboratories.html>

Guidance to Prepare Homeless Shelters

We recognize persons experiencing homelessness are an especially vulnerable population. CDC released guidance on March 9, to help homeless shelters plan, prepare and respond to COVID-19. The guidance can be found [here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/plan-prepare-respond.html). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/plan-prepare-respond.html>

OMB Flexibilities

On March 9, 2020, OMB issued a memo that provides administrative relief for recipients and applicants of Federal financial assistance who are directly impacted by COVID-19. The grant flexibilities include 10 actions that HHS can take to provide short-term administrative and financial management relief, allowing funds to be awarded quicker and giving grantees the ability to focus on their critical response, research, or services. More information can be found [here](#).

General Preparation Information

On March 9, 2020, the White House Coronavirus Task Force released practical steps that we recommend posting and sharing to keep workplaces, school, home and commercial establishments safe. This information can be found [here](#).

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.