



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 12, 2020

## KDPH COVID-19

### 11 Positive Cases as of 8:30 PM ET this evening.

(From KYCOVID19.KY.GOV) Eleven (11) people in Kentucky have tested positive for COVID - 19 involving Fayette, Harrison and Jefferson counties only. 2 of those positive tests came from commercial labs. To date 118 people have been tested for COVID-19, 107 are negative.

The KDPH Situation Report as of about 7:30 PM indicates that the KY Public Health Call Center received 1000+ calls today March 12, 2020, and the COVID-19 Hotline at the Kentucky Regional Poison Control Center had received 1000 COVID-19 related calls as of 6:00 p.m. There was an overload of calls on the Hotline this morning, and more lines were added to handle those calls.

### ----- **Humana employee in Louisville has tested positive for COVID-19**

***All Louisville-based associates who can work from home have been asked to work from home.***

(WHAS-11) A Humana employee in Louisville has tested "presumptive positive" for COVID-19, the company said in an internal email to all staff. In the email obtained by WHAS11, Humana said an associate in the Waterside building preliminarily tested positive for coronavirus and is currently receiving treatment. The person, Humana said, has been out of the office since March 2.

Humana did confirm with WHAS11 that a person did test positive and leaders have contacted the people who work in close proximity to the person. They are out on leave and are being paid as usual, officials said. All Louisville-based associates who are able are asked to work from home. Employees at the Waterside or Clocktower locations will get more information on how to work in the coming days.

Story source: <https://www.whas11.com/article/news/local/humana-employee-tests-positive-for-covid-19/417-de26df58-a29b-4484-b0b5-3afa1ab24690>

### ----- **European CDC**

#### **COVID-19 not containable, set to overwhelm hospitals**

(CIDRAP) In a stark and urgent COVID-19 [risk assessment](#) update today, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said that, in a few weeks or even days, other countries in the region may face huge surges that mirror those of China and Italy. It advised countries to quickly shift to mitigation strategies to protect vulnerable people and prevent overwhelmed hospitals.

Reports of dire conditions in hospitals in Italy's hot spots have been circulating on social media for the past few weeks and are now appearing in medical journal and media reports. The ECDC acknowledges that high numbers of patients needing ventilation have exceeded intensive care unit (ICU) capacity in some healthcare facilities in northern Italy.

In a [Lancet](#) report today, two authors from Italy said the percentage of COVID-19 patients needing ICU treatment has ranged from 9% to 11% and that ICUs will be at maximum capacity if that trend continues for 1 more week. They predicted that Italy will need 4,000 more ICU beds over the next month, a challenge given that the country has about 5,200 ICU beds.

Intensive care specialists are already considering denying life-saving care to the sickest and giving priority to those patients most likely to survive when deciding who to provide ventilation to. "In the near future, they will have no choice. They will have to follow the same rules that health-care workers are left with in conflict and disaster zones."

Read more: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/03/ecdc-covid-19-not-containable-set-overwhelm-hospitals>

#### **Related: Coronavirus patients who refuse to self-isolate face murder charges in Italy**

Authorities warn that those who come down with a cough, fever or other signs of the deadly Sars-like disease who avoid going into quarantine could risk being charged with attempted murder. The country is struggling to contain the spread of the bug and has confirmed more than 12,000 cases and 827 deaths.

Italy has been put on a nationwide lockdown with all stores except for pharmacies and food outlets being ordered to close down. Citizens have also been told they are not allowed to travel unless for pressing health or work reasons. Anyone who comes down with a fever, cough, or other symptoms of the new coronavirus strain named Covid-19 who do not put themselves under self-isolation risk being charged with causing injury and be jailed for six months to three years.

If a careless coronavirus sufferer went on to pass the bug to an elderly person or someone made vulnerable by a pre-existing health condition, then they could be charged with 'intentional murder' and could spend up to 21 years behind bars.

Read more: <https://metro.co.uk/2020/03/12/people-coronavirus-italy-refuse-self-isolate-face-murder-charges-12385790/?ito=cbshare>

-----

### **Trump issues executive order on respirators.**

(From AHA Today) President Trump signed an [executive order](#) late Wednesday ordering a Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act declaration for the use of general respirators. The executive order, which is specific to use of general-use respirators, is expected to help manufacturers ramp up production of more respirators for use by health care personnel. The order provides very broad immunity from liability for any claims surrounding covered countermeasures, including medical malpractice.

-----

### **CDC Clinician Call Friday, March 13 Update on COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations 2-3 PM ET**

**Please click the link below to join:** <https://zoom.us/j/423965234>

**Or iPhone one-tap:** US: +16468769923,,423965234#  
or +16699006833,,423965234#

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

**Webinar ID:** 423 965 234

**More details:** [https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo\\_031320.asp?deliveryName=USCDC\\_1052-DM22375](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_031320.asp?deliveryName=USCDC_1052-DM22375)

-----

### **CDC Framework for Community Mitigation**

The Centers for Disease Control has developed a framework for actions which local and state health departments can recommend in their community to both prepare for and mitigate community transmission of COVID-19 in the United States. Selection and implementation of these actions should be guided by the local characteristics of disease transmission, demographics, and public health and healthcare system capacity.

CDC link for more info: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>

-----

**KDPH COVID-19 Website:** [KYCOVID19.ky.gov](http://KYCOVID19.ky.gov)  
**KY COVID-19 Hotline (800) 722-5725**

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.