



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 15, 2020

Three new positive cases of coronavirus confirmed in Ky., 21 total cases

([WAVE-3 @7:49 PM](#)) Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear has confirmed three new positive cases of coronavirus in the state, bringing the total number of cases to 21. Two new cases have been confirmed in Jefferson County and one new case in Clark County.

Beshear has said that the first reported patient in Kentucky tested positive for the coronavirus has been released from the hospital and has fully recovered.

He previously mentioned on Saturday he had been to a recent event in Louisville where someone later tested positive. He said he had been tested and results came back negative with no symptoms present.

As of 5 p.m. ET, March 15, the state's current COVID-19 patient information includes:

1. Harrison, F, 27, out of hospital and fully recovered
2. Fayette, M, 40
3. Jefferson, M, 69
4. Harrison, F, 67
5. Harrison, M, 68
6. Fayette, M, 46
7. Harrison, F, 54
8. Harrison, M, 60
9. Harrison, M, 51
10. Fayette, F, 31
11. Jefferson, F, 67
12. Bourbon, M, 66
13. Jefferson, F, 68
14. Jefferson, F, 80
15. Nelson, M, 53
16. Montgomery, M, 56
17. Fayette, M, 47
18. Fayette, M, 31
19. Clark, M, 49
20. Jefferson, F, 73
21. Jefferson

Governor's Press Release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=92>

Governor's Press Conference: <https://www.facebook.com/GovAndyBeshear/videos/644691246364408/>

KDPH COVID-19 Website: KYCOVID19.ky.gov

KY Poison Center Open for Business!

COVID-19 Calls need to the right cue

[Ashley Webb, Executive Director](#) for the Kentucky Poison Control Center, notes that while they have assumed the additional role as the state's COVID-19 Hotline, **they are still available to answer poison control questions!** Unfortunately, there are some lay people trying to "game the menu system".

When calling in with a COVID-19 question, all callers should pick OPTION-5 to be quickly directed to the right call taker team. COVID-19 calls going to the "physicians calling about poisoning" line will be transferred back to the COVID-19 cue. That puts them farther back in the COVID-19 call cue. Wait times are ranging from 1 to 15minutes, depending on volume, and how many people they have to handle the calls. They are heavily relying on volunteers right now to help handle the COVID-19 calls.

The problem they are running in to is protecting their public safety role so poison center specialists can handle poisoning emergencies.

They do have a number for EMS only if they have a question about **managing and transporting a poison patient** that will put them next in the poison center queue.

Kentucky Poison Control Center (and COVID-19 Hotline)

1-800-222-1222 (Poisoning Emergency)

KY COVID-19 Hotline (800) 722-5725

kYPoisonControl.com

Kentucky HIV Hotline

1-844-294-2HIV (2448)

KYHIV.com

Kentucky Opioid Assistance & Resource (KY-OAR) Hotline

1-800-854-6813

KYOARHotline.com

CMS call Monday, March 16 at 12 p.m. ET.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services leaders will host a call for hospital and health systems Monday, March 16 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. ET to discuss information on COVID-19. Please use this for the dial in number 888-455-1397 and participant passcode 5854574. CMS plans to hold these calls weekly as the situation evolves.

**CDC Health Alert Network (HAN 430)
Information and Guidance about Global Travel on Cruise Ships,
Including River Cruises, due to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020/han00430.asp>

US takes more big pandemic response steps; Europe COVID-19 cases soar

(CIDRAP) The number of COVID-19 cases in other parts of the world today topped China's total, fueled by surges in Europe, especially Italy, and Iran, plus outbreaks picking up steam in other nations, including the United States, where New York City today shuttered its schools and the Federal Reserve slashed its interest rate again.

Coming just a day after the global total passed 150,000, the Johns Hopkins [online tracker](#) shows 162,687 cases today, with 81,003 reported from China. As testing capacity slowly ramps up in the United States, about 600 more cases were reported, putting the nation's total at 3,244, according to the Johns Hopkins tracker. So far, West Virginia is the only state that hasn't confirmed any cases, according to the [New York Times](#) case map.

Full story: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/03/us-takes-more-big-pandemic-response-steps-europe-covid-19-cases-soar>

COVID-19 Update and Information for Long-term Care Facilities

Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Time: 2:00pm–3:00pm (ET)

Please click the link below to join: <https://zoom.us/j/148725646>

Or iPhone one-tap: US: +16468769923,,148725646# or +16699006833,,148725646#

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

Webinar ID: 148 725 646

More info: https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_031720.asp?deliveryName=%28USCDC_1052%29-DM22672

OSHA Enforcement Memo on Respirator Annual Fit Testing for COVID-19

Yesterday (March 14, 2020) the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released *Temporary Enforcement Guidance - Healthcare Respiratory Protection Annual Fit-Testing for N95 Filtering Facepieces During the COVID-19 Outbreak*. Relevant bullets from memo below:

- Perform initial fit tests for each HCP with the same model, style, and size respirator that the worker will be required to wear for protection against COVID-19 (initial fit testing is essential to determine if the respirator properly fits the worker and is capable of providing the expected level of protection);
- Inform workers that the employer is temporarily suspending the annual fit testing of N95 filtering facepiece respirators to preserve and prioritize the supply of respirators for use in situations where they are required to be worn.

The guidance can be found here: <https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-03-14/temporary-enforcement-guidance-healthcare-respiratory-protection-annual-fit>

U.S. hospitals say coronavirus school closures add to staffing pressure

(Reuters) - U.S. hospitals, gearing up for a large surge in patients as the new coronavirus spreads throughout the country, are reaching out to temporary staff agencies and exploring other ways to maintain workforce levels as school closures add to pressure on doctors and nurses.

"The biggest issue right now is we need to plan for a logarithmic increase in patient numbers," Dr. Jason Persoff, assistant director of emergency preparedness at UCHHealth, Colorado's largest health system. "We are learning a lot from what happened in Washington state and in Italy ... there are a lot of issues with childcare."

He said UCHHealth is preparing for as many as 20 percent of its regular staff not being able to work at one time or another throughout the outbreak - the ultimate dimensions of which remain unknown.

As of Friday afternoon, at least 21,900 U.S. kindergarten through high schools have been closed or are scheduled to close, affecting at least 15 million students, according to trade publication Education Week.

Healthcare professionals are already in high demand. The Association of American Medical Colleges has projected a shortage of up to 122,000 physicians by 2032, and some studies estimate a shortage of more than 200,000 nurses over a similar period.

The staffing agency explains that some hospitals have already had to quarantine staff who may have had contact with coronavirus patients. "These hospitals now have needs to backfill core staff ... and are offering higher compensation rates," it says. Full story: <https://news360.com/article/523090024>

**FDA grants emergency approval to coronavirus test,
reports say method could increase tests 'tenfold'**

(WLEX) The Food and Drug Administration has granted emergency approval to a new coronavirus test in the hopes speeding up the process of testing patients for the disease, according to The Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg. The FDA gave "emergency use authorization" to tests that run on [Roche Holding AG](#)'s [cobas 6800/8800](#) systems. [Bloomberg](#) reports that the 8800 system can test more than 4,000 patients a day, and the 6800 version can test more than 1,400 patients a day. The [WSJ](#) reports that the machines can deliver results in about three-and-a-half hours. Read more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/national/coronavirus/fda-grants-emergency-approval-to-coronavirus-test-reports-say-method-could-increase-tests-tenfold>

Is There Really a Toilet Paper Shortage?

<https://news360.com/article/523057309>

Flu Watchdog Spots More with Fever and Cough, *But It's Not Flu*

(Bloomberg) A U.S. disease surveillance network that monitors doctors' offices and hospitals has picked up a rise in people with a fever and cough, but who don't test positive for influenza.

It's not clear if the increase represents a rise in coronavirus cases that are being missed because of a shortage of testing in the U.S. It's possible that worried people with some other respiratory illness are showing up for care in greater numbers. But it's another piece of evidence as academics, public health experts and the government try to answer what none knows so far — how many people in the U.S. have been infected by the new coronavirus, and how fast is it spreading?

Read more: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-14/flu-watchdog-spots-more-with-fever-and-cough-but-it-s-not-flu>

CDC Resource: Crisis Communications Manual

CDC Link: https://emergency.cdc.gov/cerc/ppt/cerc_2014edition_Copy.pdf

Coronavirus is threatening America's blood supply and food banks. Here's how you can help

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/14/us/blood-supply-food-banks-coronavirus-iyw-trnd/index.html>

...and on an entirely different subject

Fukushima, nine years after devastation

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/523094511>

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.