



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 18, 2020

Coronaquake2020

5.7-magnitude earthquake shakes Salt Lake City, Utah, and surrounding areas

Utah's largest since 1992, knocked out power to tens of thousands of households and businesses and disrupted some government efforts to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

Latest: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/5-7-magnitude-earthquake-shakes-salt-lake-city-utah-surrounding-n1162766>

President Trump will invoke Defense Production Act to boost medical supplies

President Trump announced from the White House Briefing Room Wednesday that he will invoke the [Defense Production Act](#), which will speed up and expand the supply of resources from the country's industrial base, particularly to increase the production of medical supplies and equipment. It's a move that has been under discussion in recent days and weeks, as the country lacks a sufficient number of ventilators, masks, and other critical items needed to meet the coming demand due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Vice President Mike Pence said the U.S. has a stockpile of roughly 10,000 ventilators, and the U.S. military will be adding more.

Mr. Trump also announced health officials are working on a "self-swab" coronavirus test, which he suggested would be more comfortable and more "popular" than the current test, as the administration scrambles to provide more tests. The main complaint from hospitals and doctors is that they lack enough tests, not that the tests are uncomfortable. The president has asked all Americans to limit contact with others for 15 days.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases worldwide now tops 200,000, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coronavirus-defense-production-act-medical-supplies-president-trump/>

US Navy is deploying a fully-equipped hospital ships to help in the fight against the coronavirus in New York

(Business Insider) The US Navy is preparing its hospital ships to help in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic in the hardest-hit communities in the country.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper confirmed he ordered the Navy to "lean forward" in deploying two of its hospital ships, the USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy, during a press conference on Tuesday.

The Comfort, based in the East Coast at Norfolk, Virginia, is currently undergoing maintenance; while the Mercy is at port in San Diego, California.

The two ships will specifically focus on trauma cases if deployed, given the limited amount of space aboard the ships, Esper said. The plan is to alleviate the burden on traditional hospitals dealing with a high number of patients with the coronavirus.

Full story: <https://www.businessinsider.com/us-navy-preparing-2-hospital-ships-to-fight-coronavirus-2020-3>

State lab running low on testing supplies

In a video briefing today with HPP Regional Coalition partners, Dr. Doug Thoroughman, a CDC Epidemiologist serving as the Interim State Epidemiologist, told the audience that the state lab is almost out of the testing materials they need to actually run the COVID-19 tests. They have additional materials due in tomorrow, but they may reach a point, as other states have experienced, where they are going to have to stop testing until they get resupplied.

What Dr. Thoroughman suggested is that local health care facilities and providers consider using commercial labs which have indicated that they have ample testing materials. Check with your lab to see what their sampling and shipping requirements are, and be advised that some of the commercial labs have a longer turn-around time.

The state is hoping that the testing process will eventually be entirely based on the private labs, some university-based labs, and those hospital labs which meet the FDA's criteria. At that point they will return to their normal role as a confirming and validating lab where needed.

KY COVID-19 Positives (as of 4 PM 3/18): 29 positive out of 489 tested.

KY COVID-19 Hotline: (800) 722-5725
KY COVID-19 Website: <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

CDC - What's News?

NEW - Updated CDC Guidance on Optimizing the Supply of PPE

This updated guidance was reviewed and posted on March 17, and have four focus areas: Eye Protection; Isolation Gowns; Face Masks; and N95 Respirators.

CDC Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>

Other items:

Prepare to Care for COVID-19: Get Your Practice Ready (March 18):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/practice-preparedness.html>

COVID-19 in a Long-Term Care Facility — King County, Washington, February 27–March 9, 2020 (Released March 18): https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6912e1.htm?s_cid=mm6912e1_w

Severe Outcomes Among Patients with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) — United States, February 12–March 16, 2020 (Released March 18):

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6912e2.htm?s_cid=mm6912e2_w

Cases & Latest Updates (March 17):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/index.html>

FAQ for Healthcare Professionals Tuesday, March 17, 2020:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/faq.html>

CDC Posters - Keeping the workplace, school, home and commercial workplace safe (March 10):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/workplace-school-and-home-guidance.pdf>

Strategies for Optimizing Supply of N95 Respirators (March 17):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html>

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Facemasks Tuesday, March 17, 2020:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html>

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Eye Protection Tuesday, March 17, 2020:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/eye-protection.html>

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Isolation Gowns Tuesday, March 17, 2020:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/isolation-gowns.html>

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations Tuesday, March 17, 2020:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

Disinfecting your home if someone is sick Tuesday, March 17, 2020:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/disinfecting-your-home.html>

U.S. Virus Plan Anticipates 18-Month Pandemic and Widespread Shortages

(NY Times) A federal government plan to combat [the coronavirus](#) warned policymakers last week that a pandemic “will last 18 months or longer” and could include “multiple waves,” resulting in widespread shortages that would strain consumers and the nation’s health care system.

The 100-page plan, dated Friday, the same day President Trump declared a national emergency, laid out a grim prognosis for the spread of the virus and outlined a response that would activate agencies across the government and potentially employ special presidential powers to mobilize the private sector. The plan, which was unclassified but marked “For Official Use Only // Not For Public Distribution or Release,” was shared with The New York Times.

Full NY Times story: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/17/us/politics/trump-coronavirus-plan.html>

US Government COVID-19 Response Plan: <https://int.nyt.com/data/documenthelper/6819-covid-19-response-plan/d367f758bec47cad361f/optimized/full.pdf#page=1>

NEW - President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America

https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus-guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf

The KHEREF 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 KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.