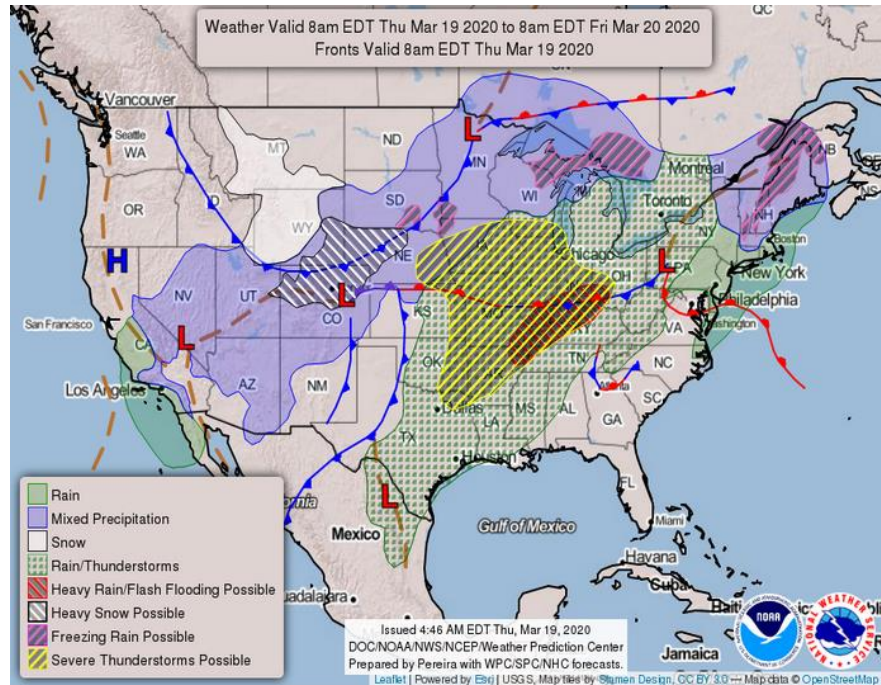# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation
Emergency Preparedness Update
for March 19, 2020

Potential for Severe Weather over Portions of Kentucky

NWS Louisville: There will be several waves of rains with embedded storms running from late this morning through the day Friday. Storms will initiate this morning along a warm front as it lifts north to the Ohio River by lunchtime. These storms are not expected to be severe. A lull should develop this afternoon before storms fire off again tonight. This wave has the best potential to become severe, with damaging winds and tornadoes as the main threats. At this time, the focus for these severe storms looks to be over our southern Indiana and north central Kentucky counties though anywhere in the slight or marginal risk area should be prepared for stronger storms, as the last couple of severe events have taught us.

Friday through Wednesday, rounds of scattered showers and some thunder will continue until a strong cold front moves through the region Friday afternoon and evening. Even outside of thunderstorms, winds could gust in the 30 to 40 mph range. With the afternoon rains, small hail could fall as well. FLASH FLOOD WATCH IN EFFECT FROM THIS EVENING THROUGH FRIDAY MORNING, primarily for southern Indiana and northcentral KY.

NWS Louisville Briefing slides: https://www.weather.gov/media/lmk/briefing/briefingslides.pdf

NWS Jackson: Thunderstorms are possible today and again late tonight. Some of these thunderstorms could produce locally heavy rain. Friday through Wednesday, thunderstorms are possible Friday and Friday evening. Some of these thunderstorms could produce locally heavy rain and strong wind gusts. Patchy to areas of frost are possible on Sunday morning. Weather Story graphics: https://www.weather.gov/jkl/weatherstory

NWS Paducah: Scattered showers and thunderstorms will bring locally heavy rainfall to the area later this morning. Additional rounds of heavy rain are expected later this afternoon, and especially tonight. A Flash Flood Watch has been issued, effective through tonight. Much of our area is under an enhanced outlook for severe weather. The best chance of this occurring will be from late this afternoon, through the overnight hours. Damaging winds, large hail, tornadoes, heavy rain, and lightning are all anticipated hazards with this thunderstorm event. South winds later this afternoon and evening may gust as high as 25 to 35 mph even outside of thunderstorms. Weather Story graphics: https://www.weather.gov/pah/weatherstory

NWS Wilmington: Some thunderstorms this evening and later tonight may become severe. The primary threat will be damaging wind although an isolated tornado cannot be ruled out. In addition, multiple rounds of rainfall this afternoon through tonight will bring the potential for flooding of area creeks and streams. Friday through Wednesday, additional showers and thunderstorms will be possible into the day on Friday. The threat for a few strong to severe storms and localized flooding will persist into Friday. Wind gusts of 35 to 40 mph are possible Friday.

Link to KY Watches, Warnings and Advisories: https://alerts.weather.gov/cap/ky.php?x=1

KDPH COVID-19 Website: KYCOVID19.ky.gov
KY COVID-19 Hotline (800) 722-5725

There's a viral coronavirus rumor about Trump issuing a national lockdown — it's fake
'There is no national lockdown,' the White House says

(The Verge) A rumor that President Trump is going to announce a mandatory two-week quarantine for the whole country is going viral, spreading primarily through text messages. "Please be advised. Within 48 to 72 hours the President will evoke what is called the Stafford Act," it reads. "Stock up on whatever you guys need to make sure you have a two week supply of everything. Please forward to your network."

The message, which is being forwarded through networks of families and friends, typically claims to be coming from someone highly connected to the White House. The person says they "just got out of a two hour briefing" or recently spoke to friends in DC. In other instances, the CIA is mentioned as a source.

The White House debunked the rumor in a tweet, saying "Text message rumors of a national #quarantine are FAKE. There is no national lockdown."

Link to the White House Tweet: https://twitter.com/WHNSC/status/1239398218292748292

Full story link: https://www.theverge.com/2020/3/16/21181506/coronavirus-rumor-viral-trump-stafford-act-national-quarantine-misinformation

FactCheck.org: https://www.factcheck.org/2020/03/false-claims-of-nationwide-lockdown-for-covid-19/

8-month-old in Jefferson County tests positive for COVID-19

(WDRB)   An 8-month-old in Jefferson County has tested positive for COVID-19, Gov. Andy Beshear said during his daily coronavirus update on Wednesday. Beshear said the infant is in "good condition" and is being treated at home, calling the case "very rare." He added that in general, the virus does not impact children like it does adults. https://www.wdrb.com/news/month-old-in-jefferson-county-tests-positive-for-covid-/article_08daef9c-694f-11ea-97e5-ffaac7cfdab1.html

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KY COVID Numbers as of 5 PM 3-18-20
Tested: 489; Positive 35

KY Governor's Press Release from March 18:
https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=96

CMS Recommendations on Elective Procedures
March 19 Link: https://www.cms.gov/files/document/31820-cms-adult-elective-surgery-and-procedures-recommendations.pdf

---------- ==*Most requested CDC links right now*== ----------

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators: Crisis/Alternate Strategies

CDC - March 17 revision date: These crisis capacity or alternate strategies accompany and build on the conventional and contingency capacity strategies. The following measures are *not* commensurate with current U.S. standards of care. However, individual measures or a combination of these measures may need to be considered during periods of expected or known N95 respirator shortages. It is important to consult with entities that include some combination of: local healthcare coalitions, federal, state, or local public health officials, appropriate state agencies that are managing the overall emergency response related to COVID-19, and state crisis standards of care committees. Even when state/local healthcare coalitions or public health authorities can shift resources between health care facilities, these strategies may still be necessary.
CDC Link: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/crisis-alternate-strategies.html

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

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New COVID-19 ICD-10-CM code coming early

(AHA - March 18) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will implement the new specific ICD-10-CM code for COVID-19, U07.1, April 1 rather than Oct. 1 as originally planned, the agency said today. The code is not retroactive, and more guidance on usage will be released later this week. AHA has been in close communication with CDC to move the implementation earlier, and this partially addresses AHA's March 16 request for the HHS Secretary to immediately implement unique codes for COVID-19 disease, exposure to COVID-19 and screening for the virus.

CDC looks at U.S. hospitalizations for COVID-19

(AHA - March 18) About 80% of deaths and 45% of hospitalizations for COVID-19 in the U.S. are among adults aged 65 or older, with the risk of serious illness and death increasing with age, according to a report released

today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The findings are similar to data from China, the agency said. While severe COVID-19 illness leading to hospitalization can occur at any age, children appear to have milder illness, with almost no hospitalizations for those under age 19, CDC said. According to the report, an estimated 21% to 31% of U.S. COVID-19 patients between Feb. 12 and March 16 were hospitalized, with 5% to 12% admitted to an intensive care unit. An estimated 1.8% to 3.4% of U.S. COVID-19 patients died over the period.

Kentucky hospital CEO: We have 6 ICU beds. Take this outbreak seriously

(Becker Hospital Review) Story features Twin Lakes Regional Medical Center:
https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/hospital-management-administration/kentucky-hospital-ceo-we-have-6-icu-beds-take-this-outbreak-seriously.html

Are rural Kentucky hospitals ready for a coronavirus outbreak? Experts say no.
[Includes an embedded video on UK's statement about elective cases.]
Herald-Leader: https://www.kentucky.com/news/coronavirus/article241311636.html#storylink=cpy

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Enforcement Discretion for telehealth remote communications
during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency

(HHS/HIPPA - March 18) The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is responsible for enforcing certain regulations issued under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), as amended by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, to protect the privacy and security of protected health information, namely the HIPAA Privacy, Security and Breach Notification Rules (the HIPAA Rules).

During the COVID-19 national emergency, which also constitutes a nationwide public health emergency, covered health care providers subject to the HIPAA Rules may seek to communicate with patients, and provide telehealth services, through remote communications technologies. Some of these technologies, and the manner in which they are used by HIPAA covered health care providers, may not fully comply with the requirements of the HIPAA Rules.

OCR will exercise its enforcement discretion and will not impose penalties for noncompliance with the regulatory requirements under the HIPAA Rules against covered health care providers in connection with the good faith provision of telehealth during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency. This notification is effective immediately.

A covered health care provider that wants to use audio or video communication technology to provide telehealth to patients during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency can use any non-public facing remote communication product that is available to communicate with patients. OCR is exercising its enforcement discretion to not impose penalties for noncompliance with the HIPAA Rules in connection with the good faith provision of telehealth using such non-public facing audio or video communication products during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency. This exercise of discretion applies to telehealth provided for any reason, regardless of whether the telehealth service is related to the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions related to COVID-19.

For example, a covered health care provider in the exercise of their professional judgement may request to examine a patient exhibiting COVID- 19 symptoms, using a video chat application connecting the provider's or patient's phone or desktop computer in order to assess a greater number of patients while limiting the risk of infection of other persons who would be exposed from an in-person consultation. Likewise, a covered health care provider may provide similar telehealth services in the exercise of their professional judgment to assess or treat any other medical condition, even if not related to COVID-19, such as a sprained ankle, dental consultation or psychological evaluation, or other conditions.

Under this Notice, covered health care providers may use popular applications that allow for video chats, including Apple **FaceTime**, **Facebook Messenger** video chat, **Google Hangouts** video, or **Skype**, to provide telehealth without risk that OCR might seek to impose a penalty for noncompliance with the HIPAA Rules related to the good faith provision of telehealth during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency. Providers are encouraged to notify patients that these third-party applications potentially introduce privacy risks, and providers should enable all available encryption and privacy modes when using such applications.

Under this Notice, however, ***Facebook Live, Twitch, TikTok, and similar video communication applications are public facing, and should not be used in the provision of telehealth by covered health care providers.***

Read the FULL statement: https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/emergency-preparedness/notification-enforcement-discretion-telehealth/index.html

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[WHO to launch multinational trial to jumpstart search for coronavirus drugs](#) (STAT) The World Health Organization said Wednesday that it would launch a multiarm, multicountry clinical trial for potential coronavirus therapies, part of an aggressive effort to jumpstart the global search for drugs to treat Covid-19.

[Pence announces regulation on doctors practicing across state lines](#) (CNN) Vice President Mike Pence announced Wednesday that the Department of Health and Human Services is issuing a regulation to permit doctors to practice across state lines.

[Estimating clinical severity of COVID-19 from the transmission dynamics in Wuhan, China](#) (*Nature Medicine*) As of 29 February 2020 there were 79,394 confirmed cases and 2,838 deaths from COVID-19 in mainland China. Of these, 48,557 cases and 2,169 deaths occurred in the epicenter, Wuhan. A key public health priority during the emergence of a novel pathogen is estimating clinical severity, which requires properly adjusting for the case ascertainment rate and the delay between symptoms onset and death.

[A Trial of Lopinavir–Ritonavir in Adults Hospitalized with Severe Covid-19](#) (*New England Journal of Medicine*) No therapeutics have yet been proven effective for the treatment of severe illness caused by SARS-CoV-2.

US Air Force Flew Half a Million Coronavirus Test Swabs From Italy to Memphis

(Defense One) The U.S. Air Force quietly flew 500,000 swabs for COVID-19 testing kits from Italy to Memphis, Tennessee, on Monday, Defense One has learned. Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman confirmed the shipment on board an Air National Guard aircraft. The plane carried "swabs" that are used in the COVID-19 testing process, he said during a Wednesday afternoon briefing at the Pentagon.

The mission was flown by a C-17 cargo plane using the call "Reach 911," which landed early Tuesday morning at Memphis International Airport, a major FedEx hub. Shipping the kits to Memphis allows them to be quickly transferred to commercial aircraft and distributed around the country, according to people familiar with the mission.

Full story: https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2020/03/us-air-force-flew-half-million-coronavirus-test-kits-italy-tennessee/163879/

Nurse shot at Kentucky hospital after patient fights with security officers

(Courier-Journal) A patient at The Medical Center in Bowling Green was arrested early Thursday after he allegedly shot a nurse in the leg at the Kentucky hospital following an altercation with security officers, according to police.

The incident began about 11:30 p.m. Wednesday after the patient, Jeffrey W. Fields, 42, stripped off his gown and attached medical equipment while in the hospital's emergency room and threatened security officers with a stool he was holding, according to an arrest citation.

As security personnel at the medical center, 250 Park St., tried to restrain Fields and push him into a wall, Fields went down to the floor, where the officers tried to grab his hands and feet, the citation stated.

Full story: https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/crime/2020/03/19/nurse-shot-bowling-green-kentucky-hospital-after-patient-fights-security/2873134001/