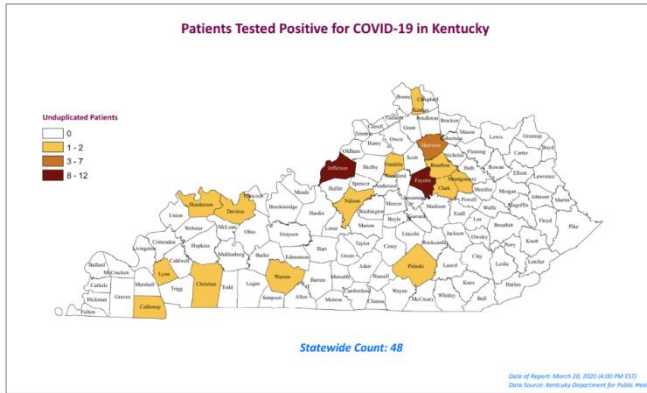




# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 20, 2020

## Gov. Beshear Takes Additional Steps to Protect, Assist Kentuckians during COVID-19

- Governor asks superintendents to keep schools closed through at least April 20
- Delays tax filing deadline to July 15
- Asked people to follow orders not to gather in public



- Follow social distancing by staying at least six feet apart from others.

- As of 5 p.m. March 20, the state's COVID-19 patient information includes 63 who have tested positive. [Click here](#) for the list with details.

- Governor thanked Kentucky's bourbon distillers, who are working with the state to produce and distribute hand sanitizer.

- Issued interim guidance for establishing partnerships between approved health care facilities and limited-duration **child care** programs to support child care for employees of health care entities, first responders (Law Enforcement, EMS, Fire

Departments), corrections officers and Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) workers. The guidance is online at [chfs.ky.gov](http://chfs.ky.gov).

Read full Press Release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=99>

Read info on KY Unemployment Process: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=98>

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### Illinois governor announces shelter in place order

(The Hill) Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) on Friday afternoon announced that the state will issue a "shelter in place" order starting this weekend and running through April 7. The order takes effect Saturday at 5 p.m. and will require all 12.7 million residents to stay home with few exceptions as state officials seek to combat the spreading coronavirus. Illinois joins New York and California in issuing statewide orders for residents to stay home.

Residents in Illinois will be able to go to grocery stores, gas stations and pharmacies, and they will also be able to take walks, the governor said. Officials said that local roads, the interstate highways and tollways will stay open to traffic.

State officials reported 163 new cases of the virus on Friday, bringing the total since the start of the outbreak to 585. Pritzker also announced another coronavirus-related death in the Chicago area.

Full story: <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/488669-illinois-to-issue-shelter-in-place-order-report>

### Related - New Jersey may be next to "shelter in place" as cases climb towards 900:

[https://www.newjerseyhills.com/bernardsville\\_news/news/shelter-in-place-possible-as-state-covid--cases-near/article\\_fe8fc919-bec6-550c-b964-175feedc78b2.html](https://www.newjerseyhills.com/bernardsville_news/news/shelter-in-place-possible-as-state-covid--cases-near/article_fe8fc919-bec6-550c-b964-175feedc78b2.html)

### Related - Trump on a nationwide lockdown: 'I don't think we'll ever find that necessary'

Politico story: <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/03/20/trump-coronavirus-nationwide-lockdown-139330>

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### What's News with FDA?

#### FDA - FAQs on Diagnostic Testing for SARS-CoV-2

(FDA - March 20) This is a new posting that talked about labs, how to get a hospital lab that is CLIA certified cleared, the EUA process, and the shortage of testing materials. Here are some of the recent updates they are dealing with in this posting:

- [Q: I am having trouble obtaining viral transport media/universal transport media \(VTM/UTM\) and a flocced nasopharyngeal swab to collect and transport patient samples. Are there alternatives that I can use?](#)
- [Q: What tests for COVID-19 have received Emergency Use Authorization?](#)

- [Q: What laboratories are offering testing under the policy outlined in Section IV. A of the \*Policy for Diagnostic Tests for Coronavirus Disease-2019?\*](#)
- [Q: What States or territories have chosen to authorize laboratories with that State or territory to develop and perform a test for COVID-19 under the policy outlined in Section IV.B of the \*Policy for Diagnostic Tests for Coronavirus Disease-2019?\*](#)
- [Q: What commercial manufacturers are distributing test kits under the policy outlined in Section IV.C of the \*Policy for Diagnostic Tests for Coronavirus Disease-2019?\*](#)
- [Q: What serology tests are being offered under the policy outlined in Section IV.D of the \*Policy for Diagnostic Tests for Coronavirus Disease-2019?\*](#)

Link to the full FDA article: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/faqs-diagnostic-testing-sars-cov-2>

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**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update:**

**FDA allows expanded use of devices to monitor patients' vital signs remotely**

(FDA - March 20) As part of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's ongoing efforts to address the coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19), the agency [issued a new policy](#) that allows manufacturers of certain FDA-cleared non-invasive, vital sign-measuring devices to expand their use so that health care providers can use them to monitor patients remotely. The devices include those that measure body temperature, respiratory rate, heart rate and blood pressure.

Link: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-allows-expanded-use-devices-monitor-patients-vital-signs-remotely>

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**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update:**

**FDA provides guidance on production of alcohol-based hand sanitizer to help boost supply, protect public health**

(FDA - March 20) As part of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's ongoing commitment to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the agency has issued two guidance documents to communicate its policy for the temporary manufacture of certain alcohol-based hand sanitizer products. These guidance documents will be in effect for the duration of the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) on January 31, 2020.

The guidance [Temporary Policy for Preparation of Certain Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products During the Public Health Emergency \(COVID-19\)](#), is immediately in effect and outlines that the agency does not intend to take action against manufacturing firms that prepare alcohol-based hand sanitizers for consumer use and for use as health care personnel hand rubs during this ongoing public health emergency as described in the guidance .

The second guidance, [Policy for Temporary Compounding of Certain Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products During the Public Health Emergency](#), is in effect for the temporary compounding of certain alcohol-based hand sanitizers by pharmacists in state-licensed pharmacies or federal facilities and registered outsourcing facilities. Compounding is generally a practice in which a licensed pharmacist, a licensed physician, or, in the case of an outsourcing facility, a person under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist, combines, mixes, or alters ingredients of a drug to create a tailor-made medication. The temporary policy outlined by the agency does not require compounders to obtain a patient-specific prescription.

Link to full statement: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-provides-guidance-production-alcohol-based-hand-sanitizer-help-boost>

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**COVID-19: Telehealth and Non-Essential Procedures**

- [CMS Releases Telehealth Toolkits for General Practitioners and End-Stage Renal Disease \(ESRD\) Providers](#)
- [Medicare FFS Response to the Public Health Emergency on the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) — Revised](#)
- [COVID-19 Elective Surgeries and Non-Essential Procedures Recommendations](#)
- **CMS Releases Telehealth Toolkits for General Practitioners and End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Providers**
  - Telehealth Toolkit for General Practitioners here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/general-telemedicine-toolkit.pdf>
  - You can find the End-Stage Renal Disease Providers Toolkit here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/esrd-provider-telehealth-telemedicine-toolkit.pdf>

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**Repeated based on multiple requests - CMS announces that all *elective surgeries, non-essential medical, surgical, and dental procedures* be delayed during the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:**

- You can find a copy of the press release here: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-releases-recommendations-adult-elective-surgeries-non-essential-medical-surgical-and-dental>
- You can find a copy of the guidance here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/31820-cms-adult-elective-surgery-and-procedures-recommendations.pdf>

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**CDC reports 15,268 coronavirus cases, 201 deaths**

(Reuters) The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Friday reported 15,268 cases of coronavirus, an increase of 4,777 cases from its previous count, and said the death toll had risen by 51 to 201.

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**Hospitals scramble to keep up with CDC N95, mask guidance**

(CIDRAP) Yesterday the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated](#), for the second time in a week, guidance for healthcare workers on using face masks, including N95 respirators and surgical masks, while treating possible COVID-19 patients in conventional, contingency, and crisis settings.

To the surprise of many, the guidance recommended that nurses, doctors, and staff fashion homemade masks out of scarves and bandanas if there is a shortage of face masks in clinics and hospitals.

**Experts say conserving is key** - Many experts and hospital officials now say N95 respirators, the most protective available face covering for healthcare workers, should now only be used in an aerosolizing event, such as intubation of a COVID-19 patient. For routine patient care they recommend eyewear, gloves, gowns, surgical masks, and face shields—if available.

Full story: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/03/hospitals-scramble-keep-cdc-n95-mask-guidance>

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**U.S. may convert thousands of New York hotel, college rooms into care units**

(Reuters) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is looking at converting more than 10,000 New York rooms, potentially in hotels and college dorms, into medical care units to help address the fast-spreading coronavirus, the commanding general of the Army Corps said on Friday.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-army-new-york/u-s-may-convert-thousands-of-new-york-hotel-college-rooms-into-care-units-idUSKBN2173J4>

**Related: NYC Safety net hospitals a 'disaster' as coronavirus patients begin to flood in**

Full story: <https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/city-hall/story/2020/03/20/safety-net-hospitals-a-disaster-as-coronavirus-patients-begin-to-flood-in-1268457>

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**Funeral Homes Change Their Practices In Responses to Coronavirus**

Washington state officials this week banned funerals and memorial services until the end of the month, with that moratorium likely to be extended indefinitely. Burials are now "delivery only," meaning that only mortuary workers are allowed at the grave site. In many states, officials have mandated how many people can gather in one space at a time. Some funeral directors ask mourners to stand six feet apart and implore priests and other clergy to be brief.

Full NPR story: <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/20/819356845/funeral-homes-change-their-practices-in-reponse-to-coronavirus>

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**Do You Get Immunity After Recovering From A Case Of Coronavirus?**

NPR Story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/03/20/819038431/do-you-get-immunity-after-recovering-from-a-case-of-coronavirus>

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.