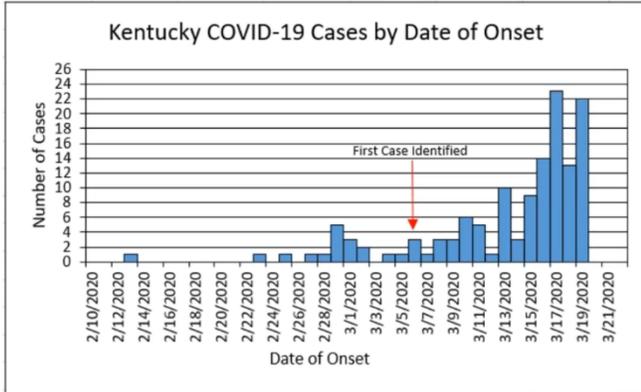




Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 26, 2020

KY COVID-19 Cases climb to 198; 3300 tested

(Governor's Office) Gov. Andy Beshear on Wednesday tightened restrictions on businesses and banned residential evictions under a state of emergency declaration aimed at addressing the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic. The Governor offered details about the [new executive order](#) as he warned against complacency in Kentucky's fight against the COVID-19 outbreak. Effective on Thursday at 8 p.m., all non-life-sustaining businesses are being told to cease all in-person services.



Gov. Beshear said Kentucky has its first case of someone going on spring break and testing positive for COVID-19 after returning. The Governor and Dr. Stack told those who went on spring break around gatherings of other people that they should self-isolate when they return so they do not spread COVID-19. With the number of positive cases rising quickly across both the country and the commonwealth as more testing capabilities come online, Gov. Beshear is urging everyone to stand firm against any rollbacks or lessening of defenses.

As of 5 p.m. March 25, the Governor said that there are at least 198 confirmed positive cases with 35 of

those being new. We are one of only a few states that have been able to give a report of fewer cases than the day before. The Governor also said a 75-year-old male from Jefferson County has passed away related to the virus. There are now five deaths attributed to the virus.

Drive-through testing: "Beginning next week we will have the first drive-through facility for the coronavirus in the commonwealth. It will start hopefully on Monday with a single location that will be for very specific individuals that are showing symptoms," said Gov. Beshear. "This is a proof of concept. Provided the proof of concept works we may be able to expand it further from there."

Law Enforcement and National Guard Presence at hospitals: The Governor said Kentuckians would begin to see National Guard and additional law enforcement at local hospitals beginning this week. "This isn't something to be concerned about. No one is patrolling your neighborhood. We are just making sure everyone inside our hospitals is safe as we see a surge in coronavirus cases."

The Governor stated that more details on the drive-through facility would be out Thursday. "Understand at the beginning, resources are still going to be limited. Even though we will see significantly more tests than we've seen on a large scale, we will still need to use those resources to go to those most in danger and those who are the most sick."

The state entered new orders to allow for more telehealth than ever in Kentucky, the Governor said. "We can do so much through virtual means and connect with health care providers and we are making it easier for everyone," said Acting Secretary Eric Friedlander of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. "We have cleared all the obstacles for providers so they can provide telehealth and virtual in-home services to more Kentuckians to keep everyone safe."

Full Press Release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=104>

[Note: The slides above were from a briefing today by Dr. Doug Thoroughman to clinicians.]

KDPH Testing Priorities

- COVID-19 testing is becoming widely available in clinical laboratories
 - We estimate around 11,000 tests have now been performed in Kentucky
- Testing priorities for KDPH will focus on testing based on public health significance:
 - Patients with COVID-19 symptoms (fever, lower respiratory illness) working in critical settings with vulnerable populations or where spread might be extensive – for example:
 - Healthcare workers
 - Those working in congregate settings like jails, long-term care facilities, or schools
 - Those with a critical illness for which all other pathogens have been ruled out
 - Unusual clinical course
 - Clear exposure reported (e.g., confirmed COVID-19 case or travel to countries with sustained community spread)
 - Those not ill enough to be hospitalized can be referred for commercial lab testing
 - KDPH does not recommend testing of asymptomatic patients
 - Results do not offer accurate findings - patient could be infected but not viremic at the time of testing.

Gov. Beshear Floats Idea of Turning Hotels into Temporary Hospitals for COVID-19 Response (*Courier Journal*) - Governor Andy Beshear said Kentucky is making plans to convert hotels into hospitals to provide additional beds, if the spread of the deadly coronavirus warrants it.

Story link: <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/2020/03/23/coronavirus-kentucky-hotels-could-convert-hospitals-if-needed/2903648001/>

SNS Reception and Distribution to Regional Public Health Districts

The second shipment of the SNS arrived in Frankfort. The SNS is being broken down in to county allocations and will be shipped to the regional public health distribution sites tentatively scheduled for March 26 and 27. SNS PPE priorities are first responders and medical staff. (Source: KyEM SEOC Sit Rep 16)

**KY Website: [KYCOVID19.ky.gov](https://www.ky.gov/covid19)
KY COVID-19 Hotline (800) 722-5725**

CDC: What's New on COVID-19? - *A lot!*

- [Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) Wednesday, March 25, 2020
- [Resources for Hospitals and Healthcare Professionals Preparing for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19](#) Wednesday, March 25, 2020
- [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Burn Rate Calculator](#) Wednesday, March 25, 2020 *[See below.]*
- [Travelers Returning from Cruise Ship and River Cruise Voyages](#) Wednesday, March 25, 2020
- [Interim Guidance for Collection and Submission of Postmortem Specimens from Deceased Persons Under Investigation \(PUI\) for COVID-19](#) Wednesday, March 25, 2020
- [Interim guidance for homeless service providers to plan and respond to coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) Wednesday, March 25, 2020
- [Cases in U.S.](#) Wednesday, March 25, 2020
- [Testing in the U.S.](#) Wednesday, March 25, 2020
- [What To Do if You Are Sick](#) Wednesday, March 25, 2020
- [Print Resources](#) Wednesday, March 25, 2020
- [Travelers from Countries with Widespread Sustained \(Ongoing\) Transmission Arriving in the United States](#) Wednesday, March 25, 2020
- [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#) Wednesday, March 25, 2020
- [Global case numbers are reported by the World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) Wednesday, March 25, 2020
- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel \(New Travel Alerts\)](#) Wednesday, March 25, 2020
- [Retirement Communities and Independent Living Facilities](#) Tuesday, March 24, 2020
- [Interim Guidance for Outpatient Hemodialysis Facilities](#) Tuesday, March 24, 2020
- [Evaluating and Reporting Persons Under Investigation \(PUI\)](#) Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/whats-new-all.html>

CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator

(CDC) This is spreadsheet-based model that provides information for healthcare facilities to plan and optimize the use of PPE for response to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Similarly, non-healthcare facilities (e.g., correctional facilities) may find this tool useful for planning and optimizing PPE use as part of the response to COVID-19. This tool can also be used for planning PPE use outside the context of COVID-19, where PPE shortages may also occur due to supply chain issues related to the COVID-19 response (e.g. manufacturing facilities). Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/burn-calculator.html>

Reopening Shuttered Hospitals to Expand Surge Capacity

(CIDRAP) Shuttered hospitals possess the structural attributes that may allow them to provide better care, as opposed to other proposed alternate care sites within a community. This lengthy guidance describes the rationale and strategies for re-opening shuttered hospitals to enhance medical surge capacity in a community. These materials describe the authors' experiences in re-opening a hospital in Boston and offer an extensive toolkit to address the issues others may encounter, such as physical and structural condition of the hospital, legal issues, and other logistical concerns. The documents provide clear guidelines on the myriad issues to consider when re-opening a closed hospital, and this excellent resource would be useful for any jurisdiction containing a shuttered hospital.

Link: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/practice/reopening-shuttered-hospitals-expand-surge-capacity-national>

- [Report - Download](#) pdf, 2 MB

- [Surge Toolkit and Facility Checklist - Download](#) pdf, 525 KB
- [Report - Surge Toolkit and Facility Checklist](#)

Hospitals consider universal do-not-resuscitate orders for coronavirus patients

(Washington Post) Hospitals on the front lines of the pandemic are engaged in a heated private debate over a calculation few have encountered in their lifetimes — how to weigh the “save at all costs” approach to resuscitating a dying patient against the real danger of exposing doctors and nurses to the contagion of [coronavirus](#).

The conversations are driven by the realization that the risk to staff amid dwindling stores of protective equipment — such as masks, gowns and gloves — may be too great to justify the conventional response when a patient “codes,” and their heart or breathing stops.

Code blue: Health-care providers are bound by oath — and in some states, by law — to do everything they can within the bounds of modern technology to save a patient’s life, absent an order, such as a DNR, to do otherwise. But as cases mount amid a national shortage of personal protective equipment, or PPE, hospitals are beginning to implement emergency measures that will either minimize, modify or completely stop the use of certain procedures on patients with covid-19.

Some of the most anxiety-provoking minutes in a health-care worker’s day involve participating in procedures that send virus-laced droplets from a patient’s airways all over the room.

Full Washington Post story: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/03/25/coronavirus-patients-do-not-resuscitate/>

Related story from Fox News: <https://www.foxnews.com/health/hospitals-weigh-blanket-dnr-orders-amid-coronavirus-protective-equipment-shortages>

Horror Stories Out of NYC Hospital Where 13 Died in a Day

(Newser) New York City’s Elmhurst Hospital Center is transitioning non-coronavirus patients to other hospitals as it becomes entirely focused on the COVID-19 pandemic—and the stories coming out of the Queens hospital are horrific. "It's apocalyptic," says a resident who performed chest compressions on three patients Tuesday, all of whom died. In fact, the hospital announced Wednesday that over the previous 24 hours, 13 patients had died from complications related to the virus. Doctors are struggling with just a few dozen ventilators on hand, the [New York Times](#) reports.

Read more: <https://www.newser.com/story/288687/horror-stories-out-of-nyc-hospital-where-13-died-in-a-day.html>

FBI: Extremists Are Trying to Infect 2 Groups with Virus

Alert says white supremacists, neo-Nazis are being encouraged to target Jews, cops

(Newser) While the world is hunkered down amid the [coronavirus pandemic](#), the Jewish community and cops have an extra concern piled on: extremist groups out to do them harm by "trying to weaponize" the virus, as [Rolling Stone](#) puts it. Per an intelligence alert sent Thursday from the FBI's New York office to local police agencies, members of white supremacist, neo-Nazi, and other racist groups are being encouraged, if they themselves become infected with the virus, to spread it to Jews and police officers via "bodily fluids and personal interactions," specifically with the use of spray bottles, [ABC News](#) reports. The alert notes these extremists are being told to try to hasten this spread by going after cops on the streets, as well as members of the Jewish community in "any place they may be congregated, to include markets, political offices, businesses, and places of worship."

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/288523/new-worry-for-jews-cops-being-targeted-with-the-virus.html>

CDC Finds Clue to Rapid Spread of Virus on Ships

Read more: <https://www.newser.com/story/288584/cdc-finds-clue-to-rapid-spread-of-virus-on-ships.html>

Entire NJ Nursing Home 'Has Coronavirus' - Goes into crisis mode

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s288672>

Joint Commission Coronavirus Resources

Link: <https://www.jointcommission.org/covid-19>

Extracts:

Granting Privileges during a Disaster

- [FAQ - General](#)
- [FAQ - Telehealth](#)

Recommendations on Hospital Surge Capacity

- [5 key steps for finding extra hospital capacity](#)

FDA Information

- Emergency Use Authorizations - Added Imported, Non-NIOSH-Approved Disposable Filtering Facepiece Respirators and PerkinElmer New Coronavirus Nucleic Acid Detection Kit
<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/emergency-use-authorizations>
- [FAQs on Diagnostic Testing for SARS-CoV-2 \(Updated\)](#)

From AHA Today for [March 25th](#)

HHS urged to clarify EMTALA, HIPAA waivers. The AHA [urged](#) the Department of Health and Human Services to clarify the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act waivers issued under the public health and national emergency declarations. AHA asked Secretary Alex Azar to clarify that the EMTALA waiver creates protections that every hospital can automatically rely on for the duration of the emergency; that no further action is needed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to create the protections; and that hospitals do not have to make individual requests or seek permissions from the agency. AHA also urged the HHS' Office for Civil Rights to confirm that the waiver protection extends through the duration of this declared public health emergency, a public health emergency that involves a pandemic infectious disease.

DOL answers common COVID-19 workforce questions. The Department of Labor has [released information](#) on common issues employers and employees face when responding to COVID-19, and its effects on wages and hours worked under the Fair Labor Standards Act, job-protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act, and paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. The new law allows employers of health care providers or emergency responders to elect to exclude such employees from eligibility for the leave provided under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

CMS grants more Section 1135 waivers; total up to 23 states nationwide. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [says](#) it has granted Section 1135 Medicaid waivers to an additional seven states. Nationwide, 23 states have been provided this accommodation, which generally provides relief from prior authorization and provider enrollment requirements, allows the suspension of certain nursing home pre-admission reviews and helps facilitate reimbursement to providers for care delivered in alternative settings due to facility evacuations.

US DHS Statement on REAL ID Enforcement Deadline

"Due to circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the national [emergency declaration](#), the Department of Homeland Security, as directed by President Donald J. Trump, is [extending the REAL ID enforcement deadline beyond the current October 1, 2020 deadline](#). I have determined that states require a twelve-month delay and that [the new deadline for REAL ID enforcement is October 1, 2021](#). DHS will publish a notice of the new deadline in the Federal Register in the coming days.

"The federal, state and local response to the spread of the Coronavirus here in the United States necessitates a delay in this deadline. Our state and local partners are working tirelessly with the Administration to flatten the curve and, therefore, we want to remove any impediments to response and recovery efforts. States across the country are temporarily closing or restricting access to DMVs. This action will preclude millions of people from applying for and receiving their REAL ID. Extending the deadline will also allow the Department to work with Congress to implement needed changes to expedite the issuance of REAL IDs once the current health crisis concludes.

"Protecting both the health and national security of the American people continues to be the top priority for the President of the United States and the Department of Homeland Security."

Link to statement: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHS/bulletins/28351c3>

Domestic Preparedness Journal for March, 2020

[Complimentary Download](#)

From the "What could possibly go wrong?" playbook:

Toilet Licking Coronavirus Challenge Doesn't End Well

After you stop laughing... <https://www.newser.com/story/288690/guy-who-participated-in-toilet-licking-challenge-gets-virus.html>

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.