



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 26, 2020 - UPDATE 1

**Kentucky COVID-19 Update: 248 cases, including 50 new patients**  
*4016 Tested as of 5 PM EDT today*


In his Thursday briefing, Gov. Beshear reports 248 confirmed coronavirus cases, including [50 new patients](#) - the largest single-day increase. The total includes the state's first nursing-home case. The governor says details on drive-through testing are not yet available. He says the state has spent at least \$8 million acquiring PPEs and other supplies.

Gov. Beshear said that when the state rolls out drive-through testing it will still be for those who need it the most. The Governor said the state had a better week than last week securing personal protective gear and that the state has spent more than \$8 million. A new [website portal](#) is streamlining the process, connecting interested businesses with supplies and services for Kentuckians in need.

Beginning at 8 p.m. Thursday, all non-life-sustaining businesses must close to in-person services. Exempted businesses include grocery stores, gas stations, hardware stores and media outlets, among many others. The sale of firearms and ammunition also is exempted.

**Reporting hotline:** Gov. Beshear announced the COVID-19 Reporting Hotline (833-597-2337) that will investigate complaints about non-compliance with coronavirus mandates. Labor Cabinet personnel will monitor the hotline from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET. A new website where Kentuckians can visit to make online complaints is [kysafer.ky.gov](http://kysafer.ky.gov).

Link to the full Press Release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=105>



## COVID-19 HEALTH TIPS

# When To Seek Care

To ensure the sickest people receive care, help minimize the spread of infection and maintain resources, please follow the guidelines below when considering whether to seek medical care.

**Stay home**

If you are worried-well, **please stay home or call the Kentucky State Hotline (1-800-722-5725)**.

Going to a hospital or doctor's office adds to a higher concentration of people and further overwhelms medical staff.

**Call for advice**


If you are ill, **but would not have sought care** if not for COVID-19, **do not seek in-person care** at an ER, hospital or doctor's office.

Instead please **call your local healthcare provider or local health department**.


**Seek care**

If you are **sick and feel you have an emergency**, please call your doctor or **seek medical care**.

**Hospitals and medical staff across the commonwealth stand ready to serve you.**



Please visit [kycovid19.ky.gov](http://kycovid19.ky.gov) for the latest updates on COVID-19 in Kentucky or call the Kentucky state hotline at **1-800-722-5725**



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

### **Attorney General warns Kentuckians of new charity, Medicaid scams related to COVID-19 pandemic**

(N KY Tribune) Attorney General Daniel Cameron has warned Kentuckians of new charity and Medicaid scams related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and shared best practices to avoid the financial loss associated with these scams. To profit from the generosity of Kentuckians, scammers may impersonate charities by requesting funds or gift cards to assist victims of the COVID-19 pandemic, including families, small businesses, and COVID-19 patients.

Suspected charity scams related to COVID-19 can be reported to the Attorney General's online scam reporting form or by calling the Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-888-432-9257.

Full story: <https://www.nkytribune.com/2020/03/attorney-general-warns-kentuckians-of-new-charity-medicaid-scams-related-to-covid-19-pandemic/>

-----  
**US COVID-19 cases surge past 82,000, highest total in world**

(CIDRAP) Confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, [reached 82,404 today](#) in the United States, giving it the most cases in the world.

And yesterday was the most active day so far in the country, with 14,042 new cases reported, and the national death toll reaching 1,069 fatalities.

The numbers came on day 10 of the White House's "15 days to slow the spread campaign," a nationwide effort at social distancing measures that has been implemented in a patchwork fashion across the 50 states. As of yesterday, [21 states had shelter-in-place](#) or stay-at-home mandates that asked the non-essential workforce to remain at home for 14 to 30 days in an effort to slow the spread of the pandemic.

Full story: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/03/us-covid-19-cases-surge-past-82000-highest-total-world>

-----  
**US Navy rushing to test all 5,000 sailors on deployed aircraft carrier hit by serious coronavirus outbreak**

Read story: <https://www.businessinsider.com/us-navy-to-test-entire-aircraft-carrier-crew-for-coronavirus-2020-3>

-----  
**[COVID-19 among troops jumped almost 60 percent this week, as their rate surpasses the U.S. at large](#)**

(*Military Times*) There are 227 cases of coronavirus among active duty service members, according to Defense Department data as of Wednesday morning, up from 133 on Monday. The number of recoveries has also risen, the data shows, with 19 troops returned to duty total, 15, since Monday.

-----  
**Army Asks Retired Soldiers in Health Care Fields to Come Back for COVID-19 Fight**

(Military.com) The [Army](#) has a message for its retirees: Uncle Sam wants you to help fight the novel [coronavirus](#). A message sent by Defense Finance and Accounting Services, which processes and dispenses retiree [pay](#), asked troops who had previously served in specific health care specialties to consider "re-joining the team" to address the current pandemic crisis.

The Army, it states, is gauging the interest of retired officers, noncommissioned officers and more junior enlisted soldiers in assisting service efforts to treat the sometimes-deadly disease. The message does not specify whether retired troops would be returned to active status or serve in some other capacity.

Read full story: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/03/25/army-asks-retired-soldiers-health-care-fields-come-back-covid-19-fight.html>

**Related:** [Massive Relief Bill Would Triple Military Hospital Beds, Fund Guard Deployments](#)

-----  
**Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - (Updated March 25)**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>

----- **CDC What's New in COVID-19** -----

- [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#) Thursday, March 26, 2020
- [Alternative Care Sites](#) Wednesday, March 25, 2020
- [Interim Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#) Thursday, March 26, 2020
- [Testing in the U.S.](#) Thursday, March 26, 2020
- [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#) Thursday, March 26, 2020
- [Global case numbers are reported by the World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) Thursday, March 26, 2020
- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel \(New Travel Alerts\)](#) Thursday, March 26, 2020

-----  
**Underlying Medical Conditions and People at Higher Risk for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2020 (*\*rescheduled from Tuesday, March 24*)

**Time:** 2:00pm–3:00pm (ET)

**Please click the link below to join the webinar:** <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1613416798>

**Or iPhone one-tap:** US: +16692545252,,1613416798# or +16468287666,,1613416798#

**Or Telephone:** US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666

-----  
**HHS asks governors to extend capacity of health care workforce to address pandemic**

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar yesterday [asked](#) the nation's governors to **immediately allow health professionals licensed or certified in other states to practice in their state in person or through telemedicine**. In addition, he asked states to:

- Waive certain statutory and regulatory standards "not necessary for the applicable standards of care to establish a patient-provider relationship, diagnose, and deliver treatment recommendations" using telehealth technologies;
- Relax scope of practice requirements for health professionals, including allowing them to practice in all care settings;
- Allow physicians to supervise a greater number of other health care professionals and to do so using remote or telephonic means;
- Allow for rapid certification/licensure and recertification/relicensure of certain health care professionals;
- Develop a list of their state liability protections for in-state and out-of-state health professionals during this national emergency and modify, rescind or waive any medical malpractice policies that may prevent coverage of health professionals responding to the COVID-19 emergency in another state;
- Modify laws or regulations as appropriate to allow medical students to triage, diagnose and treat patients under the supervision of licensed medical staff; and
- Allow pharmaceutical deliveries without signature to prevent delivery person contact with recipients.

--- From *AHA Today* from March 26, 2020 ---

**CDC updates COVID-19 testing and preparedness guidelines.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention yesterday updated its COVID-19 [testing priority guidance](#), which gives first priority to testing hospitalized patients and symptomatic health care workers. The agency also updated its [interim guidelines for collecting, handling and testing COVID-19 clinical specimens](#) to allow for self- or health care worker-collected nasal or nasal turbinate swabs if nasopharyngeal swab is not possible. In addition, CDC updated its [checklists and resources](#) for hospital and health care professionals preparing for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Check the [CDC webpage](#) frequently for the latest CDC guidance on the COVID-19 emergency.

**PPE, other COVID-19 resources subject to HHS hoarding restrictions.** The Department of Health and Human Services yesterday [designated certain health and medical resources](#) needed to respond to the spread of COVID-19 subject to hoarding restrictions under the Defense Production Act and a March 23 [executive order](#). The designation includes N95 and certain other respirators, ventilators, personal protective equipment, drug products, medical device sterilization services and disinfecting devices.

**FDA issues EUA for ventilator use.** The Food and Drug Administration yesterday issued an [Emergency Use Authorization](#) to ease ventilator supply shortages. Effective throughout the COVID-19 emergency, the EUA authorizes use of certain alternative ventilator devices, tubing connectors and accessories in health care settings to treat patients during the pandemic.

**FDA issues guidance on producing hand-sanitizer alcohol.** To increase the supply of hand sanitizers, FDA issued [guidance for manufacturers](#) that would like to produce alcohol (i.e., ethanol or ethyl alcohol) for use in alcohol-based hand sanitizers for consumers and health care personnel. The policy applies to "entities that are not currently regulated by FDA as drug manufacturers." It does not extend to other types of active ingredients used into alcohol-based hand sanitizers, such as isopropyl alcohol. FDA last week [said](#) it does not intend to take action against compounders that prepare alcohol-based hand sanitizers for consumer use for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, provided that certain production guidelines are met.

**AccuWeather offers free weather warning service to hospitals with temporary structures.** AccuWeather is offering its weather warning notification service complimentary to all hospitals and public health agencies that have erected temporary structures for COVID-19 testing and triage. The service includes site-specific warnings with start and end times for specific weather risks to assist with decisions regarding evacuations and other weather-related health and safety actions. For more information or to sign up for the service, [click here](#).

Web version of full *AHA Today*:

[https://contentsharing.net/actions/email\\_web\\_version.cfm?ep=of2YMpb1kTxxJARVawQFgpxqdNG0YwGguUR0tUeGiPaFn-tmg8krdrdusL\\_rq1eofIP4rpoHwABd5Ar0csU\\_jnKhW3GuT9Pk4qA4b3xTbhysN2dX3QCX0PWOJ-Vh-qX](https://contentsharing.net/actions/email_web_version.cfm?ep=of2YMpb1kTxxJARVawQFgpxqdNG0YwGguUR0tUeGiPaFn-tmg8krdrdusL_rq1eofIP4rpoHwABd5Ar0csU_jnKhW3GuT9Pk4qA4b3xTbhysN2dX3QCX0PWOJ-Vh-qX)

## **Suspected Domestic Terrorist Plotted to Detonate Vehicle-borne IED at MO Hospital**

(US DHS TRIP *wire*, March 26) On 24 March 2020, the FBI executed a sting operation against a 36-year-old male at the conclusion of a months-long domestic terrorism investigation. The suspect arrived at the scene to acquire an explosive device for a vehicle-borne IED (VBIED) he intended to detonate at a Belton hospital that was providing critical care during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The device brought to the sting by agents was inert. When FBI agents attempted to make the arrest, the suspect, who was armed, was shot and later died at a local hospital. According to the FBI, the suspect was a potentially violent extremist motivated by racial, religious, and anti-government animus, but at this time, there is no publicly available information linking him to extremist groups.

The suspect spent months actively planning to commit an act of domestic terrorism with an explosive device that would cause mass casualties, and he took steps to acquire materials to construct a VBIED. The suspect originally considered targeting a mosque, synagogue, or school with mostly African-American students. Due to the ongoing healthcare crisis from COVID-19 and his frustration with the Government's lockdown measures to stop the spread of the disease, the suspect chose to accelerate his plans and target a hospital instead of one of his original targets.

-----

### **American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine Webinar *FRIDAY, April 3rd***

**COVID-19: Protecting Health Care Workers – Reuse and Decontamination of N95 Respirators**

**Register and learn more:** [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_WFaVzJ4XSE6UV8uTL0nCWA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WFaVzJ4XSE6UV8uTL0nCWA)

<p>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 <a href="#">Emergency Preparedness Updates available here</a>. 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 <a href="mailto:rbartlett@kyha.com">rbartlett@kyha.com</a> (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.</p>
--