



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 28, 2020

Kentucky has 92 new COVID-19 cases confirmed in biggest one-day jump Ninth death reported; Major Disaster Declaration

(Frankfort) Gov. Andy Beshear announced Saturday that 92 new cases of the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) were confirmed in Kentucky, marking the largest one-day increase in the commonwealth amid the global pandemic. That brings the total cases in Kentucky to 394. Sixty-four people infected with coronavirus in Kentucky are believed to have recovered and nine have died related to the virus. The Governor did not receive the report of the ninth death, a 66-year-old female from Kenton County, until after his 5 p.m. update.

Kentucky has received federal disaster designation that will provide additional funding for the commonwealth's response to the pandemic. The Major Disaster Declaration issued by President Donald Trump broadens access to the Public Assistance Program statewide to pay for emergency protective services not covered by other federal statutes. The declaration also allows state and local agencies to recover expenses related to the response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Full press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=108>

[NOTE: FEMA can help cover the gaps after DHHS funding is expended. So, after we see what we can cover with PHEP and HPP funding, there's an opportunity for FEMA PA to fill in the gaps. Facilities and agencies should track ALL expenses related to COVID-19 response.]

Global COVID-19 total tops 600,000, US surpasses 120,000

(CIDRAP) The number of COVID-19 cases hit more sobering milestones today, with the global total passing 600,000 cases, the US number topping 120,000, and deaths in Italy exceeding 10,000.

Most of the new global cases were reported in Spain, Italy, and several other European hot spots, and though New York is the main US epicenter, disease activity is surging in several other states and cities. The latest global total stands at 659,367, according to the Johns Hopkins online [dashboard](#).

Full story: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/03/global-covid-19-total-tops-600000-us-surpasses-120000>

CDC HAN Alert 431

Severe Illness Associated with Using Non-Pharmaceutical Chloroquine Phosphate to Prevent and Treat Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Chloroquine phosphate, when used without a prescription and supervision of a healthcare provider, can cause serious health consequences, including death. Clinicians and public health officials should discourage the public from misusing non-pharmaceutical chloroquine phosphate (a chemical used in home aquariums). Clinicians should advise patients and the public that chloroquine, and the related compound hydroxychloroquine, should be used only under the supervision of a healthcare provider as prescribed medications.

CDC updates COVID-19 testing and preparedness guidelines.

(AHA Today) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has [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.**

HHS urged to clarify EMTALA, HIPAA waivers.

(AHA Today) The AHA March 24 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. [Read the full letter.](#)

FDA authorizes 15-minute coronavirus test

(CNN) Federal health officials on Friday approved a coronavirus test that can provide results in less than 15 minutes, using the same technology that powers some rapid flu tests. The US Food and Drug Administration authorized the test for emergency use, signaling that federal regulators were satisfied with the test's validation data and believe its benefits outweigh any risks, such as false positives or negatives.

The test's maker, Abbott Laboratories, said it expects to deliver 50,000 tests per day beginning next week. The technology behind the test looks for genes that are present in the virus, similar to PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests already on the market.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/27/us/15-minute-coronavirus-test/index.html>

Why the Strategic National Stockpile isn't meant to solve a crisis like coronavirus

The country's largest repository of drugs and medical equipment is designed to be used as a stopgap — not a solution — during emergencies.

Learn more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-care/why-strategic-national-stockpile-isn-t-meant-solve-crisis-coronavirus-n1170376>

Report: Don't Go By Symptoms at Nursing Homes

<http://newser.com/s288776>

In Wuhan, a Few Test Positive After Recovery

<http://newser.com/s288770>

A service dog in training brings comfort to ER doctors on the frontlines

(CNN) Heroes come in all shapes and sizes — this one just happens to have four legs and a furry coat. Wynn, a service dog in training, is bringing joy and comfort to the medical staff on the front lines of the [coronavirus](#) fight in Denver. The one-year-old yellow Labrador serves up cuddles to health care workers who need a much needed mental break from the emergency room at Rose Medical Center.

Enjoy more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/26/health/therapy-dog-er-doctor-trnd-wellness/index.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 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 KHREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.