



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 2, 2020

### **The coronavirus has now killed more people in the US than the 9/11 terror attacks**

(VOX) The [coronavirus](#) has now killed more Americans than the 9/11 terror attacks — and the death toll is poised to rise in the weeks ahead. Nearly [3,000 people died](#) after [terrorists flew planes](#) into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and a third plane that had been hijacked crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, on 9/11. According to tallies by both [CNN](#) and the [New York Times](#), over 3,000 people in the US infected with Covid-19 have died.

It is, of course, not a neat comparison. Those who perished on 9/11 died instantly or soon thereafter, though many [first responders](#) suffered major complications in the subsequent years. Meanwhile, the death toll from the coronavirus has risen since January and has grown substantially in the past few weeks. Top health officials in the US government, like Dr. Anthony Fauci, predicted on Sunday between [100,000 and 200,000 deaths](#) in the country before the crisis subsides. Dr. Deborah Birx, another medical professional leading the American response, said the following day that Fauci's figures could pan out even "[if we do things almost perfectly.](#)"

Full story: <https://www.vox.com/2020/3/31/21199495/coronavirus-death-rate-september-11-terror-attacks>

### **NYC EMS has stopped taking people in cardiac arrest to coronavirus-strained hospitals**

(NY Post - April 2) Cardiac arrest victims whose hearts cannot be restarted at the scene are now being left there — rather than being brought to coronavirus-strained hospitals for further revival attempts, according to a new guidance for medical responders.

The Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York, which oversees the city's ambulance service, issued the guidance on Tuesday in a letter obtained by The Post. Previously, people whose hearts could not be restarted on the scene would be brought to the hospital. But the new guidance is a grim calculus that's meant to save lives, one veteran EMS worker told The Post.

Under the rule, "if you can't get revived on scene, that's it. They're going to work on you, but if they can't get a pulse back, they won't transport you" to the hospital, the worker explained.

The decree — which took effect immediately — comes as city ERs and intensive care units are [swollen with critically ill](#) coronavirus patients. Paramedics will still render aid at the scene under the directive.

Full story: <https://nypost.com/2020/04/02/coronavirus-nyc-emts-stop-taking-cardiac-arrest-patients-to-hospitals/>

### **CDC considering recommending general public wear face coverings in public**

(Washington Post) Officials at the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) are considering altering the official guidance to encourage people to take measures to cover their faces amid the coronavirus pandemic, according to a federal official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because it is an ongoing matter of internal discussion and nothing has been finalized. The move would stress that medical masks be left for health-care workers.

CDC guidance on masks remains under development, the federal official said. The official said the new guidance would make clear that the general public should not use medical masks — including surgical and N95 masks — that are in desperately short supply and needed by health-care workers.

Instead, the recommendation under consideration calls for using do-it-yourself cloth coverings, according to a second official who shared that thinking on a personal Facebook account. It would be a way to help "flatten the curve," the official noted.

Full story: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/cdc-considering-recommending-general-public-wear-face-coverings-in-public/2020/03/30/6a3e495c-7280-11ea-87da-77a8136c1a6d\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/cdc-considering-recommending-general-public-wear-face-coverings-in-public/2020/03/30/6a3e495c-7280-11ea-87da-77a8136c1a6d_story.html)

### **Last rounds of protective gear in national stockpile being shipped**

(CNN) The Strategic National Stockpile is deploying [the last round of shipments](#) in its inventory, [depleting the bulk of its protective gear](#), according to a source familiar with the matter.

The official added that the stockpile was never meant to serve as the only source of protective gear for the entire coronavirus response and said the states would need to get more supply from the private market. The official stressed that the stockpile, which is managed by the Department of Health and Human Services, will never be completely depleted as they always retain a small percentage for the most critical needs.

According to one source familiar with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's role in procuring resources, the agency is assessing what is needed and what supplies are available across the globe. FEMA has begun chartering flights with critical supplies from across the world and facilitating the distribution to hotspots and the private sector.

FEMA said in a statement that the agency's planning for the Covid-19 pandemic response "acknowledged that the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) alone could not fulfill all requirements at the State and tribal level. Therefore, as the Vice President stated last night, the federal government will exhaust all means to identify and attain medical and other supplies needed to combat the virus."

A Department of Homeland Security official told CNN the stockpile is "near depletion because the numbers are low." Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/01/politics/national-stockpile-shipments/index.html>

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**Related: US freezes shipments of protective gear overseas**

(CNN - April 2) The Trump administration will no longer ship personal protective equipment to allies overseas as the United States grapples with critical shortages of supplies and coronavirus cases continue to soar.

A congressional source told CNN on Wednesday that they were informed late last Friday night that the coronavirus task force -- led by Vice President Mike Pence -- was stopping overseas shipments of the medical equipment and instead asking that the supplies be distributed within the United States.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/01/politics/pence-task-force-ppe-freeze/index.html>

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**FEMA Hadn't Ordered Ventilators. Manufacturers Forged Ahead Anyway**

(NPR - April 1) Medical technology companies — sometimes working with carmakers — have been massively increasing production of ventilators. For two weeks, they've been working without government contracts in hand.

NPR story: <https://www.npr.org/2020/04/01/824610787/fema-hadnt-ordered-ventilators-manufacturers-forged-ahead-anyway>

**Related: A Ventilator Stockpile, With One Hitch: Thousands Do Not Work**

(NY Times) WASHINGTON — President Trump has repeatedly assured Americans that the federal government is holding 10,000 ventilators in reserve to ship to the hardest-hit hospitals around the nation as they struggle to keep the most critically ill patients alive.

But what federal officials have neglected to mention is that an additional 2,109 lifesaving devices are unavailable after the contract to maintain the government's stockpile lapsed late last summer, and a contracting dispute meant that a new firm did not begin its work until late January. By then, [the coronavirus crisis](#) was already underway. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/01/us/politics/coronavirus-ventilators.html>

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**HHS Statement on Optimizing Vent Use during COVID-19**

([HHS News release - Mar 31](#)) Because of the unprecedented demand on hospital and ICU resources during the COVID-19 (SARS CoV-2) pandemic, many hospitals may be challenged with providing mechanical ventilation to all those in need of this therapy. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are working with multiple partners that include healthcare systems, academic institutions, professional medical societies, and the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine to develop crisis standards of care strategies for ventilator support when resources are limited.

To meet the growing demand for mechanical ventilators, the HHS Assistant Secretary for Health and U.S. Surgeon General issued an open letter to the healthcare community stressing the need to aggressively implement the following four measures:

- Rigorous adherence to all social distancing measures, including limitations on gatherings and travel. This is the best way to reduce infections and thus demand for ventilators.
- Following guidelines to optimize the use of mechanical ventilators. This includes canceling elective surgeries, using equipment from state regions not experiencing outbreaks, as well as transition of anesthesia machines and other respiratory devices for use as mechanical support for those in respiratory failure from COVID-19 and other diseases.
- Judicious, ***data driven requests and usage of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) of ventilators and equipment. To be able to allocate ventilators where they are most needed, all states must be data-driven in their requests based on the actual capacity for mechanical ventilation, including anesthesia machine conversions.***
- Increasing the capacity of the SNS through federal procurement. The SNS will receive at least an additional 20,000 mechanical ventilators by mid-May 2020.

In addition, a possible crisis standard-of-care strategy, currently contemplated by several centers, is using one ventilator for two patients. Co-venting should only be considered as an absolute last resort and for a limited amount of time.

You may find the open letter and other resources: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/coronavirus/optimizing-ventilator-use-during-covid19-pandemic.html>

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**Respiratory therapists battling COVID-19 on front lines**

<https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/respiratory-therapists-battling-covid-10-on-front-lines>

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**Swab Manufacturer Works To Meet 'Overwhelming' Demand**

(NPR) Maine-based Puritan Medical Products is one of only two companies that manufacture the type of swabs needed to test for the coronavirus. As testing ramps up, a huge demand has only grown.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/01/825499508/one-of-the-few-manufacturers-of-the-special-swab-for-coronavirus-tests-speaks>

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**Health Care Workers Feeling Stress of Coronavirus Threat**

(NPR story & Podcast) - Health care workers are under immense pressure amid the coronavirus pandemic. They face shortages of protective equipment such as gloves and masks. They're pulling long shifts. And they risk being infected with the virus. So it's no surprise that the language of the pandemic is one of wartime — nurses and doctors fighting on the frontlines against what some politicians have called an “invisible enemy.”

Researchers surveyed 1,200 medical professionals in Wuhan, China, the original epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak. More than 70% reported feelings of distress. Workers also said they suffered increased anxiety, depression and insomnia. *(Note: There is a lot more detail and good interviews in the podcast.)*

Listen to podcast and learn more: <https://wfpl.org/health-care-workers-feeling-stress-of-coronavirus-threat/>

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**45 Norton Workers Test Positive for Coronavirus, But Officials Won't Say Where**

(WFPL - March 30) Norton Healthcare executives said the hospital system is still adequately staffed after 45 employees have tested positive for the COVID-19 disease and about 280 others are on paid furlough after showing symptoms.

Norton facilities are currently treating 34 people for the coronavirus, Russ Cox, president and chief executive officer of Norton Healthcare, said. 19 patients are being treated at Norton Audubon Hospital, with seven others receiving treatment at Norton Women's and Children Hospital, and four patients are at Norton Hospital and Norton Brownsboro Hospital, respectively, Cox said.

Cox said that Norton Healthcare staff has administered more than 1,700 coronavirus tests to their patients and employees, with more than 120 coming back positive. Results are still pending on more than 750 tests. About 250 employees have been tested.

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/45-norton-workers-test-positive-for-coronavirus-but-officials-wont-say-where/>

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**Fauci Provided Security**

(The Hill) Anthony Fauci, MD, the administration's medical point man at White House briefings, has been given a security detail after receiving threats. Story: <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/490725-fauci-given-security-detail-after-receiving-threats?rnd=1585786521>

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**UK Children's doctor explains mental health impact of COVID-19 on children**

(WDRB) Health professionals at Kentucky Children's Hospital are highlighting the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on children's mental health. Doctors say kids are vulnerable during this time because of the change in lifestyle. Online learning, limited contact and other factors all play a role in mental health.

"We may think, well, children don't understand what's going on," said Dr. Scottie B. Day, physician in chief at Kentucky Children's Hospital. "But in reality, children understand a lot more than what we give them credit for." To combat this and keep kids healthy at home, Day said parents should encourage meaningful and informational conversations about the pandemic.

Link to full story: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/uk-childrens-doctor-explains-mental-health-impact-of-covid-19-on-children/article\\_edac332c-7455-11ea-a13c-539048041bf9.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/uk-childrens-doctor-explains-mental-health-impact-of-covid-19-on-children/article_edac332c-7455-11ea-a13c-539048041bf9.html)

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**More than 1,000 NYPD officers have COVID-19**

<https://www.lex18.com/news/national/coronavirus/more-than-1-000-nypd-officers-have-covid-19-15-percent-of-force-out-sick>

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**Related: US Police Departments Hit Hard By Coronavirus**

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/1, Davis) "Police forces across the country are being increasingly hobbled by the coronavirus outbreak, with officers falling ill and operations being adjusted as the numbers of cases and deaths increase exponentially."

US News adds, "Approximately 17% of uniformed New York City Police Department employees – more than 6,000 total – are currently out sick, a department spokeswoman says. But 1,400 NYPD officers have now tested positive for the coronavirus, Commissioner Dermot Shea told CNN – a large increase over the number reported by the department as recently as Tuesday."

Police departments "are being crunched in many other cities. Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan announced Monday that nearly 500 of the city's police officers and more than 100 civilian employees were quarantined due to exposure to the coronavirus, according to WJBK-TV in Detroit. Sixty-nine Detroit Police Department officers and employees had tested positive as of Monday. Major metropolitan police departments in cities like Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and New Orleans have positive cases as well, according to The Associated Press.

In California, a reserve officer with the San Jose Police Department tested positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, in March, which led to more than 20 other officers being ordered to quarantine, according to The Mercury News."

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**Expert Examines Crime Trends During Pandemic**

[WVNews](#) (4/1, Cottrill) reports from Morgantown, West Virginia, "With the novel coronavirus pandemic keeping Americans indoors, preliminary data suggests it has led to a decrease in crime," but "one crime expert at West Virginia University cautions that 'every crisis is an opportunity for people to discover themselves, and to reveal who they are to others,' according to a WVU press release."

WVNews adds, "Serious felonies dropped 17 percent in New York City from March 16 to March 22 compared to last year, according to The Wall Street Journal. Chicago homicides dropped 29 percent the week of March 21, the day an Illinois stay-at-home order went into effect.

And the Marshall Project, an online nonprofit that covers criminal justice news, reports that cities such as Detroit, Los Angeles and San Francisco have seen significant drops in crime reports. 'With so few people going out and the streets so empty and so many stores shuttered, it is not surprising that in many places the number of reported street crimes has declined,' said Henry Brownstein, distinguished research professor of sociology. 'But not all crime is street crime.'" Brownstein "said the COVID-19 pandemic has provided a breeding ground for other types of criminal behavior, namely for opportunists taking advantage of the climate of panic and fear."

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**Trooper gives precious N95 masks to doctor during traffic stop**

<https://www.lex18.com/news/national/coronavirus/state-trooper-gives-precious-n95-masks-to-doctor-he-pulled-over-for-speeding>

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**Walmart will start taking employees' temperatures and let them wear masks**

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/31/business/walmart-workers-gloves-masks-temperature-checks/index.html>

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**Home Depot executes 'stop-sale' order for N95 masks, donates them to health care workers during coronavirus**

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2020/04/01/home-depot-n-95-respirators-masks-coronavirus-covid-19/5101861002/>

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**Microsoft Warns Hospitals They May Be Vulnerable To Ransomware Attacks**

[Law360](#) (4/1, Kochman, Subscription Publication) reports Microsoft "said Wednesday that it had warned dozens of hospitals that it believes are particularly vulnerable to being held hostage by ransomware attackers during the COVID-19 crisis."

In a blog post, Microsoft "said it had alerted 'several dozens' of hospitals with vulnerabilities in their infrastructure, including in the virtual private networks, or VPNs, that remote workers are increasingly using to connect to shared networks amid the coronavirus outbreak." Microsoft's Threat Protection Intelligence Team said in the blog post, "To help these hospitals, many already inundated with patients, we sent out a first-of-its-kind targeted notification with important information about the vulnerabilities, how attackers can take advantage of them, and a strong recommendation to apply security updates that will protect them from exploits of these particular vulnerabilities and others."

The company "said it had seen evidence that the health care industry is 'particularly exposed' to ransomware and other forms of cyberattacks."

## FBI warns of '**Zoom-bombing**,' the hijacking of conference calls and on-line classrooms

(WLEX18) The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is warning people of “Zoom-bombing,” where hackers hijack teleconferences and online classrooms on the popular remote conferencing platform. FBI Boston said Monday that reports of “Zoom-bombing” are emerging nationwide as a growing number of people use Zoom to stay connected with colleagues and loved ones.

The FBI says it has received multiple reports of conferences being disrupted by pornographic and/or hate images and threatening language. Two incidents were recently reported at Massachusetts schools.

Investigators say to follow these steps to mitigate teleconference hijacking threats:

- Do not make meetings or classrooms public. In Zoom, there are two options to make a meeting private: require a meeting password or use the waiting room feature and control the admittance of guests.
- Do not share a link to a teleconference or classroom on an unrestricted publicly available social media post. Provide the link directly to specific people.
- Manage screen sharing options. In Zoom, change screen sharing to “Host Only.”
- Ensure users are using the updated version of remote access/meeting applications. In January 2020, Zoom updated its software. In the security update, the teleconference software provider added passwords by default for meetings and disabled the ability to randomly scan for meetings to join.
- Lastly, ensure that your organization’s telework policy or guide addresses requirements for physical and information security.

Full story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/national/fbi-warns-of-zoom-bombing-where-teleconferences-and-online-classrooms-are-hijacked>

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**Related: Zoom sharing user data with Facebook even if they don't have FB accounts**

<https://news360.com/article/524256286>

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**Marriott says new data breach affects 5.2 million guests**

Get the details: <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/marriott-data-breach-affects-52-million-guests-69895558>

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.