



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 10, 2020

## Coronavirus updates: '

### Surgeon General says 'most of country' can't reopen by May; Easter travelers cautioned to stay home

(USA Today) As the U.S. death toll nears 17,000, both Dr. Anthony Fauci and Surgeon General Jerome Adams said Friday the country won't be reopening soon. Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told CNN he would "want to see a clear indication" that the U.S. is "strongly going in the right direction" before reopening the country.

Meanwhile, Surgeon General Jerome Adams reinforced this Friday on Fox News, saying "most of the country" will not be able to open by May 1.

Elsewhere, travelers were being cautioned to stay home around the world to mark the traditions of Good Friday and the Easter weekend.

**Full story:** <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/04/10/coronavirus-live-updates-good-friday-stimulus-checks/5126742002/>

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### Nations eye COVID-19 lockdown extensions as global cases rise

(CIDRAP) With COVID-19 activity showing some early signs of stabilizing in parts of Europe, some governments are considering extending their lockdown orders, as cases are still surging or picking up in other parts of the continent. Meanwhile, cases are accelerating in part of Asia, including Indonesia, Singapore, and Japan, and economic leaders are grappling with the pandemic's economic impact and how to fund the response. The pandemic total reached 1,579,690 cases in 184 countries, along with 94,567 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins online [dashboard](#).

Continuing reading: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/nations-eye-covid-19-lockdown-extensions-global-cases-rise>

### **Related - Emergency Planning & Decision Making to Prepare for the Second Wave of COVID-19**

(Homeland Security Today) Seasoned disaster managers recognize that it is not just the best decision that needs to be made, it is the execution of those decisions. Across the world leaders not normally accustomed to emergency decision making are being confronted by a catastrophe that has or is about to strike them. It is that moment when they must adapt their normal business-as-usual planning and decision making to an emergency decision and planning process. Moving to an emergency planning and decision-making process will make the difference between a COVID-19 emergency response that is flatfooted and reactive to one that is nimble and responsive. This process must be used at the local, state and federal levels of all agencies and organizations engaged in this fight. Lives will be saved.

Read more: <https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/emergency-preparedness/emergency-planning-decision-making-are-critical-to-prepare-for-the-second-wave-of-covid-19/>

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### Data does not back cloth masks to limit COVID-19, experts say

(CIDRAP) Limited, indirect evidence from lab studies suggests that homemade fabric masks may capture large respiratory droplets, but there is no evidence they impede the transmission of aerosols implicated in the spread of COVID-19, according to a [paper](#) published yesterday by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Read more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/data-do-not-back-cloth-masks-limit-covid-19-experts-say>

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### Kentucky EMS Responders See Call Volume Decline, Prepare For Surge

(WFPL) Despite the onset of the coronavirus in Kentucky, emergency calls actually decreased about 20% in March over the the same period last year. That's according to the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, which oversees more than 220 ground and air ambulance services in the state.

Deputy Director Chuck O'Neal says he believes that decrease is a sign that Kentuckians are following the recommendations of health professionals. It also provides extra capacity should call volume increase, he said. "It's because folks are staying, home, they're social distancing and they're trying to stay out of the hospitals," O'Neal said.

Kentucky has about 14,000 emergency medical responders working the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic. EMS workers face a significant challenge in the field: They are looking for signs and symptoms of a virus that can hide among people who appear healthy. Sometimes patients do not show any symptoms for COVID-19.

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/kentucky-ems-responders-see-call-volume-decline-prepare-for-surge/>

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## Time's Latest Magazine Covers Celebrate Workers On Coronavirus Front Lines

Time has dedicated its latest issue to the “[heroes on the front lines](#)” of [COVID-19](#), the disease caused by



the [coronavirus](#), with a series of powerful covers. The publication unveiled the five covers on Thursday, each of which showcases a different person whose stories are all inside the issue, including doctors, nurses, first responders, grocery store employees, and more across the country. The images included were taken by the subjects themselves.

Read more: [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/time-magazine-covers-coronavirus-health-care-workers\\_n\\_5e8f2ed5c5b6d641a6bb3d97](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/time-magazine-covers-coronavirus-health-care-workers_n_5e8f2ed5c5b6d641a6bb3d97)



### Jennie Stuart Health Announces Steps to Preserve Essential Health Services in Response to COVID-19

(Press Release) Like hospitals and health systems across the country, Jennie Stuart Health is facing unprecedented challenges and volume declines as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective immediately, Jennie Stuart Health is implementing a layoff impacting 248 employees.

“We have worked tirelessly over the past weeks to ready our health system to combat the spread of COVID-19 in Western Kentucky, preserve scarce resources and prepare for a potential surge of patients affected by the virus,” said Jennie Stuart Health President and CEO Eric Lee. “The continuing spread of COVID-19 in the communities we serve requires that we now take urgent action to preserve our operational and financial strength to endure the duration of this battle.”

KentuckyToday story: <http://kentuckytoday.com/stories/hopkinsville-hospital-lays-off-248-due-to-no-elective-surgeries.25329>

### Coronavirus Is Threatening One of Government's Most Ubiquitous Services: **The Mail!**

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/525367772>

### A bridge between life and death: Most COVID-19 patients put on ventilators will not survive

(USA Today) While governors, mayors and hospital officials conduct much-publicized life-and-death [struggles to acquire ventilators](#), for most COVID-19 patients the oxygen-providing apparatus will merely serve as a bridge from life to death. But for many, ventilators [represent their last chance](#).

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo recently estimated that only 20% of coronavirus patients placed on ventilators "will ever come off." Read more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/04/08/coronavirus-cases-ventilators-covid-19/2950167001/>

### *'It's not fancy, but it works'*

#### Mississippi doctor uses garden hose, lamp timer and electronic valve to create makeshift ventilators



As states across the country beg for ventilators to help patients suffering with respiratory issues from COVID-19, the University of Mississippi Medical Center is building its own [makeshift ventilators with supplies found at a hardware store](#). Made with "primarily a garden hose, a lamp timer and electronic valve," the ventilator, for less than \$100, can be assembled in approximately 20 to 30 minutes, meaning a dedicated team of four to five could produce nearly 100 in a day if needed, he said.

See video and read more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/04/07/coronavirus-ventilators-mississippi-medical-center-charles-robertson/2966719001/>

### **Related - 'Scotch tape and baling wire'**

#### How some hospitals and companies are responding to meet America's ventilator shortage

(USA Today) As the [coronavirus](#) pandemic appears near a peak in parts of the U.S., hospitals are training medical staff on how to run ventilators while companies and doctors are retrofitting devices in case facilities run out of the breathing machines. Ventilators and respiratory therapists are in short supply at some hospitals as coronavirus patients fill newly expanded intensive care units.

Hospitals in several states have sought the machines from federal and state stockpiles. Some in New York City have said they plan to use one ventilator to help two COVID-19 patients at a time, which can be risky.

In emergency on-the-job training, hospitals have asked doctors and nurses to help oversee ventilators even though they haven't been deeply trained in respiratory therapy.

Read full article for more, and some examples of what hospitals have experimented with:  
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/04/08/coronavirus-ventilator-shortage-hospitals-diy/2957847001/>

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**Hopkins Doc Beats COVID, Rejoins Front Lines**

Story link: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/85886>

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**Healthcare Workers Face Punishment for Speaking Out**

*Social media conversations are being monitored; some have lost their jobs over PPE complaints*

Story link: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/85869>

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**Generic Albuterol Inhaler OK'd**

Demand has soared during COVID-19 pandemic

(MedPage) -April 9 - The FDA approved the first generic version of the Proventil HFA albuterol inhaler, citing increased demand for this type of product as a treatment for COVID-19.

The metered dose inhaler, made by Cipla Ltd., delivers 90 µg albuterol sulfate per puff; the approved indication is for "treatment or prevention of bronchospasm in patients four years of age and older who have reversible obstructive airway disease, as well as the prevention of exercise-induced bronchospasm in this age group," [according to an FDA statement](#).

On March 20, the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology [warned of albuterol inhaler shortages](#) in some parts of the country, "because of the increased use of albuterol inhalers in hospitals for COVID-19 and suspected COVID-19 patients to help with respiratory issues."

Full story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/85876>

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**How a 100-year-old vaccine for tuberculosis could help fight the novel coronavirus**

(CNN) As researchers scramble to find new drugs and vaccines for Covid-19, a vaccine that is more than a century old has piqued researchers' interests. The Bacillus Calmette-Guerin vaccine — which was first developed to fight off tuberculosis — is being studied in clinical trials around the world as a way to fight the novel coronavirus. Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/09/health/tuberculosis-bcg-vaccine-coronavirus/index.html>

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**'We need it yesterday'**

**Kentucky nursing homes beg for support to fight coronavirus**

Read full story: <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2020/04/09/coronavirus-kentucky-nursing-homes-struggle-testing-ppe/2960619001/>

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**States are lashing out at FEMA amid the medical supplies free-for-all**

(Bloomberg) The fierce competition for crucial medical supplies is fueling confusion and suspicions between the states and federal government over conflicting priorities and drawing allegations of political favoritism by the Trump administration.

Read more: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-10/medical-supplies-free-for-all-has-states-lashing-out-at-fema>

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**'Surprise' billing fix could hitch ride on next coronavirus relief bill**

Read more: <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/09/billing-coronavirus-relief-bill-178234?cid=apn>

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**Coronavirus Outbreak Forces New Approaches to Fighting Wildfires**

(IACP The Lead) The [AP](#) (4/9, Boone) reports from Boise, Idaho, "They are two disasters that require opposite responses: To save lives and reduce the spread of COVID-19, people are being told to remain isolated. But in a wildfire, thousands of firefighters must work in close quarters for weeks at a time." The AP adds, "Wildfires have already broken out in Texas and Florida, and agencies are scrambling to finish plans for a new approach. They are considering waivers for some training requirements to previously-certified crew members, and moving some training online. Other proposals include limiting fire engines to a driver and one passenger, requiring other crew members to ride in additional vehicles. They may scrap the normal campsite catering tents in favor of military-issue MREs, or 'Meals Ready to Eat' to reduce touching serving utensils. Federal resources for firefighting efforts may be more scarce, leaving states to deal with more fires."

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**Hong Kong Court Largely Upholds Face Mask Ban Despite Coronavirus Pandemic**

(IACP -The Lead) [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (4/9, Davidson) reports, "As health experts in Hong Kong call for masks to be made mandatory to tackle coronavirus, a ban on their use that was introduced in response to protests has been largely upheld by the appeal court." According to the Guardian, "The court also used its ruling to push back at accusations that its role in assessing the constitutionality of laws was an affront to Beijing. The judgment,

delivered on Thursday afternoon, said Hong Kong's chief executive could use colonial-era laws to make emergency decrees for public safety and that banning masks was constitutional at unlawful gatherings," but "it also found that banning masks at lawful gatherings and allowing police to demand their removal was unconstitutional. Hong Kong's mask ban was introduced in October as widespread protests in the city grew increasingly violent."

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**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines from [April 10, 2020](#)**

**[White House names next likely COVID-19 hot spots](#)** (*CIDRAP*) Washington, DC, Baltimore, and Philadelphia will likely be the next novel coronavirus hot spots, according to the White House task force.

**[HHS Announces Ventilator Contract with Philips under Defense Production Act](#)** (*HHS*) The Department of Health and Human Services announced the second contract for ventilator production rated under the Defense Production Act (DPA), to Philips. Philips's contract, at a total contract price of \$646.7 million, is for a production schedule allowing for the delivery of 2,500 ventilators to the Strategic National Stockpile by the end of May 2020 and a total of 43,000 ventilators to be delivered by the end of December 2020.

**[VA COVID-19 update: over 3,500 cases, 174 patient deaths as officials downplay equipment shortage concerns](#)** (*Military Times*) Since Veterans Affairs leaders reported the first death of a VA patient from coronavirus in mid-March, the number of positive cases — and fatalities — in the department's health system has risen dramatically.

**[Real-time detection of COVID-19 epicenters within the United States using a network of smart thermometers](#)** (*medRxiv*) Containing outbreaks of infectious disease requires rapid identification of transmission hotspots, as the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates. Focusing limited public health resources on transmission hotspots can contain spread, thus reducing morbidity and mortality, but rapid data on community-level disease dynamics is often unavailable.

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**The Joint Commission COVID-19 Guidance & Resources: [View Page](#)**

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**[CDC & FDA Information](#)**

**FAQ on Shortages of Surgical Masks and Gowns:** <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/faqs-shortages-surgical-masks-and-gowns>

**CDC Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Isolation Gowns:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/isolation-gowns.html>

**FDA/CDRH Webinar slides on Gowns Intended for Use in Health Care:** <https://www.fda.gov/media/95910/download>

**Temporary Policy Regarding Non-Standard PPE Practices for Sterile Compounding by Pharmacy Compounders not Registered as Outsourcing Facilities During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**  
PDF download: <https://www.fda.gov/media/136841/download>

**CDC What's New?**

- [Resources for Businesses and Employers](#) Friday, April 10, 2020
- [Testing in the U.S.](#) Friday, April 10, 2020
- [Running Essential Errands](#) Friday, April 10, 2020
- [What Bus Transit Operators Need to Know About COVID-19](#) Friday, April 10, 2020
- [What Transit Maintenance Workers Need to Know About COVID-19](#) Friday, April 10, 2020

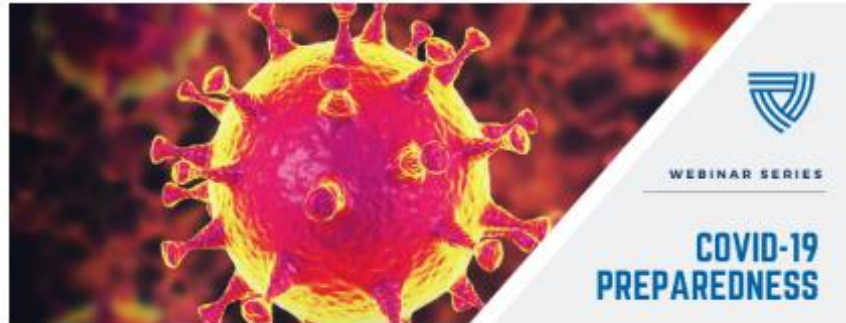
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**Military Ordnance Unearthed at Owensboro Residence**

(DHS TRIPWire) April 10 - Yesterday at approximately 1705 hours local time, the Daviess County Sheriff's Office and Owensboro Police Department Bomb Squad responded to reports of a potential grenade discovered at a private residence in Owensboro. The resident was using a tiller in the yard when she uncovered what appeared to be a grenade. Bomb squad technicians confirmed that the device was a viable grenade and rendered it safe in a controlled detonation. The origin of the grenade remains unknown.

Local news report: <https://www.owensborotimes.com/news/2020/04/grenade-found-by-resident-safely-detonated-by-bomb-unit/>



## NETEC Offers free COVID-19 Webinars



With the ever-evolving coronavirus pandemic, the NETEC is committed to providing facilities with the tools to educate healthcare workers and share preparedness best practices.

### **THREE EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS NEXT WEEK**

#### **Telehealth Innovations during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Emory Healthcare has rapidly increased telemedicine on the outpatient and inpatient sides in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Learn about Emory's approach before and during COVID, and we'll discuss possible post COVID scenarios.

Scheduled for Monday, APRIL 13 @ 2 PM ET/1 PM CT.

[Reserve Your Seat](#)

#### **Care of Labor and Delivery Patients**

Thursday, April 16, 2020 @ 4 PM ET/3:00 PM CDT - [Register](#)

#### **Face Masks**

Friday, April 17, 2020 @ 10 AM ET/11 AM CT

*(Registration information should be out next week.)*

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.