Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation
Emergency Preparedness Update
for April 13, 2020

KY COVID-19 Update as of 5 PM: 87 new cases; 7 new deaths

Gov. Beshear: 'Kentucky, You Are Flattening the Curve'

(Press release) Gov. Andy Beshear said Monday that a testing partnership is ramping up just as data is beginning to show Kentucky is flattening the curve in its fight against the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

"Kentucky, you are flattening the curve," the Governor said, pointing to data from the Kaiser Foundation showing the commonwealth doing better than its neighbors in confronting the coronavirus. "What that means is you are reducing the cases that we have now. You are saving lives."

As of 5 p.m. April 13, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 2,048 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 87 of which were newly confirmed. "We have gone over 2,000 cases today, which we always expected to do," the Governor said. "But it is another benchmark that says this is a very serious virus."

Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear also reported seven new deaths Monday, raising the state's toll to 104 deaths related to the virus.

Read full press release: https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=127

KHA Committee to Develop Guidelines on Restarting Elective Procedures

KHA President **Nancy Galvagni** has been in communication with the Public Health Commissioner, **Dr. Steven Stack**, regarding the need to develop a strategy for the state's hospitals to resume elective procedures. Hospitals stopped these procedures on March 18 in response to a directive from the Governor. Today, in a call with health system leaders and KHA, Dr. Stack welcomed KHA's offer to convene a committee of Chief Medical Officers to develop guidance on the appropriate conditions and triggers that would be needed for hospitals to restart elective procedures. Dr. Stack requested the guidance to address a sufficient supply of PPE to protect the health care workforce and patients, adequacy of testing and, specifically, rapid testing for COVID-19 and for immunity as well as adequate hospital capacity to respond to ongoing spikes in COVID patients.

Study finds evidence of COVID-19 in air, on hospital surfaces

(CIDRAP) A study published late last week in *Emerging Infectious Diseases* found a wide distribution of COVID-19 virus genetic material on surfaces and in the air about 4 meters (13 feet) from patients in two hospital wards in Wuhan, China, posing a risk to healthcare workers.

While the findings of the environmental sampling study do not indicate the amount of live virus, if any, or precisely determine the distance of aerosol transmission, the authors say that they confirm that the virus spreads in aerosols in addition to large respiratory droplets.

The relatively high rate of positivity for floor samples in the ICU (7/10 [70%] and general ward (2/13 [15.4%] may have been due to gravity and air flow causing most respiratory droplets to fall to the ground and spread via clinicians' shoes, the authors surmised, noting a 100% positivity rate on the pharmacy floor, where no patients were housed and three samples were taken.

Half of the swabs from the soles of clinicians' shoes tested positive, indicating that the virus may spread this way. "We highly recommend that persons disinfect shoe soles before walking out of wards containing COVID-19 patients," they said.

The highest rates of positivity from objects came from computer mice (6/8 [75%] in the ICU; 1/5 [20%] in the general ward), trash cans (3/5 [60%] in the ICU; 0/8 in the general ward), bed handrails (6/14 [42.9%] in the ICU; 0/12 in the general ward); and doorknobs (1/12 [8.3%] in the general ward).

Read full story: https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/study-finds-evidence-covid-19-air-hospital-surfaces

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CBS - Coronavirus updates:
U.S. death toll tops 23,000

(CBS) The U.S. death toll from the coronavirus topped 23,000 on Monday, with over 572,000 confirmed cases, according to Johns Hopkins University.

A debate is brewing over when and how to re-open the country's economy. President Trump has said it's his call and he's formed a new task force to oversee planning. But governors on the East and West coasts on Monday announced regional partnerships to decide when best to let people go back to work. (More below.)

Globally, more than 1.9 people have been sickened by the virus, with over 118,000 deaths.

Other headlines:
- No, Trump can't order states to reopen, constitutional scholars say
- Fauci clarifies comments about timing of mitigation efforts
- White House says Trump is not firing Fauci
- Cuomo says "the worst is over" in New York
- New York death toll tops 10,000
- Three additional NYPD members die of coronavirus
- Racing to a cure: Where we stand on treating coronavirus
- Antibody testing study underway in Los Angeles County
- Rutgers University's New Saliva Test For COVID-19 Gets FDA Approval
- Brazil may have 12 times more cases than official reports say, study warns
- France extends emergency measures to May 11

Check out the details: https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/coronavirus-pandemic-covid-19-latest-news-2020-04-13/

Nursing home deaths soar past 3,300 in alarming surge

(AP) More than 3,600 deaths nationwide have been linked to coronavirus outbreaks in nursing homes and long-term care facilities, an alarming rise in just the past two weeks, according to the latest count by The Associated Press.

Because the federal government has not been releasing a count of its own, the AP has kept its own running tally based on media reports and state health departments. The latest count of at least 3,621 deaths is up from about 450 deaths just 10 days ago.

But the true toll among the 1 million mostly frail and elderly people who live in such facilities is likely much higher, experts say, because most state counts don't include those who died without ever being tested for COVID-19. Learn more: https://apnews.com/efbc89ad4533d40eabb22f4ebf846e48

CMS Releases Additional Waivers for COVID-19

On Thursday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released additional new waivers related to COVID-19. The waivers, which apply nationwide and are retroactive to March 1, 2020, reduce supervision and other requirements to allow practitioners to work to the fullest extent of their licenses.

 Among other areas, CMS is waiving:
- The requirement that critical access hospitals (CAHs) have a physician physically present to provide medical direction, consultation and supervision;
- The requirement that a nurse practitioner, physician assistant or certified nurse-midwife be available to furnish patient care services at least 50% of the time a rural health clinic or federally qualified health center operates; and
- Regulations that prevent a physician at a long-term care facility from delegating a task when the regulations specify that the physician must perform it personally.

For more details, see the AHA Special Bulletin at
https://www.kyha.com/assets/docs/COVID19/Waivers/AHAWaiverAdvisory041020.pdf

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Governors on both coasts talk reopening as states track more COVID-19

(CIDRAP) As the US total of COVID-19 cases reached 571,694, including 23,036 deaths, six East Coast governors announced a new partnership to reopen their states' economies safely in the following weeks and months. According to CNN, each state will name a public health official and an economic official to the group, and each governor's chief of staff will also be in the group.

On the West Coast, the governors of California, Oregon and Washington, which have seen flatter curves than first anticipated, also announced Monday a Western States Pact to plan for reopening.

"Health outcomes and science – not politics - will guide these decisions. Modifications to our states' stay at home orders must be made based off our understanding of the total health impacts of COVID-19," said a joint statement announcing the Western States Pact.

On Twitter today, President Donald Trump said it would be up to the White House, and not governors, to decide when to reopen the economy.

Full story: https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/governors-talk-reopening-states-track-more-covid-19

CDC What's New?

- Testing for COVID-19 Monday, April 13, 2020
- Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19 Monday, April 13, 2020
- How Coronavirus Spreads Monday, April 13, 2020
- Coronavirus and Travel in the United States Monday, April 13, 2020
- Children and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Tips to keep children healthy while school's out Monday, April 13, 2020
- Schools, Workplaces & Community Locations Monday, April 13, 2020
- Animals and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Monday, April 13, 2020
- Downloadable Videos Monday, April 13, 2020
- People Experiencing Homelessness Monday, April 13, 2020
- Testing in the U.S. Monday, April 13, 2020
- What To Do if You Are Sick Monday, April 13, 2020
- Groups at Higher Risk for Severe Illness Monday, April 13, 2020
- How to Protect Yourself Monday, April 13, 2020
- COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country Monday, April 13, 2020
- Global case numbers are reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) Monday, April 13, 2020
- Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) and Children Monday, April 13, 2020
- Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Pregnancy Monday, April 13, 2020

FDA What's New?

Daily Roundup for April 13, 2020: https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-daily-roundup-april-13-2020

April 12 Update: FDA Issues Emergency Use Authorization to Decontaminate Millions of N95 Respirators: https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-issues-emergency-use-authorization-decontaminate-millions-n95

UofL Finds Way to Decontaminate N95 Masks for Reuse; Offers Service Free of Charge

Via WAVE3 News: The University of Louisville has found a way to decontaminate N95 respirator masks for health care workers and first responders to reuse.

Dr. Leslie Sherwood, Assistant Vice President for Research Services at the University of Louisville, announced Saturday they found a way to sterilize used respirators through a CDC-approved and FDA-authorized process using vaporized hydrogen peroxide.

The decontamination process used by UofL was originally developed after the 2014 Ebola crisis as a way to conserve PPE. Through the process each respirator can be decontaminated up to 20 times.

Sherwood said UofL is providing the service at no cost to participating organizations. They will launch a website next week for organizations, like health care providers, first responders and community organizations, to sign up for UofL to drop off a collection container.

UofL will decontaminate the equipment on the UofL Health Sciences Center campus. They will have the capacity to decontaminate about 7,000 respirators per day, with a 48 hour turn-around, Sherwood said.

---------- From AHA Today newsletter ----------
FDA greenlights N95 respirator decontamination products for emergency use

(AHA Today) The Food and Drug Administration has issued emergency use authorizations for two respirator decontamination products: Advanced Sterilization Products' STERRAD Sterilization Cycles, which use vaporized hydrogen peroxide gas plasma sterilization; and STERIS Corporation's STERIS V-PRO 1 Plus, maX and maX2 Low Temperature Sterilization Systems using the STERIS N95 Decontamination Cycle (non-lumen cycle), which also use vaporized hydrogen peroxide. Collectively, the two systems, according to FDA, can decontaminate nearly 5 million N95 or N95-equivalent respirators per day.

DEA lifts three requirements for hospitals/clinics during pandemic

To facilitate continuous patient care during quickly changing scenarios during the pandemic, the Drug Enforcement Administration has issued three exceptions to regulations for DEA-registered hospitals and

clinics effective from April 10 until the public health emergency ends. [One exception](#) allows DEA-registered hospitals and clinics, under their existing DEA registration, to handle controlled substances at their satellite hospital/clinic locations as long as certain conditions are met. DEA is also providing flexibility to allow distributors to ship controlled substances directly to these satellite hospitals/clinics under certain conditions. A second [exception](#) allows narcotic treatment programs to accept deliveries of narcotics without providing an authorized signature at the time of delivery in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Finally, DEA today issued another [temporary exception](#) to allow DEA-registered dispensers, such as hospitals, pharmacies, and physicians, to distribute controlled substances beyond 5% of the total number of dosage units of controlled substances distributed and dispensed during the same calendar year without being required to register as a distributor.

FDA Warns of Dangerous, Bogus Claims That Bleach Can Treat COVID-19

(HealthDay News) -- A warning letter has been sent to a company marketing bogus and dangerous chlorine dioxide products for the [prevention](#) and treatment of [COVID-19](#), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration says.

The fraudulent claims by the Genesis II Church of Health and Healing about its "Miracle Mineral Solution" products are especially concerning in relation to children, who are at increased risk for harm from consuming chlorine dioxide, according to the FDA.

Read more: https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=230086

Stockpile of 39 million masks exposed as fake

(AP) — A major California labor union that claimed to have discovered a stockpile of 39 million masks for health care workers fighting the coronavirus was duped in an elaborate scam uncovered by FBI investigators, according to a newspaper report Sunday. Investigators stumbled onto the scheme while looking into whether they could intercept the masks for the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Defense Production Act, the U.S. attorney's office said Friday. The federal government has been quietly seizing supplies across the country as the outbreak spreads. But in this case, there was no warehouse, and there were no masks to seize, the [Los Angeles Times](#) reported.

Experts in the global supply chain say dubious brokers and suppliers have flooded the market with suspect offers, creating an atmosphere of confusion and distrust just as hospitals are trying to stock up on the gear doctors and nurses need to protect themselves from the virus.

Read the full story on this scam: https://apnews.com/8d85b333ade3b343eba01b254185b966

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12 year-old makes face shields with 3D printer

(LEX 18) — A 12-year-old McCreary County boy has joined the fight against the coronavirus.

He is using a 3D printer, which his parents gave him for Christmas last year, to create face shields for health care workers.

"I put all the resources I had for my printer into doing something helpful for the community," Lucas Strunk said.

Soon after he started the project, his mom posted a message on Facebook, and it prompted a flood of donations.

Learn more: https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/12-year-old-makes-face-shields-with-3d-printer