



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 15, 2020

### CDC, FEMA have drafted a national plan to reopen US

(CNN) There is a draft of a back-to-work strategy for the nation, created by a team led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, according to [The Washington Post](#).

The plan offers guidance for local and state governments on how to reopen the country safely and in phases, the newspaper reported. The public health strategy obtained by the Post is only two parts of a larger planning document that has eight parts, according to an official who spoke to the newspaper on the condition to remain anonymous.

The strategy has three phases, according to the report.

- One is readying the country through a "communication campaign and community readiness assessment until May 1," according to the Post.
- In the second phase, manufacturing of testing kits and protective equipment would be stepped up and emergency funding increased. That would go through May 15, the Post reported.
- "Staged reopenings" would start after that and would depend on conditions locally.

The plan specifically says reopenings would not be before May 1, the Post reported.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/14/us/cdc-fema-national-strategy/index.html>

### China's Data on Symptom-Free Cases Reveals Most Never Get Sick

(Bloomberg) China for the first time publicized a breakdown of people testing positive for the novel coronavirus without outward signs of being sick, revealing that those among them who remain symptom-free throughout infection are in the majority. Among 6,764 people who tested positive for infection without showing symptoms, only one fifth of them -- 1,297 -- have so far developed symptoms and been re-classified as confirmed cases.

Some 1,023 are still being monitored in medical quarantine to see if they develop symptoms. The rest -- 4,444 -- have been discharged from medical observation after recovering from the virus.

The phenomenon of asymptomatic transmission is a puzzling feature of the virus that's allowed the pandemic to spread wider and faster than previous outbreaks.

Learn more: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-15/china-s-data-on-symptom-free-cases-reveals-most-never-get-sick>

### *Stay 6 feet apart, we're told. But how far can air carry coronavirus?*

(NY Times) Most of the big droplets travel a mere six feet. The role of tiny aerosols is the "trillion-dollar question. Read more: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/14/health/coronavirus-six-feet.html>

### Treyton Oak Towers employee put on house arrest in Louisville as facility sees 7th resident death from COVID-19

(WDRB) -- An employee at Treyton Oak Towers who tested positive for COVID-19 has been put on house arrest as the facility sees its seventh resident death from the illness.

The long-term care facility said an 89-year-old woman who was transferred to a Norton Healthcare hospital last week has died. Twenty-three residents and 12 staff members at Treyton Oak have tested positive for COVID-19. One of those employees is now on house arrest. [The Louisville Metro Health] Department personnel visited the employee's home and said someone was inside, but did not answer. The staffers then asked the court to help enforce a quarantine on the employee.

Story link: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/coronavirus/treyton-oak-towers-employee-put-on-house-arrest-as-facility-sees-7th-resident-death-from/article\\_f5fef7b2-7dec-11ea-801c-83b275d4b437.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/coronavirus/treyton-oak-towers-employee-put-on-house-arrest-as-facility-sees-7th-resident-death-from/article_f5fef7b2-7dec-11ea-801c-83b275d4b437.html)

### *'Such a simple thing to do'*

### Why positioning Covid-19 patients on their stomachs can save lives

(CNN Health) Doctors are finding that placing the sickest coronavirus patients on their stomachs -- called prone positioning - helps increase the amount of oxygen that's getting to their lungs.

Patients with coronavirus often die of ARDS, or acute respiratory distress syndrome. The same syndrome also kills patients who have influenza, pneumonia and other diseases. The ventilated patients typically stay on their

stomachs for about 16 hours a day, going on their backs for the rest of the time so doctors have better access to their front side and can more easily give them the treatments they need.

Critical care specialists say being on the belly seems help because it allows oxygen to more easily get to the lungs. While on the back, the weight of the body in effect squishes some sections of the lungs.

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/14/health/coronavirus-prone-positioning/index.html>

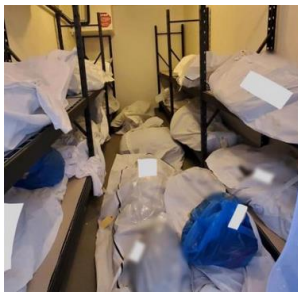
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**There's been a spike in people dying at home, suggesting coronavirus toll is higher than reported**

(ProPublica) Coronavirus death counts are based on positive tests and driven by hospital deaths. But data from major metropolitan areas shows a spike in at-home deaths, prompting one expert to say current numbers were just "the tip of the iceberg."

As of Tuesday afternoon, the United States had logged more than 592,000 cases of COVID-19 and more than 24,000 deaths, the most in the world, according to the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. But the official COVID-19 death count may, at least for now, be missing fatalities that are occurring outside of hospitals, data and interviews show. Cities are increasingly showing signs of Americans succumbing to the coronavirus in their own beds.

Read more: <https://www.propublica.org/article/theres-been-a-spike-in-people-dying-at-home-in-several-cities-that-suggests-coronavirus-deaths-are-higher-than-reported>

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**Bodies piled up and stored in vacant rooms at Detroit hospital**



(CNN) Photos shared among emergency room staff at Sinai-Grace Hospital in Detroit show bodies being stored in vacant hospital rooms and piled on top of each other inside refrigerated holding units brought into the hospital's parking lot.

CNN acquired the photos from an emergency room worker. Two other emergency room workers confirm the photos are an accurate portrayal of [the scene taking place at the hospital](#) during early April, during one 12-hour shift they describe as overwhelming. The two sources tell CNN that at least one room, which is typically used for studies on sleeping habits, was used to store bodies because morgue staff did not work at night, and the morgue was full. On Saturday, CNN visited the hospital. Five refrigerated storage units could be seen in the parking lot.

Story link: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/13/health/detroit-hospital-bodies-coronavirus-trnd/index.html>

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**'We are dead' - People with disabilities fear they will be on losing end of doctors' life-or-death choices amid coronavirus crisis**

(From USA Today) In essence it comes down to the question of who chooses who will live and die when allocating scarce healthcare resources. Federal and state health officials have been warning for weeks of critical ventilator shortages, so much so that President Donald Trump recently invoked the Defense Production Act to force General Motors to retool an automobile assembly line to produce ventilators. But as the novel coronavirus peaks in New York, New Jersey, New Orleans and Detroit, people with disabilities fear they will wind up on the losing end of the life-and-death choices doctors are forced to make.

Read more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/04/14/coronavirus-people-disabilities-worry-covid-19-care/2994471001/>

The U.S. passed a grim milestone Tuesday with [more than 600,000](#) reported COVID-19 cases, three times more than any other country, and with 2,228 new deaths recorded the highest single-day increase. (Reuters)

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**Characteristics of Health Care Personnel with COVID-19 in the US**

(CDC - Updated April 14) Of 9,282 U.S. COVID-19 cases reported among HCP, median age was 42 years, and 73% were female, reflecting these distributions among the HCP workforce. HCP patients reported contact with COVID-19 patients in health care, household, and community settings. Most HCP patients were not hospitalized; however, severe outcomes, including death, were reported among all age groups.

Read full document: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e6.htm>

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**One third of NHS staff and key workers tested in the UK have coronavirus, amid concerns over access to protective equipment**

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/14/uk/uk-coronavirus-nhs-one-third-test-positive-gbr-intl/index.html>

## Frontline health care workers seek immunity from malpractice during COVID-19

(WHYY) The Pennsylvania Medical Society is asking Governor Tom Wolf to grant temporary immunity from malpractice claims to health care workers during the coronavirus pandemic. Health care workers across the state are taking on roles outside their specialty area and making quick decisions to battle a disease that still is not well-understood.

Nationally, the CARES Act stimulus package, passed by Congress in March, provides some liability protections to medical professionals who volunteer their time to help fight the pandemic.

Some Philadelphia malpractice lawyers are skeptical that liability immunity is justified. Personal injury attorney Chip Becker said he is worried that a broad immunity protection would ultimately hurt normal people by protecting hospitals, nursing homes, medical device makers, and other health care institutions from lawsuits meant to address poor treatment.

Full story: <https://whyy.org/articles/frontline-health-care-workers-seek-immunity-from-malpractice-during-covid-19/>

## 117 million kids at risk of missing measles vaccine during COVID-19 pandemic

Read more: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/117-million-kids-risk-missing-measles-vaccine-covid/story>

## *It's time to talk more seriously about the food supply*

The meat supply is at risk. Farm workers are in fear. It's hard to get groceries. ***Are shortages coming?***

**Yes, if we panic** -- We've already seen runs on [toilet paper and cleaning products](#). Will people stockpile bacon in their freezers if they fear a pork shortage? Please don't. [The US is not running out of meat](#). It's not that there's no meat. It's that, at the moment, there are gaps in the way we process it and get it to consumers.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/14/politics/what-matters-april-13/index.html>

**OSHA COVID-19 Webpage:** This webpage provides information for workers and employers about the evolving coronavirus pandemic. The information includes links to interim guidance and other resources for preventing exposures to, and infection with, the novel coronavirus—officially named SARS-CoV-2, which causes the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>

## **New OSHA Resources: Low/Unavailable PPE and Reporting Staff Cases**

AHCA/NCAL released four new resources on guidance from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on critically low or unavailable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). These new resources are applicable to all long term care providers. A form letter providers can fill in when responding to OSHA inquiries due to complaints regarding limited or unavailable PPE. A document on OSHA guidance when PPE is critically low or unavailable including steps providers can follow. An explanation of OSHA and CDC guidance on N95 respirators that are critically low or unavailable. This resource provides five options with guidance on what to do for a limited supply of N95 or other respirators to no N95 or other respirators available. A document with updated guidance from OSHA on employer recording and reporting requirements for COVID-19.

[https://www.ahcancal.org/facility\\_operations/disaster\\_planning/Documents/Update%2039.pdf](https://www.ahcancal.org/facility_operations/disaster_planning/Documents/Update%2039.pdf)

## **Joint Commission COVID-19 Resources:**

<https://www.jointcommission.org/covid-19>

The Joint Commission [statement on shortages of personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) amid COVID-19 pandemic.

- April 6, 2020 – [FAQ](#) in Response to The Joint Commission Statement on Use of Face Masks Brought From Home
- March 31, 2020 – [Joint Commission Statement](#) on Use of Face Masks Brought From Home
- March 27, 2020 – [Public Statement](#) on the Shortages of Critical Medical Equipment
- FAQs:
- [What Should I Use, Mask or Respirator?](#)
- [Managing Critical Shortages of PPE](#)
- [Conservation of Face Masks and Respirators](#)

Videos consistent with CDC recommendations as of March 24, 2020:

- The Joint Commission: [Removing \(Doffing\) a Disposable Gown and Gloves with Rationale](#)
- Rush University Medical Center: [Step by Step Donning and Doffing: Disposable Gown, Face Mask and Goggles](#)
- Rush University Medical Center: [Step by Step Donning and Doffing: Reusable Gown, N95 Respirator, Goggles or Face Shield](#)

----- FDA News -----

April 13th: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-daily-roundup-april-13-2020>

- Efforts to support generic drug development for chloroquine phosphate and hydroxychloroquine sulfate
- Prioritizing the review of any newly submitted Abbreviated New Drug Applications (ANDAs) for chloroquine phosphate and hydroxychloroquine sulfate
- Emergency Use Authorization for a system that could decontaminate 4 million respirators a day

April 14th: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-daily-roundup-april-14-2020>

- Warning letters to three sellers of fraudulent COVID-19 products
- At-home testing update
- Emergency Use Authorizations for upwards of 300 diagnostic test developers

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**Upcoming COVID-19 Resource Webinars and Calls**

**CDC CLINICIAN Calls**

**Guidance for Certifying Deaths Due to Coronavirus Disease 2019**

Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020

Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm (ET)

Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1614930619>

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

Webinar ID: 161 493 0619

**COVID-19 in the United States: Insights from Healthcare Systems**

Friday, April 17, 2:00 - 3:00 pm ET [Click here for registration and connection information](#)

Join these presenters as they discuss the current impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on healthcare systems in the U.S., including key successes and challenges from the hospital response perspective.

**HHS/ASPR COVID-19 Clinical Rounds**

**Emergency Department: Patient Care and Clinical Operations**

Thursday, April 16, 12:00-1:00 pm ET [Click here for registration and connection information](#)

Join presenters to discuss emergency management resources and information that can be utilized to improve effective hospital and emergency department function during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**EMS: Patient Care and Operations**

Monday, April 20, 12:00-1:00 pm ET [Click here for registration and connection information](#)

Join EMS providers from across the country to discuss challenges faced in the COVID-19 response and what can be done to enhance patient care and emergency operations.

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**Touching Your Face Is a Coronavirus Danger: Tips to Help You Stop**

<https://news360.com/article/525303319>

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**Woman Dying of Coronavirus Asked Alexa for Help 40 Times**

<http://newser.com/s289326>

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**Heart risk concerns mount around use of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine for Covid-19 treatment**

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/13/health/chloroquine-risks-coronavirus-treatment-trials-study/index.html>

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**--- Extracts from Trust for America's Health ---**

- *American Public Health Association:* [COVID-19 Exposes the Cracks in Our Already Fragile Mental Health System](#)
- *Kaiser Health News:* [How Do We Exit The Shutdown? Hire An Army Of Public Health Workers](#)
- *Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security:* [A National Plan to Enable Comprehensive COVID-19 Case Finding and Contact Tracing in the US](#)
- *CDC Foundation:* [Free COVID-19 Communications Resources for Public Health Organizations](#).

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.