



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 18, 2020



Jasie Logsdon is Moving On!

The Kentucky Public Health Preparedness Branch's HPP lead, Jasie Logsdon, has advised that she is taking a position with the Virginia Department of Health, and will be leaving us as of May 1st. She will be working in their Tuberculosis program.

Here in Kentucky, Jasie has been doing double duty as both the lead for HPP, and as a Regional Preparedness Coordinator helping three of our regions. She has been in Public Health for seventeen years, starting at Lake Cumberland District Health Department. She then went to KY Public health, but the last five years has been in the HPP program.

Jasie has been a strong asset to the program, and she will certainly be missed.

----- AHA debuts new thank you video to health care heroes

The American Hospital Association is debuting a new video thanking the women and men of America's hospitals, health systems and first responders for their heroic efforts to care for patients and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The video, is [posted online](#).

----- 136 Louisville Health Care Workers Test Positive As New Initiative Begins

(WFPL) Louisville's three major hospital systems have begun an unprecedented research initiative to screen front-line health care workers in an effort to track the coronavirus and identify plasma that could be used to treat patients infected with COVID-19.

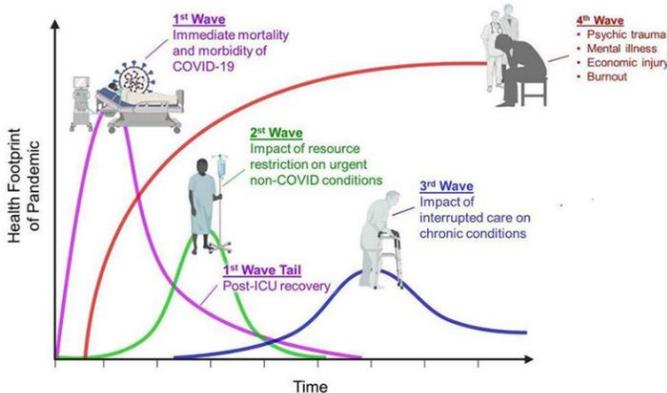
Already, at least 136 health care workers in Louisville have tested positive for the virus, according to information from the health care providers involved: Norton Healthcare, Baptist Healthcare and University of Louisville Health.

U of L's Chief Medical Officer Jason Smith says hospitals will expand COVID-19 testing both in size and scope among their workers. Besides identifying which of their workers have COVID-19, they're looking for antibodies in the blood that effectively fight the coronavirus. With the right test, the Co-Immunity Project plans to create a pool of recovered patients willing to share their plasma with others fighting COVID-19.

Read more: <https://wfpl.org/136-louisville-health-care-workers-test-positive-as-new-initiative-begins/>

----- KY Governor says coming weeks could see reopening of Kentucky in 'small ways'

(WDRB) Gov. Andy Beshear said Friday that Kentucky's plan to begin a phased reopening of the state's economy largely mirrors guidance released this week by President Donald Trump's administration. Speaking in Frankfort, Beshear said the state's approach also includes benchmarks like a 14-day decline in COVID-19 cases and increased testing for health care workers.



Benchmark criteria for KY to move to the first stage

- 14 days where cases are decreasing
- Increased testing capacity and contact tracing
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) availability
- Ability to protect at-risk populations
- Ability to social distance and follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on large gatherings
- Preparedness for possible future spike
- Status of vaccine and treatment

[Trump's plan](#) recommends a number of goals states should achieve before beginning a phased approach to restarting some businesses and services that have been closed or limited in an effort to halt the spread of the virus. Kentucky is part of a seven-state regional coalition addressing the reopening of their economies. The group also includes Indiana and Ohio.

WDRB story & video link: https://www.wdrb.com/in-depth/beshear-says-coming-weeks-could-see-reopening-of-kentucky-in-small-ways/article_f000baba-80d7-11ea-8263-33769c7c7020.html

Governor's detailed plan and press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=132>

The source for the image above is: <https://lnkd.in/gUFySVQ>

CBS Coronavirus updates:

Food banks see surging demand across U.S.

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the United States now tops 700,000. More than 37,000 people nationwide have died due to the virus, according to data from [Johns Hopkins University](#).

Across the country, desperation is growing for Americans who lost their jobs, and food banks are seeing growing lines and surging demand amid the crisis.

Here are the latest major stories:

- As [some states slowly reopen](#), others face pressure to ease restrictions.
- Food banks see [surging demand](#) across the United States.
- Trump says [governors are "responsible"](#) for testing.
- [Rural hospitals are "bleeding cash" and shut out of the government's coronavirus loan program](#).
- [Paycheck Protection Program](#) billions went to large companies and missed virus hot spots.
- Pence says there's a ["sufficient amount of testing"](#) for Phase 1 opening by states.

Detailed [information from the CDC on coronavirus treatment and prevention](#).

**Japan Thought Virus Was Under Control. Now, 'Cries of Desperation'
Emergency Care system collapsing from crush of COVID-19**

(Newser) Hospitals in Japan are increasingly turning away sick people as the country struggles with surging coronavirus infections and its emergency medical system collapses. In one recent case, an ambulance carrying a man with a fever and difficulty breathing was rejected by 80 hospitals and forced to search for hours for a hospital in downtown Tokyo that would treat him, per the [AP](#). Another feverish man finally reached a hospital after paramedics unsuccessfully contacted 40 clinics. Many hospital ERs are refusing to treat people, including those suffering strokes, heart attacks, and external injuries. The "collapse of emergency medicine" has already happened, a precursor to the overall collapse of medicine, said leading experts.

Read more: <http://newser.com/s289727>

App links PPE donors with potential recipients.

The [AHA](#) has partnered with Microsoft, Kaiser Permanente, consulting firm Kearney, Merit Solutions and UPS to launch Protecting People Everywhere, an app-powered initiative that matches individuals and organizations donating personal protective equipment with local hospitals based on need. The HealthEquip™ app also will track PPE donations and manage shipping through UPS to hospitals. The AHA is sharing the app with hospitals through its 100 Million Mask Challenge. [Read more details](#).

More Guidance on Mask Disinfection

(KHA COVID-19 Update) Manufacturer 3M does not recommend or support attempts to sanitize, disinfect or sterilize 3M Filtering Facepiece Respirators (FFRs). Please see the official bulletin from 3M at <https://www.kyha.com/assets/docs/COVID19/Disinfectionof3MFFRs.pdf>.

The recent research article and information from Sterrad and Steris stress that you must check with the mask manufacturer before attempting sterilization or disinfection.

3M did release an update this month regarding decontamination methods for 3M N95 respirators. It is very definitive on what they do not recommend based on testing they have performed themselves on their respirators: <https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/1824869O/decontamination-methods-for-3m-n95-respirators-technical-bulletin.pdf>.

In addition, cellulose content may preclude decontamination. Please see the list of which masks are cellulose-free and can be re-processed at <https://www.kyha.com/assets/docs/COVID19/3MCelluloseCertificationLetter.pdf>.

You should only undertake this when you are burning to critically low levels with precarious re-supply.

CDC What's New?

- New [Considerations When Preparing for COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities](#)
- New [Key Strategies to Prepare for COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities \(LTCFs\)](#)
- New [Print Resources](#)
- New [Serology Testing for COVID-19](#)
- Updated [If you are Sick or Caring for Someone](#)
- Updated [Infection Control](#)
- Updated [Pregnancy and Breastfeeding](#)
- Updated [Preparing for COVID-19: Long-term Care Facilities, Nursing Homes](#)
- Updated [Public Health Communicators: Get Your Community Ready](#)
- Updated [Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- Updated [Clinical Questions About COVID-19: Questions and Answers](#)
- New [Data Visualization](#)
- New [Cleaning and Disinfecting for Non-Emergency Transport Vehicles](#)
- Updated [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)
- Updated [Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons](#)

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from **April 16, 2020**

[Military sees no quick exit from 'new world' of coronavirus](#) (*AP*) The U.S. military is bracing for a months-long struggle against the coronavirus, looking for novel ways to maintain a defensive crouch that sustains troops' health without breaking their morale — while still protecting the nation.

[American Paramedic Association recommends emergency amendment to scope of practice](#) (*EMS1*) The American Paramedic Association has [published recommendations](#) for an emergency amendment to the national paramedic scope of practice in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper authored by representatives from the American Paramedic Association, The Paramedic Foundation, UCHealth EMS, LifeFlight of Maine, Brigham and Women's Hospital and other organizations was published [in the Journal of Rural Health](#), and stresses the need for changes related to airway and ventilator management to prepare for a potential surge in COVID-19 patients.

[Treating Coronavirus in a Central Park 'Hot Zone'](#) (*The New York Times*) Rubber boots hung from a tree of wooden pegs in soggy Central Park after being sterilized with chlorine. Workers observed a one-way flow into and out of what they referred to as “the hot zone” of patient treatment tents. Step by step, they removed their isolation suits in a designated area, as a monitor barked instructions.

[Temporal dynamics in viral shedding and transmissibility of COVID-19](#) (*Nature Medicine*) We report temporal patterns of viral shedding in 94 patients with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 and modeled COVID-19 infectiousness profiles from a separate sample of 77 infector–infectee transmission pairs. We observed the highest viral load in throat swabs at the time of symptom onset, and inferred that infectiousness peaked on or before symptom onset.

[COVID-19-related mortality by age groups in Europe: A meta-analysis](#) (*medRxiv*) To date, more than 1,000,000 confirmed cases and 65,000 deaths due to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) have been reported globally. Early data have indicated that older patients are at higher risk of dying from COVID-19 than younger ones, but precise international estimates of the age-breakdown of COVID-19-related deaths are lacking.

[Coronavirus Vaccine Prospects](#) (*Science Translational Medicine: In the Pipeline*) Time for another look at the coronavirus vaccine front, since we have several recent news items. Word has come from GSK and Sanofi that they are going to collaborate on vaccine development, which brings together two of the more experienced large organizations in the field.

**Ky. American Water to conduct system flushing in Central KY counties
Temporary changes to drinking water disinfection**

(KyForward News) Kentucky American Water will soon conduct its annual water system flushing program, which involves crews opening selected fire hydrants throughout the water distribution system and letting them flow for several minutes. This is an essential maintenance activity that assists in providing excellent quality water to customers because it helps remove natural sediment that can build up in water pipes over time. Before, during, and, for a short period of time, after the hydrant flushing program, the company's three water treatment plants will temporarily change the disinfectant used in the treatment process from chloramine to chlorine. Chloramine and chlorine are common disinfectants used in the water treatment process to remove microbial contaminants like bacteria and viruses from water. Read more: <https://www.kyforward.com/ky-american-water-to-conduct-system-flushing-temporary-changes-to-drinking-water-disinfection/>

NWS reports most single-night tornadoes in Greater Cincinnati's history since 1974

(WLWT - Cincinnati) Fourteen tornadoes touched down April 8-9 as severe weather pushed across the Cincinnati area, National Weather Service officials now confirm. Uprooted trees laid across the ground and on top of houses in the wake of the powerful weather last Wednesday. Eleven of the 14 twisters were rather minor, classified as EF0. Only three of the storms were classified as an EF1. See video and read more: <https://news360.com/article/525843446>

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.