

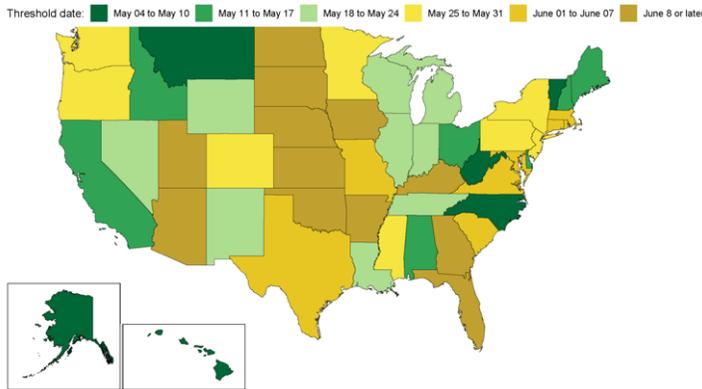


# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 23, 2020

## KY should wait until June 11 to relax social distancing measures

(WDRB) Kentucky should wait until June 11 to relax social distancing measures, while Indiana can begin on May 20, according to a model often cited by the White House. [The model, from the University of Washington](#),

Earliest date after which relaxing social distancing may be possible with containment strategies that include testing, contact tracing, isolation, and limiting gathering size



lists Kentucky among 12 states that should wait the longest before they can ease mitigation measures -- though several states in that group, including Georgia, Nebraska and North Dakota should wait days or even weeks longer than Kentucky. All of Kentucky's neighbors could open up faster, because they will sooner fall below the threshold set by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation: 1 prevalent case per 1 million people.

While the model has been influential, it is one of many, and the IHME has warned against relying too heavily on its projections. That's as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director gave an ominous forecast of a possible

second wave of the virus in the winter.

Read and see more: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/kentucky-should-wait-until-june-11-to-relax-social-distancing-measures-influential-institute-says/article\\_3c71a23e-84f6-11ea-a475-4bfb9a655888.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/kentucky-should-wait-until-june-11-to-relax-social-distancing-measures-influential-institute-says/article_3c71a23e-84f6-11ea-a475-4bfb9a655888.html)

Link to KY data in this model: <https://covid19.healthdata.org/United-States-of-America/kentucky>

### Ken Kik will replace Jasie Logsdon as KY HPP Lead

(Frankfort) Jasie Logsdon has shared this news today: "As I depart for my new position as the TB Program Manager at the Virginia Department of Health, Ken Kik will be stepping in to the Healthcare Preparedness Program Manager position. He brings a wealth of experience to the program and I am confident he will keep making great strides with the HPP!! His email address is: [Kenneth.kik@ky.gov](mailto:Kenneth.kik@ky.gov) Congrats to Ken!!"

### Near 90% Mortality Rate in Intubated COVID-19 Patients in NYC

Comorbidities appeared to play a major role

(MedPage Today) Mortality among hospitalized COVID-19 patients in New York City reached a whopping 88% for those requiring ventilators, researchers found. Among all patients who received mechanical ventilation, the mortality rate was 76.4% for adults ages 18 to 65, and nearly all patients over age 65 died (97.2%), reported Karina Davidson, PhD, of Northwell Health in New York City, and colleagues, writing in [JAMA](#). By contrast, mortality rates among these age groups who did not receive mechanical ventilation were 19.8% and 26.6%, respectively. Full story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/86101>

### Study identifies most common underlying conditions in sickest COVID-19 patients

(NBC) People with obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure are at greater risk for complications from the coronavirus, according to a large study of patients hospitalized with the illness it causes. The findings, published Wednesday in the [Journal of the American Medical Association](#), confirm what physicians nationwide have noted anecdotally. The study included data on 5,700 people hospitalized with COVID-19 in the New York City area.

[Underlying conditions](#) were common. The researchers found that, among all patients, 57 percent had high blood pressure, 41 percent were obese and just over a third had [diabetes](#).

Read more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/sickest-covid-19-patients-underlying-conditions-are-common-large-study-n1189906>

### Related article - Seniors with Covid-19 show unusual symptoms

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/23/health/seniors-elderly-coronavirus-symptoms-wellness-partner/index.html>

### Woman's sudden death in February is now first known US coronavirus fatality

(CNN) - A 57-year-old Northern California woman whose February 6 death has become the [first known coronavirus-related fatality in the US](#) had been in relatively good health, her brother told CNN. She was Patricia

Dowd, a Bay Area woman who worked as a manager for a semiconductor company and who "exercised routinely, watched her diet and took no medication," the [Los Angeles Times first reported Wednesday](#). Rick Cabello, Dowd's older brother, told CNN she didn't smoke and was in good health. Before Dowd was found dead February 6, "she had flu-like symptoms for a few days, then appeared to recover," the Los Angeles Times reported.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/23/us/california-woman-first-coronavirus-death/index.html>

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**CDC What's New?**

- [People Who Need to Take Extra Precautions](#) Thursday, April 23, 2020
- [Decontamination and Reuse of Filtering Facepiece Respirators using Contingency and Crisis Capacity Strategies](#) Thursday, April 23, 2020
- [Information for Healthcare Providers: COVID-19 and Pregnant Women](#) Wednesday, April 22, 2020
- [Strategies for Optimizing Supply of N95 Respirators](#) Wednesday, April 22, 2020
- [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE](#) Wednesday, April 22, 2020
- [Assessing & Managing Risk Based on Different Exposures to COVID-19](#) Wednesday, April 22, 2020
- [Other At-Risk Populations](#) Wednesday, April 22, 2020
- [Healthcare Supply of Personal Protective Equipment](#) Wednesday, April 22, 2020
- [Contact Tracing : Part of a Multipronged Approach to Fight the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) Wednesday, April 22, 2020

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**FDA - [CTTI Webinar: Designing High-Quality COVID-19 Treatment Trials](#)[External Link Disclaimer](#)**

FDA will participate in a discussion of the current landscape of COVID-19 treatment trial designs and best practices for quickly launching trials that ensure both patient safety and reliable results.

[CMS News Alert April 23, 2020: A Summary of Recent CMS Actions Taken in Response to Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#) (4/23/20)

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**PAs Aim to Waive States' Doc Supervision Rules during COVID-19 Crisis**

*Group says rules may "unnecessarily complicate" where and how PAs can practice*

(MedPage Today) Physician assistants (PAs) are campaigning to have restrictions on physician supervision loosened or waived during the COVID-19 pandemic, arguing many states' rules are preventing them from being able to help in outbreak areas.

In a press release issued at the end of last month, the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) called on [governors to waive physician supervision or collaboration requirements for PAs during a declared public health emergency](#) or disaster through executive orders.

At least one physician group opposes this idea. "I'm asking myself where in this COVID crisis situation, when we're using all hands on deck to fight this invisible menace, does a PA work without supervision on his or her own ground?" Gary LeRoy, MD, president, American Academy of Family Physicians, said in a phone interview. "I don't get that; it's really difficult to get my head wrapped around that."

Learn more: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/86104>

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**U of L researchers develop promising tech that could block COVID-19 infection**

(WDRB) Early tests indicate that synthetic DNA may stop viruses, including COVID-19, from replicating inside the human body. According to a news release, the technology is based on a piece of synthetic DNA -- also referred to as an "aptamer" -- that targets and binds with nucleolin, a type of human protein. Early tests indicate that the synthetic DNA may stop viruses, including COVID-19, from "hijacking" nucleolin to replicate inside the human body.

The synthetic DNA was discovered by Paula Bates, John Trent and Don Miller, who are all researchers at U of L, according to the news release. Those researchers were applying the synthetic DNA as a potential therapeutic drug against different types of cancer.

Learn more: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/u-of-l-researchers-develop-promising-tech-that-could-block-covid-19-infection/article\\_878a2958-84b5-11ea-98a9-ef3c1f902795.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/u-of-l-researchers-develop-promising-tech-that-could-block-covid-19-infection/article_878a2958-84b5-11ea-98a9-ef3c1f902795.html)

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**Doctors start giving second round of shots to volunteers in Seattle COVID-19 vaccine trial**

(USA Today) The Seattle volunteers who got shots in the first trial of a possible coronavirus vaccine are now getting the second shot — an indicator the early trial is progressing well. While the doctors at Kaiser Permanente's Vaccine Treatment and Evaluation Unit in Seattle don't know the results of the first round of tests, the fact that it has continued and that the second round of injections are now being given is good news, said

Lisa Jackson, who is leading the study. The volunteers will be followed for 13 months to ensure they have no side effects or other reactions to the vaccine.

The National Institutes of health is now expanding the trial to include 60 adults over the age of 56, Jackson said. Some will be tested in Seattle, some in Atlanta at some at the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland.

Full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2020/04/22/second-round-shots-first-coronavirus-vaccine-test-start/3008506001/>

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**'I Hear the Agony': Coronavirus Crisis Takes Toll on NYC's First Responders**

(NPR) For weeks, paramedics and EMTs in New York City have been struggling to respond to a high number of 911 calls during the coronavirus pandemic. More first responders are getting sick themselves.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2020/04/23/842011186/i-hear-the-agony-coronavirus-crisis-takes-toll-on-nyc-s-first-responders>

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**VA memo shows, despite denials, veterans' hospitals have struggled to meet PPE demands**

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/22/politics/veterans-affairs-memo-ppe-shortage-coronavirus/index.html>

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**2 cats in NY become first US pets to test positive for virus**

(AP) — Two pet cats in New York state have tested positive for the coronavirus, marking the first confirmed cases in companion animals in the United States, federal officials said Wednesday. The cats, which had mild respiratory illnesses and are expected to recover, are thought to have contracted the virus from people in their households or neighborhoods, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. The finding, which [comes after positive tests in some tigers and lions at the Bronx Zoo](#), adds to a small number of confirmed cases of the virus in animals worldwide.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/37328ab8db093b8346e26e1840b48af8>

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**Zoombombers are hijacking video chats and terrorizing marginalized groups.  
Now Zoom is rolling out new updates to stop them.**

(From Business Insider) Zoombombers have particularly targeted minorities, like [Muslims](#), [Jews](#), and [people of color](#): On March 30 the FBI [published a warning](#) about teleconference-hijacking, saying had received "multiple reports of conferences being disrupted by pornographic and/or hate images and threatening language" during the pandemic. Zoombombers are typically able to hijack teleconferencing sessions by getting access to a public video-chat URL. It can be as easy as searching 'Zoom.us' or an equivalent address on Twitter, [Forbes reported](#).

Zoom CEO Eric Yuan has admitted the company was unprepared for the deluge of new users that came as millions of people started working and socializing from home.

To address the issue, Zoom has [made passwords the default setting](#) and established "waiting rooms," where hosts can decide whom to admit. More recently, the company has announced that, after an April 26 update, hosts will be able [to report](#) participants for inappropriate behavior and lock meetings to prevent new users from joining.

Read more: <https://www.businessinsider.com/zoom-announces-new-updates-to-combat-zoombombing-2020-4>

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**Police in Connecticut Testing "Pandemic Drone"**

(IACP) [NBC News](#) (4/22) reports the police department in Westport, Connecticut, will "begin testing a 'pandemic drone' that could detect whether a person 190 feet away has a fever or is coughing." However, "an expert on viruses and a privacy advocate question whether such technology can work and, if it does, whether it would help in controlling the spread of the coronavirus."

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](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.