



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 24, 2020

### 322 New Coronavirus Cases Amid Testing Ramp-Up

(WFPL) Gov. Andy Beshear announced 322 new cases of coronavirus in Kentucky Friday, the largest daily increase so far. Beshear said the increase is partly due to the state's efforts to expand testing and that he still believes Kentucky is in the "plateau" of the pandemic. There are 3,779 confirmed coronavirus cases in Kentucky as of Friday evening. Beshear reported nine new deaths associated with the illness, for a total of 200. The governor said the uptick in cases shows that Kentuckians need to keep practicing social distancing guidelines.

Nursing homes have been hit especially hard by the pandemic, with 578 residents and 268 staff testing positive for coronavirus. There have been 91 coronavirus deaths in Kentucky long-term facilities.

Beshear also announced that an additional 352 state prisoners convicted of non-violent, non-sexual crimes near the end of their sentences have been released from state custody. Beshear said all of the prisoners had five years or fewer remaining on their punishments and that 339 of them were state inmates serving out their punishments in local jails.

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/beshear-announces-322-new-coronavirus-cases-amid-testing-ramp-up/>

### President adds confusion on COVID-19 treatments as US deaths top 50,000

(CIDRAP) Direct sunlight, injected disinfectants, heat. Those were some of the remedies for coronavirus infection President Donald Trump mentioned during yesterday's White House task force briefing. Today the manufacturers of Lysol and Dettol cleaners, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), issued statements and warnings contradicting Trump's remarks.

At the press briefing, [William Bryan](#), acting head of the US Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate, presented new preliminary research that shows the coronavirus dies quickly in direct sunlight. The research was conducted on the strength of the COVID-19 virus on non-porous surfaces, and showed direct, high heat reduced the virus' half-life within 2 minutes, compared with 18 hours in a dark, low-humidity environment. The study was not conducted on humans.

Only 10 days after hitting 25,000 deaths due to COVID-19, the US reached another milestone today: 50,000 deaths from the novel coronavirus. New York state accounts for more than 40% of the deaths, followed by New Jersey, Michigan, Massachusetts, and Illinois.

So far the US has recorded 884,004 cases and 50,360 deaths, according to the tracker maintained by [USA Today](#). But there are some signs the virus is slowing and on the descent in the nation's first major hot spots. New York state recorded 422 deaths, the lowest daily total since Apr 1, [Governor Andrew Cuomo](#) said today in his briefing. As of today, [New York state](#) has 271,590 cases and 16,162 deaths.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/trump-adds-confusion-covid-19-treatments-us-deaths-top-50000>

### Johns Hopkins: Health security Headlines Extracts from [April 24, 2020](#)

#### [U.S. says will not take part in WHO global drugs, vaccine initiative launch](#)

(Reuters) The United States will not take part in the launching of a global initiative on Friday to speed the development, production and distribution of drugs and vaccines against COVID-19, a spokesman for the U.S. mission in Geneva told Reuters.

#### [1 in 5 New Yorkers May Have Had Covid-19, Antibody Tests Suggest](#)

*The New York Times*) One of every five New York City residents tested positive for antibodies to the coronavirus, according to preliminary results described by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo on Thursday that suggested that the virus had spread far more widely than known.

#### [New data on Gilead's remdesivir, released by accident, show no benefit for coronavirus patients. Company still sees reason for hope](#)

(STAT) The antiviral medicine remdesivir from Gilead Sciences failed to speed the improvement of patients with Covid-19 or prevent them from dying, according to results from a long-awaited clinical trial conducted in China. Gilead, however, said the data suggest a "potential benefit."

### [Comparison of Abbott ID Now and Abbott m2000 methods for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 from nasopharyngeal and nasal swabs from symptomatic patients](#)

(*Journal of Clinical Microbiology*) The ID NOW COVID-19 (IDNCOV) assay performed on the ID Now Instrument is a rapid diagnostic test that can be performed in a point of care setting equivalent to CLIA waived testing.

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#### **State Clarifies Resumption of Elective Procedures**

At the Governor's press briefing yesterday, **Dr. Steven Stack**, Commissioner of Public Health, indicated that on Monday, April 27, diagnostic radiology, diagnostic laboratory services and in-person office visits could resume pursuant to certain guidelines. The state has asked KHA to clarify that no elective surgery or procedures are to start in hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers or outpatient settings under Phase One. This was clarified in the press release from yesterday's briefing which states. "This guidance does not apply to elective surgeries or procedures which will be addressed in a subsequent phase."

The full press release can be accessed at <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear<Id=138>.

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#### **CDC releases guidance on the use of reusable elastomeric respirators**

(AHA Today) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released contingency and crisis [capacity strategies](#) for the cleaning, decontamination and use of reusable elastomeric respirators during surge demand situations. Elastomeric respirators have facepieces that are made of synthetic or natural rubber that can be repeatedly cleaned and reused and are alternatives to disposable filtering facepiece respirators. The agency also updated its [webpage](#) on decontaminating and reusing disposable facepiece respirators to clarify the language on individual facility discretion to determine what decontamination method to use, certain decontamination methods and emergency use authorizations.

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#### **CDC What's New?**

- [COVID-19 By the Numbers](#) Friday, April 24, 2020
- [Cases in U.S.](#) Friday, April 24, 2020

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#### **FDA issues guidance to increase mobile patient monitoring, imaging options**

(AHA Today) The Food and Drug Administration yesterday issued guidance allowing patients to use certain non-invasive fetal and maternal [monitoring devices](#) in the home during the COVID-19 emergency to reduce the need for in-clinic visits. FDA also issued [guidance](#) to expand mobile and portable imaging options to diagnose and monitor treatment of lung disease patients with COVID-19 during the emergency.

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#### **Summary of Briefing by US DOJ Associate Deputy Attorney General Bill Hughes on COVID-19 Fraud and Other Criminal Activity**

As part of an April 23 American Hospital Association call for hospital and health system leaders **Associate Deputy Attorney General Bill Hughes** noted that as of last week, the Department of Justice had over 180 open investigations related to potential fraud, price gouging, fraudulent products, issues surrounding KN95 masks and other materials coming in to the United States from foreign manufacturers. He stated that there have been incidents associated with people selling materials from the back of trucks, basements, garages and warehouses. These "bad actors" have been known to be selling masks at \$10 each, or more, when the actual cost might only be a dollar to two.

Products they have encountered have been counterfeit, misbranded and sometimes with false certifications. Some items have failed testing, and cannot be used in place of NIOSH-approved N95.

He also discussed the fraudulent testing problems they have seen. In some cases, the people involved may not be real medical personnel and are going through the motions to gather personal and medical insurance identification information, then they file false claims. In many cases, they are not running any tests at all.

He also talked about a phony drive-through testing site in Western Kentucky that reportedly used a remote physician who was apparently out of state. Again, the people on site were not medical personnel, and the objective was most likely to gather personal information to sell or create false claims. This crew apparently picks up and moves around.

There have been cases involving fake test kits, fraudulent vaccinations, "miracle cures" that may involve bleach and dangerous ozone treatments (*see related article at <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/court-prohibits-dallas-health-center-touting-ozone-therapy-covid-19-treatment>*).

Hughes noted that coronavirus-related (COVID-19) complaints should be reported to the **National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) Hotline at 1-866-720-5721** or via email at [disaster@leo.gov](mailto:disaster@leo.gov). Hotline staff will obtain information regarding your complaint, which will then be reviewed by law enforcement officials. Reports are anonymous and confidential.

The National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) is a national coordinating agency within the Department of Justice's Criminal Division dedicated to improving the detection, prevention, investigation and prosecution of criminal conduct related to natural and man-made disasters and other emergencies, such as the coronavirus (COVID-19). The NCDF is the result of a partnership between the U.S. Department of Justice and various law enforcement and regulatory agencies to form a national coordinating agency within the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice to improve and further the detection, prevention, investigation and prosecution of fraud related to natural and man-made disasters, and to advocate for the victims of such fraud.

Website: <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud>

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**Counties Affected by Historical Flooding Receive Disaster Declaration**

Gov. Andy Beshear received notification today that President Donald Trump has authorized assistance for certain Kentucky counties that suffered significant damage as a result of severe storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides beginning Feb. 3, and continuing through Feb. 29, 2020.

The President's action grants public assistance to impacted counties to repair roads, bridges and other infrastructure. The declaration will also provide the commonwealth with mitigation funding. This weather system produced extended episodes of strong winds and torrential rain, which caused flooding, flash flooding, landslides and mudslides. The majority of damage was to highways, bridges and local and electrical infrastructure.

The counties of Bell, Boyd, Butler, Clay, Harlan, Henderson, Hickman, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Magoffin, McCracken, McCreary, Menifee, Metcalfe, Monroe, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Union, and Whitley are included in this declaration. For more information on Kentucky Emergency Management visit, [kyem.ky.gov](http://kyem.ky.gov).

Full press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prld=142>

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**ASPR TRACIE Webinar - *Recording and materials available!*  
Establishing COVID-19 Medical Operations Coordination Cells (MOCCs)**

ASPR conducted a webinar on Friday afternoon related to the establishment of **Medical Operations Coordination Cells (MOCCs)** related to COVID-19. *Some of you may have heard some discussions here in Kentucky about the potential for Regional Coordination Centers to help healthcare partners in portions of the state work together to solve problems, move supplies, patients, and other areas of cooperation. While this program uses a different name, the concept is very much the same.* MOCCs are cells within emergency operations centers (EOCs) [or the ESF-8 structure] at the sub-state, regional, state, and federal levels (FEMA/HHS regions) that facilitate patient movement and resource allocation.

During the presentation you will hear from Western Washington, Michigan, Texas, Los Angeles, and Dr. John Hicks from Minnesota (who also serves as a medical advisor for ASPR) talk about how they have been addressing coordination in these hard-hit states and regions, and what has worked for them.

As HPP leadership explores this subject here in Kentucky, the timing is perfect for this kind of presentation!

The PowerPoint presentation is available on ASPR TRACIE at: <https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/aspr-tracie-mocc-webinar--4-24-20-final-slides.pdf>

The title page of the PowerPoint presentation includes a link to the webinar recording. You can also directly access the recording at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/256769356898835472>. You will be asked to enter your name and email address prior to accessing the recording.

In the presentation, on slide # 11, you will see reference with URL to a MOCC TOOLKIT. In case it doesn't work, here is the URL link to a broad collection of Novel Coronavirus Resources:

<https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/COVID-19>

Please send your questions, comments and feedback to: [askasprtracie@hhs.gov](mailto:askasprtracie@hhs.gov).

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.