Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation
Emergency Preparedness Update
for April 25, 2020

KY COVID-19 Update

(Governor's Office) As of 5 p.m. April 25, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 3,905 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 171 of which were newly confirmed. Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear also reported five new deaths Saturday, raising the state's toll to 205 deaths related to the virus.

Thursday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced that Monday, April 27, the state will begin the gradual restart and reopening of our Phase 1 health care services and facilities, although they will operate very differently than they did before the outbreak of COVID-19. For full guidance on criteria for reopening and new best practices, click here. Full press release: https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=144

U.S. CDC reports 895,766 coronavirus cases, 50,439 deaths

(Reuters) The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Saturday reported 895,766 cases of new coronavirus, an increase of 30,181 cases from its previous count, and said that the number of deaths had risen by 1,623 to 50,439.

Related - CIDRAP
Global COVID-19 deaths top 200,000

In four U.S. state prisons, nearly 3,300 inmates test positive for coronavirus
96% without symptoms

(Reuters) - When the first cases of the new coronavirus surfaced in Ohio's prisons, the director in charge felt like she was fighting a ghost. "We weren't always able to pinpoint where all the cases were coming from," said Annette Chambers-Smith, director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. As the virus spread, they began mass testing.   They started with the Marion Correctional Institution, which houses 2,500 prisoners in north central Ohio, many of them older with pre-existing health conditions. After testing 2,300 inmates for the coronavirus, they were shocked. Of the 2,028 who tested positive, **close to 95% had no symptoms.**

As mass coronavirus testing expands in prisons, large numbers of inmates are showing no symptoms. In four state prison systems — Arkansas, North Carolina, Ohio and Virginia — 96% of 3,277 inmates who tested positive for the coronavirus were asymptomatic, according to interviews with officials and records reviewed by Reuters.
Full story: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-prisons-testing-in/in-four-u-s-state-prisons-nearly-3300-inmates-test-positive-for-coronavirus-96-without-symptoms-idUSKCN2270RX

Related - Test showed 1 in 5 NYC Residents Had COVID-19

(Newser) Nearly 14% of New York state residents have had the coronavirus, new testing suggests. Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the results of the tests Thursday, in which 3,000 people at grocery stores and other shopping sites in 19 counties were checked for antibodies, CNBC reports. The tests showed 13.9% overall had them, which would translate to possibly 2.7 million people in the state. The highest infection rate was in New York City, at more than 21%. Cuomo had said the FDA-approved test would give officials the "first true snapshot" of how widespread the disease is. If New York's results are indicative of infection rates, it would mean the number of cases is far higher than officials had thought; 250,000 cases in the state have been confirmed. More: https://www.newser.com/story/289985/tests-suggest-1-in-5-nyc-residents-had-virus.html

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Lawmakers Back Infecting People for Vaccine Trials
FDA hesitates, but bioethicists endorse the idea if done properly
Read more: https://www.newser.com/story/290026/this-vaccine-trial-would-need-volunteers.html

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'No Evidence' Yet That Recovered COVID-19 Patients Are Immune

(NPR) The World Health Organization has pushed back against the theory that individuals can only catch the coronavirus once, as well as proposals for reopening society that are based on this supposed immunity.

In a scientific brief dated Friday, the United Nations agency said the idea that one-time infection can lead to immunity remains unproven and is thus unreliable as a foundation for the next phase of the world's response to the pandemic.

"Some governments have suggested that the detection of antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, could serve as the basis for an 'immunity passport' or 'risk-free certificate' that would enable individuals to travel or to return to work assuming that they are protected against re-infection," the WHO wrote.

"There is currently no evidence that people who have recovered from COVID-19 and have antibodies are protected from a second infection.

Full story: https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/25/844939777/no-evidence-that-recovered-covid-19-patients-are-immune-who-says

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CMS issues guidelines for hospitals on resuming non-COVID-19 care.

(AHA Today) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services April 19 issued updated guidance on providing essential non-COVID-19 care to patients without symptoms of COVID-19 in regions with low and stable incidence of the virus. This is part of Phase 1 in the Administration's Guidelines for Opening Up America Again.

Information for Clinicians on Investigational Therapeutics for Patients with COVID-19

(CDC - April 25) There are no drugs or other therapeutics presently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to prevent or treat COVID-19. Current clinical management includes infection prevention and control measures and supportive care, including supplemental oxygen and mechanical ventilatory support when indicated.

The National Institutes of Health have published interim guidelines for the medical management of COVID-19external icon prepared by the COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel.

These guidelines contain information about investigational therapeutics and will be updated as new information emerges and drugs and other therapeutic interventions are approved for use by FDA.

CDC link: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/therapeutic-options.html

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Hopkins County Sheriff's Deputy Killed In Crash
After completing COVID-19 Security Detail

(WKDZ) A Hopkins County Sheriff's Deputy was killed in a crash on the Western Kentucky Parkway near the Hopkins and Muhlenberg County line Wednesday morning. Kentucky State Police say 43-year-old Terry Vick of Greenville was eastbound in his personal vehicle when it ran off the road and crossed the median, hitting a guardrail and a concrete embankment. The Hopkins County Sheriff's Department said *Vick had just completed an overnight security detail at the COVID-19 testing site at Madisonville-North Hopkins High School.*
Vick was a U.S. Marine veteran and a 17-year law enforcement veteran. He worked as the school resource officer at Hanson Elementary School. Source: https://www.wkdzradio.com/2020/04/22/hopkins-county-sheriffs-deputy-killed-in-crash/

Meet 'Spot:' The Robot That Could Help Doctors
Remotely Treat COVID-19 Patients

(NPR) Developed by Boston Dynamics, the four-legged robot can travel difficult terrain. Brigham and Women's Hospital is testing its value, starting with initial patient interviews, to reduce staff exposure.
(Learn more: https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/24/844770815/meet-spot-the-robot-that-could-help-doctors-remotely-treat-covid-19-patients

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Bodies Were Sent From Hospital in Back of Pickup

(Newser) Pandemic or no pandemic, bodies should not be moved from hospitals to the medical examiner's office in the back of a pickup truck, say officials in Philadelphia—who confirmed that very thing happened. A *Philadelphia Inquirer* photographer saw the truck arrive Sunday with seven bodies in the back. Philadelphia Department of Health rep James Garrow says moving bodies in that manner is an unacceptable "breach of protocol," CNN reports. A spokesman for the Albert Einstein Healthcare Network tells CNN that after an investigation of the incident, "we swiftly ended our contract with the funeral home responsible for this occurrence."
Full story: https://www.newser.com/story/290017/bodies-were-sent-from-hospital-in-back-of-pickup.html