



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 27, 2020

## Governor Urges Vigilance as Kentucky Takes First Reopening Step

On Sunday, Gov. Andy Beshear asked Kentuckians to remain vigilant in the fight against the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) as the state takes an initial step toward reopening certain health care operations Monday.

"Tomorrow is the first day since this virus hit that instead of adding restrictions, we are reopening some areas," the Governor said. "We are starting with health care for some very simple reasons. First, people have not been able to go in to some types of visits and important appointments to keep themselves healthy. And people can grow unhealthy or have other issues that are unrelated to COVID-19.

"Second, we need to get our health care industry moving again because as we want to test more people we will need our health care industry to be operating at a greater level to make that happen. And third, in thinking about how to do this gradually in a way that protects people, in a way that we can always take a temperature as we move forward, health care is the place to start."

Gov. Beshear says the phased reopening of health care services is the first step under the [Healthy at Work](#) initiative he introduced to help businesses restart operations safely when the time is right.

On April 27, health care practitioners can resume non-urgent/emergent health care services, diagnostic radiology and lab services in:

- ✓ Hospital outpatient settings;
- ✓ Health care clinics and medical offices;
- ✓ Physical therapy settings, chiropractic offices and optometrists;
- ✓ Dental offices (but with enhanced aerosol protections)

This guidance does not apply to long-term care settings, prisons and other industries or other settings for which separate guidance has already or will be provided in the future. This guidance does not apply to elective surgeries or procedures, which will be addressed in a subsequent phase.

(Full press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=145>)

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## CDC announces new potential symptoms of COVID-19

(WDRB) — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is raising awareness about new symptoms that could be related to the coronavirus. The main three symptoms for COVID-19 have been fever, cough and shortness of breath. But [the CDC now says](#) muscle pain, headache, sore throat, chills and loss of taste and smell can also be symptoms of the respiratory illness.

These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Difficulty breathing, chest pain and pressure, mental confusion and your lips or face turning blue require medical care. An expert with Norton Healthcare said those serious symptoms mean a trip to the emergency room.

Learn more: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/cdc-announces-new-potential-symptoms-of-covid-19/article\\_2c4a572e-87fe-11ea-ba2e-83a4ce21ed94.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/cdc-announces-new-potential-symptoms-of-covid-19/article_2c4a572e-87fe-11ea-ba2e-83a4ce21ed94.html)

CDC Coronavirus Symptoms & Testing: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

### Related story: **COVID Toes**



(ABC-7) As doctors around the world continue to battle COVID-19, researchers are noticing that the disease appears to attack the entire body, including the toes. A growing number of dermatologists treating suspected and confirmed coronavirus-positive patients are reporting patterns and trends of skin conditions. This includes what's dubbed as "COVID toes," or frostbite-like areas of typically red or purple discoloration on the feet and sometimes the fingers, according to Dr. Misha Rosenbach, associate professor of Dermatology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. The coronavirus is new, and researchers continue to learn more about the virus every day. All research is

preliminary, and guidelines from health officials are subject to change. Read more: <https://abc7ny.com/covid-toes-covid19-coronavirus-symptoms/6128998/>

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**Dr. Deborah Birx: "Social distancing will be with us through the summer"**

(VOX) Birx's projection means Vice President Pence may have been too optimistic in stating the virus would be under control by Memorial Day. As [more than a dozen states](#) prepare to loosen restrictions on social and business interactions, Birx noted those plans do not mean protective measures can be suspended. And she also said that mass diagnostic testing — on a scale not yet possible — would be needed before social distancing guidelines can be safely lifted.

Full story: <https://www.vox.com/2020/4/26/21237563/social-distancing-through-summer-birx-coronavirus>

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**All Kroger associates now required to wear face masks**

(WDRB) — Kroger's CEO said the grocery store chain is now requiring all of its associates to wear face masks "in locations where they're not already mandated" as an additional precaution against spreading COVID-19. Kroger Chairman and CEO Rodney McMullen said the requirement went into effect Sunday, according to a news release emailed to customers. McMullen's announcement comes just days after a Kroger spokesperson told WDRB News that [at least 13 employees at stores around Kentuckiana have tested positive for the coronavirus](#).

Full report: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/business/kroger-ceo-all-associates-now-required-to-wear-face-masks/article\\_4768a908-87f3-11ea-ad48-1bb7a10098b4.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/business/kroger-ceo-all-associates-now-required-to-wear-face-masks/article_4768a908-87f3-11ea-ad48-1bb7a10098b4.html)

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**High-Dose CQ Tied to Death, Cardiac Events in COVID-19 Patients  
Trial stopped due to prolonged QTc interval, higher rate of death in high- vs low-dose group**

(MedPage Today - April 24) Hospitalized patients with COVID-19 coronavirus infection treated with high-dose chloroquine diphosphate (CQ) in conjunction with azithromycin or oseltamivir experienced higher rates of death and adverse cardiac events compared with a low-dose group, an unplanned interim analysis of a phase IIb trial found. Lethality until day 13 was higher in the high-dose group versus the low-dose group (39% vs 15%, respectively), with more patients in the high-dose group experiencing QTc intervals of greater than 500 milliseconds (18.9% vs 11.1%). Hospitalized patients with COVID-19 coronavirus infection treated with high-dose chloroquine diphosphate (CQ) in conjunction with azithromycin or oseltamivir experienced higher rates of death and adverse cardiac events compared with a low-dose group, an unplanned interim analysis of a phase IIb trial found.

Lethality until day 13 was higher in the high-dose group versus the low-dose group (39% vs 15%, respectively), with more patients in the high-dose group experiencing QTc intervals of greater than 500 milliseconds (18.9% vs 11.1%), reported Marcus Vinícius Guimarães Lacerda, MD, of Fundação de Medicina Tropical in Brazil, and colleagues. A preliminary analysis was performed on 81 patients after 11 patients died in the high-dose group, and four patients died in the low-dose group, the authors [wrote in JAMA Network Open](#).

Full story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/86151>

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**Poisonings Linked to Cleaning Products Are Rising Along With Coronavirus Fears**

(HealthDay News) -- A woman overcome by toxic fumes from her kitchen sink is rushed to the hospital; a toddler is treated in the ER after swallowing hand sanitizer. As Americans' obsession with disinfecting their homes against coronavirus rises, so are the number of poisoning emergencies like these, a new government report finds.

"Exposures to cleaners and disinfectants reported to NPDS [the National Poison Data System] increased substantially in early March 2020," noted a team led by Dr. Arthur Chang, a researcher at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and [Prevention](#).

In fact, there's been a more than 20% spike in the number of such poisoning emergencies reported to the NPDS, compared to the same time last year, the report found. While cleaning products and disinfectants can be toxic to germs, they can also prove toxic to people when mixed or used improperly, experts noted. Bleach is one of the most common chemicals misused, the CDC team found, with improper use of bleach accounting "for the largest percentage of the increase" in household poisonings since the COVID-19 pandemic took hold.

Full story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=230600>

**Related - NYC Poison Control Sees Uptick In Calls After Trump's Disinfectant Comments**

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/25/845015236/nyc-poison-control-sees-uptick-in-calls-after-trumps-disinfectant-comments>



(Newser) Coronavirus mask may have caused a NJ woman to slam into a pole. "The crash is believed to have resulted from the driver wearing an N95 mask for several hours and subsequently passing out behind the wheel due to insufficient oxygen intake/excessive carbon dioxide intake."

The reaction caused enough controversy for the LPPD to walk its post back. "It was stated in the original post that we 'believed' the excessive wearing of an N95 mask was a contributing factor to this accident," reads the update. "While we don't know this with 100% certainty, we do know that the driver had

been wearing an N95 mask inside the vehicle for several hours and ultimately passed out."

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/290114/cops-n95-mask-may-have-caused-crash.html>

### **Vetted Non-Traditional Suppliers Offering PPE and Other Supplies and Services**

(AHA) AHRMM is collaborating with GHX using the same tools, expertise and processes leveraged by its Vendormate solutions to vet non-traditional suppliers offering PPE supplies. The Vendormate process has been in place for more than 15 years and is a trusted source of information to credential new vendors. The process includes information such as sanction searches, validating tax ids, reviewing financial snapshots and business licenses/certifications.

Full story: <https://www.ahrmm.org/covid-19-resources-non-traditional-suppliers-offering-ppe-and-other-critical-supplies>

### **Coronavirus strains cash-strapped hospitals *Up to 100 in danger of shuttering within a year***

(USA Today) In rural communities across America, more than 800 hospitals faced financial peril before the pandemic took hold. Now, they must find a way to treat thousands of coronavirus patients, which could trigger a financial cascade that sinks up to a hundred hospitals within the next year. A USA TODAY Network analysis of financial reports submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services found that almost half of the counties with coronavirus cases are served by a hospital that reported a net loss in 2017.

The 19 rural hospitals that shuttered in 2019 were more than any other year since researchers started keeping track – and 2020 was on pace to break that record even before the virus. States that did not expand Medicaid were hardest-hit. Some experts worry that dozens of rural hospitals could close this year if the federal response to the coronavirus does not adequately compensate for lost revenue.

The pandemic accelerated closures in Kansas and West Virginia, and Tennessee-based Quorum Health, which operates more than 20 rural hospitals in 13 states, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in April.

Read full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2020/04/25/coronavirus-strains-cash-strapped-hospitals-could-cause-mass-closures/2996521001/>

### **Scientists are using sewage to measure the prevalence of coronavirus**

(CNN) As the need for widespread Covid-19 testing grows, officials are looking to flush out hidden cases of the virus by examining sewage.

Groups of scientists around the world are using wastewater testing as a non-invasive way to measure the prevalence of coronavirus in their communities. Local governments in the US are also turning to the tests, which detect traces of coronavirus genetic material -- known as RNA -- in fecal matter. The data can be used to gain a sense of how many people may have had the virus asymptotically and are passing it through, in addition to those testing positive because they are outwardly sick.

Meanwhile, in the Syracuse area of New York, four professors across three universities have partnered up to test Onondaga County wastewater using a centrifugal process to isolate the virus -- a process they say could significantly speed up detection of Covid-19 outbreaks. The isolation process they have devised adheres RNA samples of Covid-19 in wastewater to polyethylene glycol, a resin that destroys the active virus and concentrates it into a pellet. The pellet is then tested through a process known as polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The PCR is used to detect Covid-19 specifically, as opposed to other viruses that may have found their way into the testing samples. Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/26/us/covid-19-sewage-testing/index.html>

### **Police In US Using Drones To Monitor Homeless Communities During Pandemic**

(IACP) [NBC News](#) (4/24) reported, "On the first day of April, the Calvert County Sheriff's Office in southern Maryland flew three new drones fitted with loudspeakers and live cameras for their first mission: To monitor people in homeless encampments and broadcast public health announcements from the sky." The idea, according to law enforcement officials interviewed by NBC News, is that homeless encampments are often tucked away in hard-to-access areas, and a drone can allow police to patrol with a live camera feed and blast information from the sky without having to venture in person at a time when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is urging social distancing." NBC News added, "Other police departments using drones to interact

with homeless encampments include the Fort Worth Police Department in Texas, the Chula Vista Police Department in California, outside of San Diego, and the San Pablo Police Department in the Bay Area.”

**Related - Homeless Shelters Are 'TinderBoxes' for Coronavirus, Studies Show**

Read more: <https://news360.com/article/526541177>



COVID-19 Webinar Series

***Ethical Issues in Pandemic Response, Triage and Beyond***

Wednesday, April 29, 2 PM ET/1 PM CT

[Register Here](#)

COVID-19 Webinar Series

***The use of Prone - Implications for your patients and your team***

Friday, May 1, 2020, 1 PM ET/12 PM CT

[Register Here](#)

**ASPR COVID-19 Clinical Rounds**

**Monday, April 27, 12:00-1:00 pm ET**

**Patient Care and Operations: EMS** [Click here for registration](#)

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

**Tuesday, April 28, 12:00-1:00 PM ET**

**Critical Care: Lifesaving Treatment and Clinical Operations** [Click here for registration](#)

This resource webinar is intended for consultant physicians involved in critical care practice, fellows, residents, pharmacists, nursing staff, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, & allied health staff.

Thursdays, 12:00-1:00 PM ET – Topic Focus: *Emergency Department: Patient Care and Clinical Operations*

**Digital Enablers for a More Resilient Supply Chain**

**Wednesday, Apr 29, 2:00 pm ET** [Click here for registration and connect information](#)

Digitalization is revolutionizing many industries. One field of exceptional transformation is the supply chain. Across the globe, industries have changed rapidly due to multiple factors. But especially under this unprecedented crisis due to COVID-19, several lessons can be learned. The current disruptions show how relevant is the agility and resilience of the supply chains to be able to cope with all derived challenges. This webinar will analyze the digital enablers that facilitate the development of key supply chain resilient capabilities, such as visibility, agility, collaboration, or omni-channel. And will show the balance between digital technologies, supply chain processes, and organizations, and how these dimensions have to be intertwined according to the idiosyncrasies of each supply chain.

***Need to start the week with a smile?***

**'SNL' returns with Brad Pitt as Dr. Anthony Fauci**



(CNN) - On [CNN's New Day earlier this month](#), host Alisyn Camerota asked Dr. Anthony Fauci which actor he would want to play him on "[Saturday Night Live](#)." "Here are some suggestions that I've heard. Ben Stiller, Brad Pitt. Which one?" Camerota said. Fauci laughed and responded, "Oh, Brad Pitt, of course."

On Saturday night, Fauci got his wish. In a surprise appearance, Pitt played Fauci at the opening of Saturday's "[SNL](#)," which was produced remotely because of the coronavirus pandemic.

CNN story link: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/26/media/snl-brad-pitt-dr-fauci-coronavirus/index.html>

Video: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=uW56CL0pk0g>

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.