



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 3, 2020

### Governor urges Kentuckians to take advantage of COVID-19 testing

(Frankfort) On Sunday, Gov. Andy Beshear urged Kentuckians to be ready to fill all available slots as the state undertakes more testing for the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) than ever before.

The Governor and the acting secretary for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Eric Friedlander, provided updates on long-term care facilities. "This is a major area of challenge that we continue to work through and we know that this is where, in Kentucky, COVID-19 devastates us," Gov. Beshear said. "We've got to make sure we continue to use every single step to protect those in these facilities and make sure that we are doing our best every day." When talking about working with the nursing home alliance, Friedlander said, "I think we're all on the same page of making sure that we take care of that industry so that industry can take care of folks in their care."

**Case information:** As of 5 p.m. May 3, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 5,130 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 173 of which were newly confirmed Saturday and 80 of which were confirmed Sunday. Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear also reported five new deaths Saturday, raising the state's toll to 253 deaths related to the virus. For the first time in weeks, no new deaths were reported Sunday.

Full press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&pId=151>

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### Invasive giant hornets have been spotted in the US for the first time

(CNN) Just when you thought 2020 could not get any worse. Now we have giant hornets with freakish eyes and a venomous sting to add to this year's list of worries.



For the first time, Asian giant hornets have been spotted in the United States, specifically in Washington state, scientists say. Beekeepers have reported piles of [dead bees with their heads ripped off](#), an alarming sight in a country with a rapidly declining bee population.

At more than two inches long, they're the world's largest hornets with a sting that can kill humans if stung multiple times, according to experts at the Washington State University. Researchers have nicknamed them "murder hornets."

Scientists don't know how these giant hornets native to Asia ended up in Washington state. They're sometimes transported in international cargo -- in some cases deliberately, [said Seth Truscott with WSU's](#) college of agricultural, human and natural resource sciences.

The giant hornet was first spotted in the state in December, and scientists believe it started becoming active again last month, when queens emerge from hibernation to build nests and form colonies.

Story link: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/03/us/washington-giant-murder-hornets/index.html>

### **Related:** What Are Asian Giant Hornets? What to Know About "Murder Hornets" Spotted in the U.S.

(From Prevention) The biggest hornet on the planet has been spotted in the United States for the first time. The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has [confirmed](#) at least four sightings of the Asian giant hornet, one of the most venomous insects in the world, near Blaine and Bellingham, Wash. Canada also reported sightings in British Columbia last fall.

In people who are allergic to bee or wasp stings, it can cause anaphylactic shock and, in some cases, be lethal. Even in people who have no allergies, multiple stings can be deadly, per the WSU release. *The Times* [reports](#) that the hornets kill up to 50 people a year in Japan.

Full story: <https://www.prevention.com/health/a32353458/asian-giant-murder-hornet-north-america/>  
[Press release](#) from Washington State University (WSU).

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### Criminals smuggle tainted safety equipment into U.S. Illegal kits nabbed in Louisville, Erlanger

(KyForward News) The two Customs and Border Protection offices in Kentucky have been busy since the coronavirus pandemic began, seizing counterfeit or unapproved test kits that come in to the United States via air cargo hubs. The agency says criminals are exploiting the pandemic for illegal financial gain by smuggling and selling counterfeit safety equipment, unapproved testing kits, medicines, and hygiene products to individuals. To

combat this, CBP is targeting imports and exports, mainly in international mail and express consignment cargo environments, that may contain counterfeit or illicit goods.

In Louisville, CBP officers have made 16 seizures totaling 187 *Virus Shutout lanyards*. The Shutout devices claim efficacy against coronavirus strains but often contain the hazardous pesticide Chloride Dioxide. "This pesticide can leech into the skin on contact, cause breathing issues, and lead to additional health concerns for the wearer," said Thomas Mahn, Port Director, Louisville.

Their office located near the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport in Erlanger, have made 62 seizures, with a total of 29,438 kits, with 52 shipments still awaiting FDA review. These kits had a domestic value of \$588,760. The seizures contained counterfeit kits, as well as unapproved and prohibited test kits. Some of the larger seizures included 5,000 kits and then

Full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/criminals-smuggle-tainted-safety-equipment-into-u-s-illegal-kits-nabbed-in-louisville-erlanger/>

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#### Nursing homes had problems controlling infections before all this

KY Health News - Al Cross) "Many Kentucky nursing homes failed at infection prevention and control even before the novel coronavirus blazed through them over the last two months, infecting more than 1,000 of their residents and staff as of Friday and killing more than 120," John Cheves [reports](#) for the Lexington Herald-Leader, after checking the homes' inspection records from April 2016 to December 2019.

"Among the places cited for errors as routine as a lack of hand-washing are seven of the 10 long-term care facilities [now hardest hit by covid-19](#), such as Rivers Edge Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Jefferson County, Signature HealthCare at Summit Manor in Adair County and Signature HealthCare at Jackson Manor in Jackson County."

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**Related** - Pa. Health Dept. Says Cases Statewide  
Increase to 48,305 With Nearly 10,000 Cases In Nursing Homes  
<https://news360.com/article/527243946>

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**Dental Hygienists Among Riskiest, Non-Hospital Jobs During Pandemic, Studies Suggest**  
Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/527253094>

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**FEMA Approves Crisis Counseling Assistance for COVID-19 Response to Four States**  
Read more: <https://news360.com/article/527253193>

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#### **Trump signs order to protect the U.S. electricity system**

(Reuters) President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Friday that seeks to protect the U.S. electricity system from cyber and other attacks in a move that could eventually put barriers on some imports from China and Russia. Trump declared in the order that the threat to the U.S. power system represents a national emergency, which allows the government to put in place measures such as the creation of a task force on procurement policies for energy infrastructure.

A senior Energy Department official said that the order was not directed at any new threat, but the result of a process to bolster the power system. The order allows the energy secretary, in consultation with other officials, to prohibit acquisition, importation, transfer or installation of power equipment from an adversary that they determine poses a risk of sabotage to the U.S. power system.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-electricity-trump/trump-signs-order-to-protect-the-u-s-electricity-system-energy-department-idUSKBN22D5OD>

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 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.