



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 8, 2020

**KY COVID-19 Updates  
176 New cases, 6288 total; 4 new deaths, 298 total**

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**Two children in New York have died from severe illness linked to coronavirus  
More kids with inflammatory syndrome**

(CBS) A 5-year-old boy in New York has become the second person in the state to die from a mysterious illness believed to be connected to the [coronavirus](#), New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced Friday. Cuomo said 73 children in New York have been severely ill and urged vigilance. CBS New York [reports](#) that a young boy died late last week in Westchester County after suffering from neurological complications from what's now called pediatric multi-symptom inflammatory syndrome. The boy tested positive for [coronavirus antibodies](#), indicating he contracted the virus at some point. At least five of the country's roughly 100 confirmed cases are in Chicago.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coronavirus-5-year-old-dies-new-york-severe-illness-linked-to-covid-19/>

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**Malaria drug shows no benefit in another coronavirus study**

A new study finds no evidence of benefit from a malaria drug widely promoted as a treatment for coronavirus infection. Hydroxychloroquine did not lower the risk of dying or needing a breathing tube in a comparison that involved nearly 1,400 patients treated at Columbia University in New York, researchers reported Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Although the [study](#) is observational rather than a rigorous experiment, it gives valuable information for a decision that hundreds of thousands of COVID-19 patients have already had to make without clear evidence about the drug's risks and benefits, some journal editors and other doctors wrote in an [editorial](#).

Read more: <https://apnews.com/23f7a2d9645602bee1c3dc7c0c952191>

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**Focus on nursing home workers amid continued virus outbreaks**

AP) For nearly two months, many nursing homes nationwide have been on virtual lockdown. Families of residents are not allowed inside, vendors have to drop deliveries outside and the only people coming in and out are health care workers and assistants.

Despite all that, the outbreaks continue — possibly spread by the same nursing home workers who are risking their lives to tend to some of societies most vulnerable. In response, many workers are significantly increasing their own vigilance, nursing homes are adding safety measures, and the testing of residents and workers is steadily increasing, though experts say much more is needed.

More than 23,000 people in the U.S. have died in long-term care and nursing home facilities since the first coronavirus outbreak in a nursing home was reported in Washington state in February, according to a tally by The Associated Press. Full story: <https://apnews.com/cd9cb10b44f0cf04cec31afa7c9536a0>

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**More people in the White House may have COVID  
Vice President Pence Spokeswoman Tests Positive for Coronavirus**

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/05/08/852861159/white-house-confirms-second-coronavirus-case-this-week>

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**CDC What's New?**

- [Caring for someone at home](#) Friday, May 8, 2020
- [Symptoms](#) Friday, May 8, 2020
- [Protect your home](#) Friday, May 8, 2020
- [Coronavirus and Travel in the United States](#) Friday, May 8, 2020
- [Coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Checklist: Older Persons](#) Friday, May 8, 2020
- [Cases & Latest Updates](#) Friday, May 8, 2020
- [Staffing Resources](#) Friday, May 8, 2020
- [Testing in the U.S.](#) Friday, May 8, 2020
- [What To Do if You Are Sick](#) Friday, May 8, 2020
- [What You Can Do](#) Friday, May 8, 2020
- [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#) Friday, May 8, 2020
- [What Long-haul Truck Drivers Need to Know about COVID-19](#) Friday, May 8, 2020

- [Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: Coronavirus Disease-2019 \(COVID-19\) and Children](#) Friday, May 8, 2020

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### **Doctors lambaste federal process for distributing Covid-19 drug remdesivir**

(Stat) Hospitals and physicians around the country are sharply criticizing the federal government for the uneven and opaque way it is distributing its supply of the Covid-19 drug remdesivir.

The experimental drug received an emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration last week, after preliminary data from a clinical trial showed that it reduced how long it took hospitalized Covid-19 patients to recover. Now, as the drug's producer, Gilead Sciences, tries to ramp up production, the U.S. government is starting to distribute the limited number of vials that aren't needed for ongoing research, so that patients can start to see the benefit outside of clinical trials.

About two dozen hospitals are believed to have been chosen to receive the drug so far, but clinicians told STAT it is unclear why some medical centers were chosen to receive coveted doses while others weren't — and who is making those decisions in the first place.

Full story: <https://www.statnews.com/2020/05/06/doctors-lambaste-federal-process-for-distributing-covid-19-drug-remdesivir/>

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### **From loss of smell to "COVID toes"**

#### **What experts are learning about symptoms**

It's not just a fever and dry cough. For milder cases of COVID-19, the array of symptoms can include headaches, fatigue, loss of smell and even lesions on the feet known as "COVID toes."

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/05/06/850707907/from-loss-of-smell-to-covid-toes-what-experts-are-learning-about-symptoms>

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### **Silent hypoxia: Covid-19 patients who should be gasping for air but aren't**

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/06/health/happy-hypoxia-pulse-oximeter-trnd-wellness/index.html>

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### **What We Know About Coronavirus Mutations**

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/05/08/852081139/the-coronavirus-is-mutating-thats-normal-does-that-mean-it-s-more-dangerous>

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### **Hardin Memorial Health will join Baptist Health in September**

(Press Release) The sale of Hardin Memorial Health (HMH) to Baptist Health has been accelerated, and will now be finalized by Sept. 1, 2020. The prior plan called for closing on or before Dec. 1, 2020. HMH, which will become the ninth hospital in the Baptist Health system, will be renamed Baptist Health Hardin, in keeping with Baptist Health's tradition of naming its hospitals after the geographic area.

Under the terms of the Asset Purchase Agreement (APA), Baptist Health will acquire all assets of HMH and, in return, will commit \$235 million over 10 years to HMH in operating and capital investments. Specific terms call for Baptist Health to invest a minimum of \$150 million in the first five years to build new facilities, recruit more physicians, upgrade HMH's information technology and equipment, and strengthen HMH's position and reputation as a regional healthcare center. After the first five-year period, Baptist Health will commit an additional \$85 million in capital investments to HMH. All told, the agreement spells out \$361.4 million in payments and investments.

Baptist Health will offer employment to all HMH non-contracted employees at their existing rates of compensation. Dennis Johnson will be retained as president of the hospital, as will other members of the HMH senior leadership team.

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### **Coronavirus pandemic may lead to 75,000 "deaths of despair" from suicide, drug and alcohol abuse**

COVID-19 has directly claimed tens of thousands of U.S. lives, but conditions stemming from the novel [coronavirus](#) — rampant unemployment, isolation and an uncertain future — could lead to 75,000 deaths from drug or alcohol abuse and [suicide](#), new research suggests.

Deaths from these causes are known as "deaths of despair." And the COVID-19 pandemic may be accelerating conditions that lead to such deaths.

"Deaths of despair are tied to multiple factors, like [unemployment](#), [fear and dread](#), and isolation. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were already an unprecedented number of deaths of despair.

Learn more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coronavirus-deaths-suicides-drugs-alcohol-pandemic-75000/>

**[NOTE - See related KCCRB flyer and handouts on the last page below.]**

**NETEC Webinar: PPE! You've Got Questions. We've Got Answers.**

Wednesday, May 13, at 12:00 pm ET [Click here for registration](#)

In this NETEC town hall forum, NETEC subject matter experts will be on hand to answer frequently asked questions surrounding the use of Personal Protective Equipment in the care of COVID-19 patients.

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**ASPR TRACIE Webinars**

**COVID-19: Healthcare System Operations Strategies and Experiences Webinar**

Monday, May 11, at 2:00 pm ET

[Click here for registration and connection information](#)

ASPR TRACIE, in collaboration with the HHS/FEMA Healthcare Resilience Task Force, is hosting a webinar titled, *COVID-19: Healthcare System Operations Strategies and Experiences*. The webinar will highlight experiences and lessons learned from a few of the hardest hit hospitals in New York, New Jersey, Louisiana, and Arizona so that other healthcare systems can implement these strategies during their current response and in planning for a potential next wave. Speakers will discuss their hospital operations, logistics (space, staff, and stuff) strategies, and experiences with the current COVID-19 response.

**KSHE Healthcare Coalition Conference 2020**

***Celebrating our Healthcare Heroes***

***Save the date!***

Tuesday, September 29 - Thursday, October 1, 2020

Owensboro Convention Center

501 W. 2nd Street | Owensboro, Kentucky 42301

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.

**COVID-19 HAVE YOU FEELING:  
SCARED? SAD? FRUSTRATED?  
WORRIED? UNCERTAIN? AFRAID  
TO COME TO WORK OR TO GO  
HOME? CONCERNED FOR YOUR  
OWN FAMILY?**

**HELP IS A PHONE CALL AWAY!  
IT'S FREE, IT'S CONFIDENTIAL!**

Call our toll free number **888-522-7228** where you can talk to a member of the **Kentucky Community Crisis Response Team.**

**#TeamKentucky #WeAreInThisTogether**



**Kentucky Community Crisis Response Board**

**EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR YOU AND YOUR TEAM**

- ✓ [Helping Children Cope Brochure](https://kccrb.ky.gov/Documents/Children%20Public%20Health%20Emergency%20Brochure%20FINAL.pdf)  
<https://kccrb.ky.gov/Documents/Children%20Public%20Health%20Emergency%20Brochure%20FINAL.pdf>
- ✓ [Emotional Wellness During a Pandemic](https://kccrb.ky.gov/Documents/COVID-19%20Emotional%20Wellness%20Brochure%20FINAL.pdf)  
<https://kccrb.ky.gov/Documents/COVID-19%20Emotional%20Wellness%20Brochure%20FINAL.pdf>
- ✓ [Overcoming Loneliness](https://kccrb.ky.gov/Documents/Overcoming%20Loneliness.pdf)  
<https://kccrb.ky.gov/Documents/Overcoming%20Loneliness.pdf>
- ✓ **KCCRB Website for more info:** <https://kccrb.ky.gov/>