



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 10, 2020

Coronavirus numbers

(CNN) More than 4 million cases of [have been recorded worldwide](#), including at least 281,000 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University.

KYCOVID19.KY.GOV Data

<https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

Latest Kentucky modeling form Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation

<https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america/kentucky>

Related - Official: Vice President Pence 'self isolating' after aide tests positive for virus

(AP) — Vice President Mike Pence is self-isolating after an aide tested positive for the coronavirus last week, joining three of the nation's top scientists in taking protective steps after possible exposure, in another stark reminder that not even one of the nation's most secure buildings is immune from the virus.

An administration official said Pence is voluntarily limiting his exposure to other people. He has repeatedly tested negative for COVID-19 since his exposure but is following the advice of medical officials.

"Vice President Pence will continue to follow the advice of the White House Medical Unit and is not in quarantine," said spokesman Devin O'Malley. "Additionally, Vice President Pence has tested negative every single day and plans to be at the White House tomorrow."

Full story: https://www.wdrb.com/news/national/official-vice-president-pence-self-isolating-after-aide-tests-positive-for-virus/article_76c1dc9e-50e9-5aff-9f56-405a494b0ed1.html

Are Ohio Valley States Ready To Reopen?

(WFPL) An [analysis by Harvard scientists and NPR](#) finds that most states — including Kentucky and Ohio — are not testing enough residents for coronavirus in order to meet recommended benchmarks to safely begin to reopen their economies. That analysis by Harvard's Global Health Institute found that West Virginia is roughly meeting the minimum targets for coronavirus testing, while Kentucky and Ohio lag behind the recommended testing levels. Data on Kentucky and Ohio also show other indications that more testing is needed.

For example, the Harvard/NPR analysis of a week's worth of Kentucky's testing found that Kentucky averaged 1,229 tests per day — far lower than the estimated minimum needed by May 15 in order to begin to safely [relax some of the business closures](#) and social distancing safeguards in place.

The Harvard scientists also recommend that the ratio of coronavirus tests that return a positive result be 10% or lower, something the World Health Organization also recommends. For the testing done during the week of April 29 through May 5, the ratio of positive tests in Kentucky was nearly 17%, far exceeding the recommended limit.

Read full story: <https://wfpl.org/are-ohio-valley-states-ready-to-reopen-analysis-finds-more-coronavirus-testing-needed/>

The opioid epidemic was already a national crisis. Covid-19 could be making things worse

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/07/health/opioid-epidemic-covid19-pandemic-trnd/index.html>

Triple drug therapy helps coronavirus patients recover more quickly

(CNN) A combination of three antiviral drugs plus an immune system booster seemed to help patients recover more quickly from coronavirus infections, doctors in Hong Kong reported Friday. They said the approach needs more testing but it could offer another treatment possibility for Covid-19 patients.

Currently the only authorized treatment is the [experimental antiviral drug remdesivir](#), which also shortens the duration of illness but is limited in supply. Dr. Kwok-Yung Yuen at Hong Kong University and colleagues tested the HIV drug combination of ritonavir and lopinavir along with the general antiviral drug ribavirin and a multiple sclerosis drug called beta interferon.

Patients in the study all had mild to moderate symptoms and were treated within seven days of testing positive. Some doctors think treating patients earlier in the course of the infection might be better. The patients who got the cocktail tested negative for coronavirus after seven days on average. Those who just got the HIV drugs were positive on average for 12 days, the team reported in the [Lancet medical journal](#). The patients given the cocktail also felt better quicker -- within four days.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/08/health/coronavirus-triple-therapy-hong-kong-health/index.html>

HHS announces shipments of donated remdesivir for hospitalized patients with COVID-19

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) announced the allocation plan for the drug remdesivir. The allocation is from a donation by Gilead Sciences, Inc. to the United States which was finalized on May 3, 2020. The donated doses of the treatment, which received an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, will be used to treat hospitalized COVID-19 patients in areas of the country hardest hit by the pandemic.

State health departments will distribute the doses to appropriate hospitals in their states because state and local health departments have the greatest insight into community-level needs in the COVID-19 response, including appropriate distribution of a treatment in limited supply. Healthcare providers interested in administering the donated experimental drug should contact their state health department. Candidates for the donated doses must be patients on ventilators or on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation or who require supplemental oxygen due to room-air blood oxygen levels at or below 94 percent. Public health experts from the Federal government have been in contact with state health departments regarding these allocations.

Gilead Sciences, Inc. committed to supplying approximately 607,000 vials of the experimental drug over the next six weeks to treat an estimated 78,000 hospitalized COVID-19 patients under the [EUA](#) granted by the FDA. The donation to the United States is part of 1.5 million vials of remdesivir the company is donating worldwide.

Full HHS News Release: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/09/hhs-ships-first-doses-of-donated-remdesivir-for-hospitalized-patients-with-covid-19.html>

HHS Deploys New Portable Dialysis Machines to New York for COVID-19 Response

HHS News Release: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/07/hhs-deploys-new-portable-dialysis-machines-to-new-york-for-covid-19-response.html>

UK entomologist offers information about ‘murder hornet’ to educate Kentuckians about insect

(KyForward) The first known appearances of the Asian giant hornet, also known as the “murder hornet,” have many Americans concerned. A University of Kentucky entomologist is offering some information to educate Kentuckians about the worrisome insect.

As its name would suggest, the hornet is a native of Asia but was recently found in Washington state and British Columbia, Canada. Due to its size and the power of its venom, it is the most dangerous hornet in the world. Honeybees are their most common prey but their stings can be dangerous and even lethal to humans who are allergic to other types of bee and wasp stings.



“It is unlikely the insect is in Kentucky,” said Jonathan Larson, UK entomologist in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. “So far, there have been no findings in North America outside of the Pacific Northwest, but we do have some similar looking insects in Kentucky that could cause people to think they have seen one.”

“Murder hornet” look-a-likes that are in Kentucky include the European hornet, the cicada killer and the bald-faced hornet. Asian giant hornets are 1.5 to 2 inches long. They have black and yellow-orange stripes and a large orange or yellow head with prominent eyes. They form large colonies on the ground.

Common insects in Kentucky that are similar in size to the hornet include the European hornet, cicada killer and bald-faced hornet. However, Larson said these insects have distinct features that can help Kentuckians differentiate them from the Asian giant hornet

Full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/uk-entomologist-offers-information-about-murder-hornet-to-educate-kentuckians-about-insect/>

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 rhartlett@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.