



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 12, 2020

## Coronavirus numbers

KY had 191 new cases, or 6853 Total; 10 new deaths, or 321 in total

Full press release from KY Governor: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prld=165>

## Collaborative project begins testing health care workers for COVID-19 antibodies

<https://www.wlky.com/article/collaborative-project-begins-testing-health-care-workers-for-covid-19-antibodies/32450679>

## Norton evaluating 2 children with inflammatory symptoms possibly related to COVID-19

(WLKY) Norton Children's Hospital confirms it is evaluating two children with symptoms of a rare inflammatory disease that's been related to COVID-19.

The news comes a day after Gov. Andy Beshear announced a 10-year-old boy with coronavirus was on a ventilator with inflammatory symptoms similar to Kawasaki disease. He also announced Tuesday that a 16-year-old is also experiencing these symptoms.

Full story: <https://www.wlky.com/article/norton-evaluating-2-children-for-inflammatory-symptoms-possibly-related-to-covid-19/32451680>

## **Related - CBS story on Over 130 kids hospitalized:**

<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/over-130-kids-hospitalized-nationwide-with-conditions-related-to-coronavirus/>

## **Related Study: 38% of kids in ICU with COVID-19 needed ventilation**

(CIDRAP) Eighteen (38%) of 48 COVID-19 patients younger than 17 years hospitalized in 14 pediatric intensive care units (PICUs) in the United States from Mar 14 to Apr 3 required mechanical ventilation, but all but 2 survived, according to a multicenter, cross-sectional [study](#) published today in *JAMA Pediatrics*.

Thirty-three patients (69%) were seriously or critically ill, and 12 (25%) needed drugs to regulate their blood pressure. Thirty-nine patients (81%) required respiratory support, and 21 (44%) received noninvasive ventilation. Six patients (13%) needed additional modes of ventilation or life support.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/05/study-38-kids-icu-covid-19-needed-ventilation>

## **Inmate at the Federal Medical Center prison in Lexington has died from covid-19, 142 inmates and six staff members have tested positive for the coronavirus**

Lexington Herald-Leader: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/coronavirus/article242654226.html>

## **Third Phase of KY Health Care Reopening Tomorrow**

(KY Health News) Limited visitation will be allowed in hospitals starting Wednesday, as part of the third phase of reopening the health-care system. The [guidance says](#) a facility may permit a patient to have a single visitor of support person. Also Wednesday, in-patient surgeries can resume at half of pre-shutdown volume.

**KY guidance:** <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/healthcarefinalsteps.pdf>

## **Kentucky part of 18-state coalition asking for probe into China's role in coronavirus pandemic**

(Ky Forward News) Attorney General Daniel Cameron announced on Monday he has joined an 18-state coalition calling on Congress to investigate the communist Chinese government's role in the coronavirus pandemic. South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson led the effort, sending a letter to the leadership of the House and Senate Foreign Relations Committees, and members of House and Senate leadership asking for a Congressional investigation.

The current U.S. death toll from the coronavirus is more than 80,000, including over 300 in Kentucky, and the pandemic's economic devastation has caused the unemployment rate to skyrocket from 3.5 percent in February to its current rate of 14.7 percent. In Kentucky, there have been nearly 700,000 unemployment claims, with the state paying out more than \$1.2 billion in benefits to those who have lost their jobs or had their hours cut back.

In addition to South Carolina and Kentucky, state attorney generals from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia in signing in the letter.

Full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/kentucky-part-of-18-state-coalition-asking-for-probe-into-chinas-role-in-coronavirus-pandemic/>

## Chinese study shows COVID-19 RNA shed for up to 49 days

([CIDRAP News Scan](#)) A new study published in *Emerging Infectious Diseases* shows that genetic material of SARS-CoV-2—the virus that causes COVID-19—was detected in body fluids from COVID-19 patients for up to 49 days. The study was conducted in 49 patients from Guangdong, China, and assessed the presence of viral RNA in throat swabs, nasopharyngeal swabs, sputum samples, and feces specimens. Forty-three of the patients had mild cases of COVID-19, while 6 had severe cases. Researchers obtained specimens every 3 days for 4 weeks. The authors found persistent shedding of virus RNA in both nasopharyngeal swab and feces samples.

"The estimated time until loss of virus RNA detection ranged from 45.6 days for nasopharyngeal swab samples to 46.3 days for feces samples in mild cases and from 48.9 days for nasopharyngeal swab samples to 49.4 days for feces samples in severe cases, which was longer than those of SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV," the authors wrote, referring to the coronaviruses that cause SARS and MERS, respectively.

The findings are consistent with published case reports, the authors concluded. They said their findings should inform diagnostic testing for COVID-19 and prevention measures. May 8 *Emerg Infect Dis* [study](#)

## [Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)

CDC continues to study the spread and effects of the novel coronavirus across the United States. The virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms. In light of this new evidence, CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores, pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

## [Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes](#)

This guidance is intended for all Americans, whether you own a business, run a school, or want to ensure the cleanliness and safety of your home. Reopening America requires all of us to move forward together by practicing social distancing and other daily habits to reduce our risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.

## **Did You Know?**

OSHA released a new [video](#) and [poster](#) that show employers and workers how to properly wear and remove a respirator. The [video](#) and [poster](#) are also available in Spanish.

**Seven Steps to Correctly Wear a Respirator at Work**  
Following these simple steps will help you properly put on and take off your respirator, and keep you and everyone else safe.

**1 Wash Your Hands**  
Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol based hand rubs containing at least 60% alcohol.

**2 Inspect the Respirator**  
Inspect the respirator for damage. If it appears damaged or dirty, do not use it.

**3 Put on the Respirator**

Cup the respirator in your hand with the nosepiece at your fingertips and the straps hanging below your hand.

Cover your mouth and nose with the respirator and make sure there are no gaps (e.g., facial hair, hair, and glasses) between your face and the respirator.

Place the strap over your head and rest at the top back of your head. If you have a second strap, place the bottom strap around your neck and below your ears. Do not release straps.

If your respirator has a metal nose clip, use your fingertips from both hands to mold the nose wire to the shape of your nose.

**Step 3: Put on the Mask**

## **Less Traffic, More Speeding On US Roadways During Pandemic**

(IACP News) The [Washington Post](#) (5/10, Lazo) reports, "Three months into the coronavirus pandemic, the United States faces another crisis: a surge in speeding and reckless behavior on the nation's roadways." The Post adds, "Reckless driving has increased dramatically since March, leading to a disproportionate number of speed-related crashes and fatalities, according to law enforcement and traffic experts. 'We're getting reports every week of dozens of drivers being cited for traveling over 100 miles an hour. That's just insanity for our roadways,' said Michael Hanson, director of the Office of Traffic Safety in Minnesota, where 42 people were killed in traffic collisions in the first 45 days after the state's March 16 stay-at-home order went into effect. By comparison, 29 people were killed on Minnesota highways during the same period in 2019. 'We have had half

the traffic and twice as many fatalities,' Hanson said. 'We have more available lane space for drivers to use and abuse . . . and people are really, really abusing.'"

### **CMS Releases Additional Waivers for Hospitals and Other Facilities**

(KHA) The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to release waivers for the health care community that provide the flexibilities needed to take care of patients during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). CMS recently provided additional blanket waivers for the duration of the PHE that:

- Expand hospitals' ability to offer long-term care services (swing beds);
- Waive distance requirements, market share and bed requirements for Sole Community Hospitals;
- Waive certain eligibility requirements for Medicare-Dependent, Small Rural Hospitals (MDHs); and
- Update specific life safety code requirements for hospitals, hospice, and long-term care facilities.

#### [Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers](#)

### **FBI & Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team's First Responder's Toolbox: Chemical and Biological Threats to Food Retailers**

This information provides awareness of potential chemical and biological threats to the US food industry at the point of sale, and highlights preventive measures, considerations, and resources for public safety and private sector stakeholders.

Point-of-sale food retailers nationwide, such as supermarkets, supercenters, warehouse groceries, and club, gourmet, and convenience stores, may be vulnerable to attacks with chemical or biological materials, although overall interest in such attack methods remains low. Both domestic and international terrorists have promoted attacks against soft targets, including the US food industry at retail locations.

Although we have yet to observe a sustained interest in targeting retail food establishments, they may be an attractive target because of their accessibility and the potential for an attack to create significant harm. Violent extremists, possibly to stoke fear, have advocated through online platforms for people to poison or tamper with food in grocery stores.

The intentional contamination of food may not be immediately recognizable until law enforcement investigations and lab testing is completed. Therefore, EMS and public health and hospital personnel may be the first to recognize indicators of the use of chemical or biological material, including the delayed onset of indicators. Lastly, knowing which indicators to look for can help first responders determine the proper resource requests, improve response times and efforts, enhance threat reporting and information sharing, and help guide investigations.

Full briefing: <https://www.infragard-la.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/First-Responders-Toolbox-Food-Attacks.pdf>

### **Monday ASPR TRACIE Webinar Recording Now Available COVID-19: Healthcare System Operations Strategies and Experiences**

ASPR TRACIE, in collaboration with the COVID-19 Healthcare Resilience Task Force, hosted a webinar on May 11, 2020 to discuss COVID-19: Healthcare System Operations Strategies and Experiences. The presentation and link to the webinar recording are [now available](#). The title page of the presentation includes a [link to the recording](#). **Please note:** you will need to enter your name and email address to access the recording.

### **Next ASPR TRACIE Webinar - Register Now:**

#### **Funding Sources for the Establishment and Operationalization of Alternate Care Sites Webinar**

ASPR TRACIE, in collaboration with the HHS/FEMA Healthcare Resilience Task Force, is hosting a webinar focused on [Funding Sources for the Establishment and Operationalization of Alternate Care Sites](#), on May 22, 2020 from 2:30-3:45 PM ET. This webinar will feature interagency partners providing an overview and discussing the information contained in the [ACS Funding Summary Tip Sheet](#). [Register Today!](#)

### **Preparing for something other than COVID-19... Are you ready for spring storms?**

Currently, our nation is focused on overcoming the many challenges presented by [COVID-19](#). Unfortunately, severe spring and summer weather can add to already heightened feelings of uncertainty and concern. Having to deal with the added stress of thunderstorms, lightning, tornadoes, and floods can be overwhelming.

CDC, National Weather Service, Red Cross and other preparedness partners have created a variety of tips and tools that can be used to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your home. Here is a compilation of some of this information to help you, your family, and your work team prepare.

Spring weather can be unpredictable. When severe weather hits unexpectedly, the risk of injury and weather-related death increases, so planning makes sense. Prepare for storms, floods, and tornadoes as if you know in advance that they are coming. The [National Weather Service](#) says, "Knowing what to do before, during, and after severe weather you can increase your chances of survival."

- Stay informed. Learn about your community's emergency plans, warning signals, the [National Weather Service's "Emergency Alert System"](#), evacuation routes, and locations of emergency shelters.
  - Tornado Safety tips: <https://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/safety.html>
  - Where NOT to shelter from a tornado? <https://survive-a-storm.com/safety-tips/take-shelter-tornadoes-not/>
- Create an emergency supply kit: <https://www.redcross.org/about-us/news-and-events/news/2019/national-preparedness-month-how-to-build-your-emergency-kit.html>
- Have a family emergency plan: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/make-a-plan.html>
- Be prepared to take shelter or evacuate. Listen to directions from local authorities and never ignore an evacuation order. <https://emsaonline.com/resource-library/summer-safety-tips/safest-places-to-be-during-a-tornado/>

### **After a Disaster**

After a storm or other natural disaster, [the wreckage left behind](#) poses additional risks. The storm might be over, but that doesn't mean the danger is. Keep yourself and your loved ones safe after the storm by following our safety tips. Be aware of [cleanup hazards](#).

### **Prevent illness after a disaster**

- Clean up, disinfect, and practice [good hygiene after a disaster](#) to avoid illness from bacteria, viruses, mold, and mildew.
- [Food and water safety is a concern after a disaster](#)
- Get medical care if you are injured, sick, or having trouble [coping with stress after a disaster](#).
- To prevent [carbon monoxide poisoning](#), only use [generators](#), pressure washers, grills, camp stoves, or other gasoline, propane, natural gas, or charcoal-burning devices outside and away from open windows, doors, and air vents.
- Stay cool and drink plenty of fluids to [prevent heat-related illness](#).

### **Additional information**

**TORNADO RECOVERY:** [Read about safety precautions that could help you avoid injury after a tornado](#)

**HAVE YOU PLANNED AHEAD?** [Learn how to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies](#)

**Caring for Children in a Disaster:** <https://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/before-during-after.html>

**Health and Safety Concerns for All Disasters:** <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/alldisasters.html>

**NWS StormReady® Program:** <https://www.weather.gov/stormready/>

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**EARTH EX 2020 Webinar Series  
Managing Strategic Risk  
Wednesday, 13 May at 4 pm (EDT)**

**Click here  to register**



**EARTH EX 2020 - Available for play - 1 September through 31 October.**

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.