



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 13, 2020

KHA Celebrates Hospital Week

## ***Finding Kentucky's Heroes***

See KHA's [Thank You Video](#) featuring images during the crisis and shows where Kentucky's heroes can be found.

Link: <https://video214.com/play/1zr3DSAWTS0amwKhVG30hg/s/dark>

### **LATEST NUMBERS and INFO from WLKY**

[Kentucky](#) - 7,080 cases; 326 deaths | [Indiana](#) - 25,473 cases; 1,482 deaths

Interactive charts: [County-by-county breakdown of cases](#); [Tracking the curve](#)

### **COVID Model Updates**

A [revised University of Washington model](#) predicts more than 147,000 Americans will die from COVID-19 by early August, an increase of 10,000 from the last projection as pandemic restrictions are relaxed. (*U.S. News & World Report*). As of 8:00 a.m. ET Wednesday, the unofficial [U.S. COVID-19 tally](#) stood at 1,370,016 cases and 82,389 deaths. Tuesday's counts were 1,347,936 and 80,684, respectively.

### **China's Wuhan kicks off mass testing campaign for new coronavirus after a cluster of new cases raised fears of a second wave of infections**

(Reuters) Authorities in the Chinese city where the novel coronavirus emerged launched an ambitious campaign on Wednesday to test all of its 11 million residents, after a cluster of new cases raised fears of a second wave of infections.

Since the Wuhan's lockdown was lifted, the city has conducted an average of 47,000 tests a day and more than 1.5 million tests in total, according to Reuters calculations based on city health authority daily reports. Of China's total of nearly 83,000 confirmed infections, Wuhan accounted for 50,339 of them. The tally does not include asymptomatic cases.

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-china-wuhan/chinas-wuhan-kicks-off-mass-testing-campaign-for-new-coronavirus-idUSKBN22P1OD>

### **As President Trump urges reopening the economy, thousands are getting sick on the job**

<https://news360.com/article/528044241>

### **Rand Paul: Take Fauci's Advice With 'Grain of Salt'**

<http://newser.com/s290838>

### **AP Exclusive: CDC docs stress plans for more virus flareups**

(AP) — Advice from the top U.S. disease control experts on how to safely reopen businesses and institutions during the [coronavirus pandemic](#) was more detailed and restrictive than the plan released by the White House last month.

The guidance, which was [shelved by Trump administration officials](#), also offered recommendations to help communities decide when to shut facilities down again during future flareups of COVID-19.

The Associated Press obtained a [63-page document](#) that is more detailed than other, previously reported segments of the shelved guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It shows how the thinking of the CDC infection control experts differs from those in the White House managing the pandemic response. Read more: <https://apnews.com/d4fb9744fb3524b6aaff1036f3ba9cd2>

### **KY Public Health Requesting Reports on Kawasaki-like Illness in Children *KDPH Webinar Webinar next Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 11:30 am - 1:00 pm***

Due to the recent discovery of Kawasaki-like illness in children with evidence of recent infection with COVID-19, the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) is requesting reporting of potential cases of what has been named, "Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome Associated with COVID-19" or "PMIS." Information has been pushed out to hospital ICP, ED, Trauma and Emergency Managers.

Also, ***Save the Date*** - KDPH will be hosting our next COVID-19 Clinician and Public Health Update Webinar next Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 11:30 am - 1:00 pm. An announcement will be forthcoming with registration information.

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**CMS Issues Nursing Homes Best Practices Toolkit to Combat COVID-19 (May 13)**

**(CMS)** CMS released a new [toolkit](#) developed to aid nursing homes, Governors, states, departments of health, and other agencies who provide oversight and assistance to these facilities, with additional resources to aid in the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic within nursing homes. The toolkit builds upon previous actions taken by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), which provide a wide range of tools and guidance to states, healthcare providers and others during the public health emergency. The toolkit is comprised of best practices from a variety of front line health care providers, Governors' COVID-19 task forces, associations and other organizations, and experts, and is intended to serve as a catalogue of resources dedicated to addressing the specific challenges facing nursing homes as they combat COVID-19. The toolkit provides detailed resources and direction for quality improvement assistance and can help in the creation and implementation of strategies and interventions intended to manage and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within nursing homes. The toolkit outlines best practices for a variety of subjects ranging from infection control to workforce and staffing. It also provides contact information for organizations who stand ready to assist with the unique challenges posed by caring for individuals in long-term care settings. Each state was involved in the creation of this toolkit, resulting in a robust resource that may be leveraged by a variety of entities serving this vulnerable population.

See more in the press release: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-issues-nursing-homes-best-practices-toolkit-combat-covid-19>

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**U of Health and Norton Healthcare ramp up safety and cleaning precautions as hospitals resume services**

(WDRB) -- U of L Health and Norton Healthcare started outpatient surgeries last week, and TODAY the hospitals will expand to do inpatient surgeries and procedures. However, they will only do 50% of the pre-pandemic volume.

As they prepare for more patients coming in and out of hospitals, employees are ramping up their cleaning protocols. Norton hospitals are using UV lights and fogging machines to clean rooms, waiting areas and the bottom of shoes of all patients and staff. Lobby areas have also been rearranged to promote social distancing. Doctors said these new measures will provide confidence for patients coming in, and it could just be the new normal.

People coming in for something simple to a U of L Health facility will not be tested for COVID-19, although they will be screened for symptoms and be asked to wear a mask.

Learn more: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/u-of-health-and-norton-healthcare-ramp-up-safety-cleaning-precautions-as-hospitals-resume-services/article\\_64a2b1d6-945e-11ea-b8ff-f3fdb51446a6.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/u-of-health-and-norton-healthcare-ramp-up-safety-cleaning-precautions-as-hospitals-resume-services/article_64a2b1d6-945e-11ea-b8ff-f3fdb51446a6.html)

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**Kentucky Blood Center asking for more donors**

(LEX 18) — For weeks, elective surgeries at Kentucky hospitals have been suspended. With many of those procedures back on surgeons' schedules beginning this week, there is a need from the public... Blood in the blood bank. And the Kentucky Blood Center is sounding the alarm.

The center is asking people to come back out, saying that people who donated blood in March are eligible to donate again after 56 days.

Read more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/kentucky-blood-center-asking-for-more-donors>

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**FDA authorizes emergency use of Fresenius Propoven**

(KHA COVID-19 Update) Last week, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [authorized](#) the emergency use of Fresenius Propoven 2% Emulsion, which the agency says "may be effective to maintain sedation via continuous infusion in patients greater than 16 years old with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 who require mechanical ventilation in an ICU setting." The EUA was necessary because Fresenius Propoven 2% Emulsion has important differences in its formulation compared to FDA-approved propofol drugs; the FDA therefore says that providers should consult the [fact sheet](#) for more information before the drug's administration.

**ECRI warned that this preparation is twice the strength of what has been used in the U.S. up until now, so hospitals should carefully educate and clearly mark the packages to reduce the risk of medication errors.**

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**Despite Early Warnings, U.S. Took Months to Expand Swab Production for COVID-19 Test**

(NPR) Widespread testing for COVID-19 is still not happening in the U.S. Although experts have been urging the federal government since February, it took until late April to ramp up production.

Turns out a "test" is not a single device. COVID-19 testing involves several steps, each one requiring different supplies, and there are shortages of different supplies at different times in different places. The swab test

checks for active infections, unlike an antibody test, which involves drawing blood to check whether the body has recovered from the virus.

So why is there a shortage of something as seemingly simple as swabs? For one reason, there had been only two major manufacturers of these swabs worldwide — Puritan Medical Products in Maine and Copan Diagnostics in Italy. When COVID-19 hit and demand for swabs skyrocketed, the companies became overwhelmed and couldn't keep up.

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/2020/05/12/853930147/despite-early-warnings-u-s-took-months-to-expand-swab-production-for-covid-19-te>

#### **CDC guidance for dealing with bulk wrapped swabs**

([https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/HandlingBulkSwabs\\_5.5.20.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/HandlingBulkSwabs_5.5.20.pdf))

#### **Counterfeit masks reaching frontline health workers in US**

Read AP story: <https://apnews.com/850d9e6834fc71967af6d3dda65ad874>

#### **Antibodies Found in Nearly All People Infected by New Coronavirus: Study**

<https://news360.com/article/527798104>

#### **Enzyme makes men more vulnerable to coronavirus; adding interferon may improve treatment**

The following is a brief roundup of the latest scientific studies on the novel coronavirus and efforts to find treatments and vaccines for COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus.

#### **Report: US choir outbreak called 'superspreader event'**

(AP) — Disease trackers are calling a choir practice in Washington state a superspreader event that illustrates how easily the coronavirus can pass from person to person. The act of singing itself may have spread the virus in the air and onto surfaces, according to a report from Skagit County Public Health published Tuesday.

Two choir members died of COVID-19 after attending the March 10 practice of the Skagit Valley Chorale. The rehearsal was held nearly two weeks before the state's stay-at-home order.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/f07fdeba9047268c81b44280366452b9>

#### **Coronavirus Pandemic Puts Chill on Cold Case Probes**

(IACP News) The [AP](#) (5/13, Dazio) reports from Los Angeles, "Cold cases are getting colder. Detectives are struggling to connect with victims through thick masks, and investigators accustomed to wearing plainclothes are digging out their dusty uniforms for patrol duty as the coronavirus pandemic rages." The AP adds, "Police departments nationwide are grappling with changes the virus has wrought on their investigations, even as law enforcement agencies report major decreases in crime due to stay-at-home orders. Authorities say enough wrongdoing abounds to keep police busy, and detective work must still be in-person and hands-on, despite COVID-19. Evidence has to be collected, statements must be taken in person and death notifications need to be made face-to-face." According to the AP, "Police around the country have to put some investigations on hold as they detail detectives to help out with social distance patrols, or cover for their colleagues out sick with COVID-19."

#### **From Trust for America's Health Health Security & Preparedness Update for May 13, 2020**

- *Trust for America's Health*: [When Two Health Risks Merge – Rising Obesity Rates Put More Americans at Risk for Serious Health Impacts of the Novel Coronavirus](#)
- *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*: [Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Routine Pediatric Vaccine Ordering and Administration – United States, 2020](#)
- *American Academy of Pediatrics (press release)*: [AAP urges vaccination as rates drop due to COVID-19](#)
- *The Hill*: [What you need to know about four potential COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- *CNN*: [Renewed outbreaks in South Korea, Germany and China show continued risk as more countries seek to reopen](#)
- *Healio*: [Q&A: Antibiotic overprescribing intensifies during COVID-19 pandemic](#)

**Two New England hospital systems in need of personal protective equipment are turning to [online swap meets](#). (Modern Healthcare)**

**The FBI and CISA warn of serious nation state cyber threats, including China threat to COVID-19 research, North Korean campaign “Hidden Cobra” and Top 10 most exploited cyber vulnerabilities**

- 1) The FBI and DHS-CISA, recently released three significant cyber alerts advising of serious nation state and criminal cyber threats. Today, 5/13/2020 the FBI and CISA warned that China and its proxies have been observed attempting to identify and illicitly obtain valuable intellectual property (IP) and public health data related to vaccines, treatments, and testing from networks and personnel affiliated with COVID-19-related research. The potential theft of this information jeopardizes the delivery of secure, effective, and efficient treatment options.
- 2) On 5/12/2020 an alert was issued which provided very specific technical details on the tools and infrastructure used by cyber actors of the North Korean government to conduct cyber-attacks under the campaign collectively referred to as “Hidden Cobra”
- 3) On 5/12/2020 FBI and CISA issued a joint alert identifying with technical specificity the Top 10 (see the link below) most exploited vulnerabilities by state, non-state, and unattributed cyber actors from 2016 to 2019. According to U.S. Government technical analysis, malicious cyber actors most often exploited vulnerabilities in Microsoft’s Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) technology followed by vulnerabilities in the ubiquitous Web framework, Apache Struts.

**CISA - Top 10 Routinely Exploited Cyber Vulnerabilities:**

<https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/aa20-133a>

----- **Items from [AHA Today for May 13](#) -----**

**FEMA updates policy on medical care costs eligible for financial assistance.**

Federal Emergency Management Agency yesterday updated its [policy](#) for determining medical care costs eligible for assistance under its Public Assistance Program, available to government entities and certain private non-profit organizations during the COVID-19 emergency. During an April 16 AHA call for all hospitals, Tod Wells, deputy director of the FEMA Public Assistance Division Recovery Directorate, noted that the updated policy document would be issued.

**SAMHSA announces COVID-19 grants for suicide prevention**

Community-based primary and behavioral health care providers, hospital emergency departments and other eligible entities can apply through May 22 for grants of up to \$800,000 to support suicide prevention during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [announced](#) yesterday. The agency expects to award 50 grants.

**FDA issues EUAs for nurse call system, heart diagnostic tool**

The Food and Drug Administration yesterday [authorized](#) the emergency use of the Ascom telecare IP Nurse Call System and Eko electrocardiogram Low Ejection Fraction Tool. FDA said the remote call system could reduce contact with COVID-19 patients in isolation rooms; the [screening device](#) provides an assessment of possible underlying cardiac conditions in confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients.

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**CDC Covid-19 What's New?**

- [Symptoms](#) Wednesday, May 13, 2020
- [Clean & Disinfect](#) Wednesday, May 13, 2020
- [Cases in U.S.](#) Wednesday, May 13, 2020
- [SPHERES](#) Wednesday, May 13, 2020
- [Environmental Health Practitioners](#) Wednesday, May 13, 2020
- [Interim Operational Considerations for Public Health Management of Healthcare Workers Exposed to or Infected with COVID-19: non-US Healthcare Settings](#) Wednesday, May 13, 2020
- [Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19 Testing at Laboratories](#) Wednesday, May 13, 2020
- [COVID-19 in Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups](#) Wednesday, May 13, 2020
- [Special Considerations for Patients on Home Dialysis](#) Wednesday, May 13, 2020
- [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#) Wednesday, May 13, 2020
- [Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) and Pregnancy](#) Wednesday, May 13, 2020
- [Interim Guidance for Responding to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) among People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness](#) Wednesday, May 13, 2020

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The following webpages related to community mitigation have been added to the **CDC COVID-19** website or were updated with new information:

- [NCHS Mortality Surveillance Data](#)
- [Colleges and Universities](#)
- [Resources to Support People Experiencing Homelessness](#)

- [Gatherings and Community Events](#)
- [Businesses and Workplaces](#)
- [Community and Faith-Based Organizations](#)
- [Parks and Recreational Facilities](#) – including new information for [re-opening aquatic facilities](#)
- [Retirement Communities and Independent Living](#)
- [Schools and Child Care Programs](#)
- [Shared and Congregate Housing](#)
- [Transportation and Delivery](#)
- [Tribal Communities](#)

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WHO has posted COVID19 technical guidance and consideration documents that you may find useful in your Region's community mitigation efforts:

- Surveillance document: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/surveillance-strategies-for-covid-19-human-infection>
- Contact tracing document: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/contact-tracing-in-the-context-of-covid-19>
- Workplace PHSM Annex: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/considerations-for-public-health-and-social-measures-in-the-workplace-in-the-context-of-covid-19>
- Schools PHSM Annex: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/considerations-for-school-related-public-health-measures-in-the-context-of-covid-19>

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### Joint Commission on [Covid-19](#)

The Joint Commission recognizes the incredible challenge that health care organizations and front-line workers face with the COVID-19 crisis. Read a [letter](#) and watch a [video](#) from our CEO.

- May 12, 2020 – [Statement on Removing Barriers](#) to Mental Health Care for Clinicians and Health Care Staff
- April 23, 2020 – [Universal Masking Statement](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions Published in Response to the COVID-19 Situation](#) **New! May 12, 2020**

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### DOJ Seeks More Resources For Gun Enforcement

(IACP News) [Politico](#) (5/12, Swan) reports, "As gun sales surge during the coronavirus pandemic, the Justice Department is asking Congress for more enforcement resources – including to confiscate guns from people who shouldn't legally be able to own them." According to Politico, "In recent outreach to Capitol Hill, DOJ made two requests related to the spike in gun purchases, according to two sources with knowledge of those asks. First, the department asked for funding to help the FBI hire more staff to keep up with the growing number of background checks and appeal requests going through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). The bureau runs that system, which handles background checks on millions of gun buyers every year."

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### Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines

#### Extracts from [May 13, 2020](#)

[Get Ready for a Vaccine Information War](#) (*The New York Times*) Social media is already filling up with misinformation about a Covid-19 vaccine, months or years before one even exists.

[Artificial Intelligence Systems Aim to Sniff Out Signs of COVID-19 Outbreak](#) (*Science*) The international alarm about the COVID-19 pandemic was sounded first not by a human, but by a computer. HealthMap, a website run by Boston Children's Hospital, uses artificial intelligence (AI) to scan social media, news reports, internet search queries, and other information streams for signs of disease outbreaks.

[Unveiling 'Warp Speed,' the White House's America-first Push for a Coronavirus Vaccine](#) (*Science*) Conventional wisdom is that a vaccine for COVID-19 is at least 1 year away, but the organizers of a U.S. government push called Operation Warp Speed have little use for conventional wisdom. The project, vaguely described to date but likely to be formally announced by the White House in the coming days, will pick a diverse set of vaccine candidates and pour essentially limitless resources into unprecedented comparative studies in animals, fast-tracked human trials, and manufacturing.

[6 Takeaways From the Senate's Surreal Virtual Hearing on the U.S. Coronavirus Response](#) (*STAT*) Lawmakers and four top federal officials overseeing the Trump administration's coronavirus response had convened to answer a pressing question: Whether, after months of lockdown, American life can finally restart.

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**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.

**NASEM & APHA COVID-19 Conversations**

**Toward the "New Normal": Protecting Public Health as America Reopens**

**Wednesday, May 13, at 5:00 - 6:30 pm ET**

[Click here for registration](#)

This webinar will explore how public health, economic, and workforce priorities can balance to ensure a safe reopening of the country; how models can inform reopening and what data is still needed; how a nationwide testing strategy can support reopening strategies; practical considerations educators and employers will need to make and what data is available to them; and how to ensure that the public has reliable, actionable, and understandable data to guide their personal decision-making.

**HHS ASPR COVID-19 Webinars**

**Emergency Department: Patient Care and Clinical Operations**

**Thursday, May 14, 12 PM ET**

[Register Now](#)

**CMS Lessons from the Front Lines: COVID-19**

**Friday, May 15, at 12:30 pm ET**

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

Join CMS Lessons from the Front Lines to learn about CMS flexibilities, best practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, updates from the federal response, and to hear perspectives from care providers.

**InfraGard, DHS & HHS Series on  
Securing the Health Sector**

**Securing Alternative Care Sites**

**Friday, May 15, at 1 pm ET**

**Registration Coming Soon**

As part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of entities are involved in establishing alternative care sites to expand capacity to combat COVID-19 across the nation. These sites, which are often placed in non-traditional settings, such as major convention centers, present many security challenges. This Friday, a number of distinguished government and private sector subject matter experts will provide information to health care planners about the physical security considerations for these alternative care sites, the planning required, and the services available to assist them.

**ASPR TRACIE Webinar**

**Funding Sources for the Establishment and Operationalization of ACS**

**Friday, May 22, at 2:30- 3:45 pm ET**

[Click here for registration](#)

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 \(ACS\)](#). This webinar will feature interagency partners providing an overview and discussing the information contained in the [ACS Funding Summary Tip Sheet](#).

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.