



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 15, 2020

## COVID-19 Updates

**199 new cases Thursday, Total 7225; 2 new deaths, 328 total.**

Gov. Beshear announced that beginning May 22, groups of 10 people or fewer may gather and that the state's travel ban is expiring the same day, the Friday ahead of the Memorial Day weekend.

Child PMIS cases: Dr. Steven Stack, commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health, said the 10-year-old with Pediatric Multisymptom Inflammatory Syndrome (PMIS), a syndrome that is causing serious health problems for some young people, is continuing to improve. The 16-year-old patient was dismissed from the hospital yesterday.

Full press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=168>

### Now 25 Bowling Green area children with COVID-19; Med student volunteers to help with area surge

(Bowling Green Daily News) Medical student volunteers will be sent to help with a surge in coronavirus cases in Bowling Green – including 25 cases in children – according to Kentucky Public Health Commissioner Dr. Steven Stack. “The disease is still out there – this is not the common cold, this is a bad actor,” Stack said Wednesday in Frankfort. “When it sets up in a community and it starts to take hold, hospitals can get overrun.”

Gov. Andy Beshear announced more than 70 new cases in Warren County during his daily briefing, which Stack confirmed was the second-highest rate of positive cases statewide Wednesday. Warren County now has more than 700 confirmed virus cases, according to state data.

Of the 72 new cases announced in Warren County, more than a third – 25 – are minors ranging in ages from 1 to 17, a news release from Beshear's office said. Warren County cases have more than doubled in the past two weeks, going from 313 to 708.

Read full story: [https://www.bgdailynews.com/news/now-25-local-children-with-virus-med-student-volunteers-to-help-with-area-surge/article\\_ecc212a8-9d62-5dea-97b2-f3a6a377e17a.html](https://www.bgdailynews.com/news/now-25-local-children-with-virus-med-student-volunteers-to-help-with-area-surge/article_ecc212a8-9d62-5dea-97b2-f3a6a377e17a.html)

### Kentucky Health News:

**[Beshear says Bowling Green hotspot may be a glimpse of the future; says crisis offers chance to overcome political divisions](#)**

### Kids' COVID-Linked Ailment Is Not Your Typical Kawasaki Disease A number of differences emerging, but U.S. data still scant

(MedPage Today) As data continue to emerge about a multi-system inflammatory disorder in children apparently connected to COVID-19, evidence is growing that this is not your typical Kawasaki disease.

In New York, [up to 102 children have reportedly developed this inflammatory syndrome](#), and three children have died from it in the state as of Wednesday. Other [cases have been reported](#) in Washington, California, and elsewhere in the U.S. as well as in Europe. Children with Kawasaki disease also develop fever, red eyes and rash, but this new inflammatory syndrome differs in terms of presentation in a number of ways.

This emerging syndrome has also caught the attention of the federal government. At a press briefing on Monday, Adm. Brett Giroir, MD, a White House coronavirus task force member and Health and Human Services (HHS) assistant secretary, was asked about it. He responded that "CDC is interacting with a pediatric ICU network to [create case definitions](#)."

The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response is also looking at special treatments, he said, and noted the "activation of all branches of HHS working with networks at children's hospitals." The CDC developing a case definition would ensure all centers seeing these patients would have a uniform approach to the condition.

Read more: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/86484>

### CDC Health Alert HAN-432

**Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) Associated with (COVID-19**

**Link to document:** <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020/han00432.asp>

## KY Public Health Requesting Reports on Kawasaki-like Illness in Children

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."

**PMIS Guidance for Clinicians, issued May 13, can be downloaded at:**

<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/KDPH%20PMIS%20Clinician%20Guidance%205-13-20.pdf>

### **KDPH Webinar for Clinicians & Workforce**

**Next Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5761398455473277197>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

All registrants will receive a video archive of the webinar along with a copy of any slides so you will be able to view at a later time if you are unable to attend.

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### **UK researchers launch antibody testing to help understand immunity to COVID-19**

(KyForward News) University of Kentucky researchers have launched antibody testing that will help to understand what immunity to COVID-19 really means.

Several research labs and core facilities within UK's Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy will be testing the antibodies of recovered COVID-19 patients for a study to see how long they protect against reinfection.

The research is part of UK's COVID-19 Unified Research Experts (CURE) Alliance team, which is uniting UK medical researchers across disciplines in the fight against the novel coronavirus. Supported by the College of Medicine and Vice President of Research Lisa Cassis, CURE's focus is to advise COVID-19 patient care and clinical trials based on emerging research and potential treatment options.

Full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/university-of-kentucky-researchers-launch-antibody-testing-to-help-understand-immunity-to-covid-19/>

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### **FDA Cautions about Accuracy of Abbott Coronavirus Test**

(NPR) The Food and Drug Administration is cautioning the public about the reliability of a widely used rapid test for the coronavirus. The test, made by Abbott Laboratories, has been linked with inaccurate results which could falsely reassure patients that they are not infected with the virus. As [first reported on NPR](#), as many as 15 to 20 out of every 100 tests may produce falsely negative results. A subsequent study released this week indicated that the test could be missing as many as 48% of infections.

The FDA issued the alert on the Abbott test "in the spirit of transparency," and said in a press release, it's investigating whether the false-negative results could be connected to the type of swab used during the rapid test, or the material the samples are being stored in when they're transported.

It also cautions that "any negative test results that are not consistent with a patient's clinical signs and symptoms or necessary for patient management should be confirmed with another test."

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/05/14/856531970/fda-cautions-about-accuracy-of-widely-used-abbott-coronavirus-test>

**FDA Alert:** <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-informs-public-about-possible-accuracy-concerns-abbott-id-now-point>

FDA Newsroom Latest: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/fda-newsroom/press-announcements>

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### **CIDRAP: [Physical distancing may extend to 2022, COVID-19 study finds](#)**

*Mathematical modeling explores several scenarios, including a resurgence as late as 2024.*

Read more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/05/physical-distancing-may-extend-2022-covid-19-study-finds>

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### **US Lawmakers Propose Compensation Fund for Essential Workers Impacted by COVID-19**

(IACP News) [USA Today](#) (5/14, Cummings) reports that on Thursday, a group of lawmakers from both parties announced they intend "to introduce a bill that would create a compensation fund for essential workers and their family members who have been struck by the coronavirus." Reps. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Jerry Nadler, (D-NY), and Peter King (R-NY), as well as Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) unveiled "the Pandemic Heroes Compensation Act during a digital news conference."

[Newsweek](#) (5/14) reports, "No dollar amount has been assigned to the new bill," but "the proposal would authorize the funds to be appropriated as needed for at least five years." The fund "would be available for workers across all industries who are required to leave their homes to perform essential services. The money

could be used to cover the medical costs for recovery, for loss of employment, or for burial costs. Family members who share homes with essential workers and became sick through contact with them would also be eligible to file a claim. The broad advisory list of essential employees created by the federal government consists of 14 categories. It includes health care services, pharmaceutical and food suppliers, law enforcement and first responders among other critical operations.”

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**SAMHSA: COVID-19 Emergency Response for Suicide Prevention Grants Available**

Application Due Date: Friday, May 22, 2020

More info: <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/fg-20-007>

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**US Senators Introduce Bill to Ban “Ghost” Guns**

(IACP News) [The Hill](#) (5/14, Axelrod) reports, “Senate Democrats introduced a bill banning untraceable ‘ghost’ guns Thursday amid concerns that the coronavirus pandemic is fueling a spike in demand for the weapons.” Sen. Richard Blumenthal “led a group of 15 senators in introducing the Untraceable Firearms Act, which would cover both the ghost guns, their components like unfinished frames and receivers and gun-making kits. The legislation would also require that online kit manufacturers and distributors have a manufacturer’s license, put a serial number on the kits’ frame or receiver and conduct background checks on purchasers. Blumenthal said in a statement the legislation was urgent in light of reports that demand for the weapons, which can be made using kits or by 3D printing, is rising during the coronavirus outbreak. ‘This pandemic is spurring a deeply disturbing demand in untraceable weapons,’ said Blumenthal. ‘Congress must act urgently to stop these homemade “ghost guns” before they spur the next horrifying wave of gun violence.’”

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*Here are some **NETEC** educational videos  
you may find useful for staff training, or refresher training*

**CORONAVIRUS PPE and Using PPE for Infectious Patients**

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bG6zISnenPg>

**Healthcare Workers and Masks**

**The What, How and Why of masks for healthcare workers caring for patients during COVID-19 outbreak**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcc8kVb7n\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcc8kVb7n_Y)

**N95 Respirator Limited Reuse**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cfw2tvjiCxM>

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*Non-NETEC video from RN.COM (begins with an ad that you can by-pass in 5 seconds)*

**Donning and Doffing PPE: Gowns, Gloves, Mask, Respirators, Goggles**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=quwzq7Vixsw>

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**White House announces overhaul of Strategic National Stockpile**

(From AHA Today on May 14) President Trump today [announced plans](#) to expand and restructure the Strategic National Stockpile. The White House said it plans to expand domestic production of supplies and equipment and utilize technology to improve visibility of supply chains. Separately, President Trump signed an [executive order](#) assigning authority under the Defense Production Act to the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, headed by former Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Director Adam Boehler, to provide financing to key industries producing goods and services needed to increase national stockpiles.

**Johns Hopkins: Health Security**

Extract from [May 14, 2020](#)

**[Clinical Course of Severe and Critical COVID-19 in Hospitalized Pregnancies: a US Cohort Study](#)**

(*American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*) The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on healthcare systems around the world with 3.0 million infected and 208,000 resultant mortalities as of this writing.

Information regarding infection in pregnancy is still limited. Objectives: To describe the clinical course of severe and critical infection in hospitalized pregnant women with positive laboratory testing for SARS-CoV2.

See also: [Study Predicts COVID-19 Burden Among Pregnant Women](#) (*Helio Primary Care: Registration Required*) A recent model estimated that more than 16,000 pregnant women delivering at hospitals in the United States in 2020 will have COVID-19. The model also predicted there will be 52 COVID-19-related maternal mortalities, according to research published in the *American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology* MFM.

**[‘The Virus May Never Go Away,’ WHO Says](#)** (*Reuters*) The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 could become endemic like HIV, the World Health Organization said on Wednesday, warning against any attempt to predict how long it would keep circulating and calling for a “massive effort” to counter it. “It is important to put this on the

table: this virus may become just another endemic virus in our communities, and this virus may never go away,” WHO emergencies expert Mike Ryan told an online briefing.

**Smoking Nearly Doubles the Rate of COVID-19 Progression** (*University of California San Francisco*)

Smoking significantly worsens COVID-19, according to a new analysis by UC San Francisco of the association between smoking and progression of the infectious disease. In a meta-analysis of studies that included 11,590 COVID patients, researchers found that among people with the virus, the risk of disease progression in those who currently smoke or previously smoked was nearly double that of non-smokers. They also found that when the disease worsens, current or former smokers had more acute or critical conditions or death.

**Abbott Coronavirus Test Missed a Large Number of Positive Results Caught by a Rival Firm, Preliminary Study Says** (*Washington Post*)

The Abbott coronavirus test hailed by President Trump and used by the White House failed to detect infected samples in a large number of cases that were caught by a rival firm, a preliminary study says. The speedy Abbott test, which is supposed to determine in five to 13 minutes whether a person has the virus, missed a third of the positive samples found by the diagnostic company Cepheid when both tests used nasopharyngeal swabs, said the study done by a group from New York University. It missed more than 48 percent when both firms' tests used dry nasal swabs.

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**COVID-19 pandemic has made telehealth necessary, easier to get,  
and sure to continue in current form**

Read more: <https://www.kyforward.com/covid-19-pandemic-has-made-telehealth-necessary-easier-to-get-and-sure-to-continue-in-current-form/>

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**Reminder - Battelle's N95 Mask Cleaning System in KY**

The Battelle CCDS system is operational allowing agencies to ship (via FedEx) N95 masks to the KY Expo Center for decontamination and receive a return shipment by FedEx, at no cost to the user.

This program is free. Register at [www.battelle.org/decon](http://www.battelle.org/decon)

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**EU Official Warns Extremists Attempting To Exploit Virus Outbreak**

(IACP News) The [AP](#) (5/13, Rising) reports from Berlin the European Union's top counterterrorism official is "warning that the coronavirus pandemic is being used by extremists as an opportunity to spread their message and could be exploited to carry out attacks." In a confidential briefing "to member nations obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press, Counter-Terrorism Coordinator Gilles de Kerchove cautioned" that right-wing extremists and Islamic militants "could view attacks on medical personnel and facilities as highly effective, because these would generate a massive shock in society." De Kerchove "noted that in the US, the FBI in March shot and killed a white supremacist while trying to arrest him for plotting to blow up a hospital treating COVID-19 patients, after initially considering an attack on an African-American school, mosque or synagogue." From past experience, he said it's known that "terrorists and violent extremists, aiming to change societies and governmental systems through violence, seek to exploit major crises to achieve their objectives," specifically citing the Islamic State.

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**NETEC Webinars**

**Rapid Ambulatory COVID Testing: From A to PPE**

**Friday, May 15, at 1:00 pm ET**

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

This webinar will review the strategies and guidance available to help communities stand up rapid COVID-19 testing in a safe and effective way.

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

**Physical Security for Alternative Care Sites**

**Friday, May 15, at 1 pm - 2 pm ET** Many healthcare entities are setting up alternative care sites to combat COVID-19. This week's webinar, "Securing the Health Sector: Physical Security for Alternate Care Sites" will offer a strategic, introductory-level overview of physical security considerations and resources for alternative care sites, including a summary of HHS guidance and resources, direct experience from leaders of current alternate care sites, and recommendations from the International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety.

[Click here to register for the webinar.](#) You must register in advance to attend the webinar. After you register, you'll receive connection details directly from GoToWebinar.

To receive announcements about upcoming webinars in this series, email [cip@hhs.gov](mailto:cip@hhs.gov) and ask to be added to the cyber and physical security distribution list. Please share this invitation broadly with colleagues who may be

interested in attending. If you can't join us live, you'll be able to access a recording of the webinar. You can send any questions to [events@infragardncr.org](mailto:events@infragardncr.org).

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**CMS Lessons from the Front Lines: COVID-19**  
**TODAY >> 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.

To listen to the audio files and read the transcripts from CMS COVID-19 Stakeholder calls, visit the [CMS Podcast and Transcripts page](#).



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[Register now](#)

*EARTH EX 2020* webinar

***Understanding Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP)***

Thursday, 21 May at 2 pm (EDT)!

*A thought-provoking presentation on the EMP threat, what government and industry are doing, and what everyone should know to prepare for this threat.*

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.