



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 17, 2020

Los Angeles explosion melted firefighters' helmets and set their coats on fire. At least 11 injured; 4 responders in the ICU

(CNN) An explosion in downtown Los Angeles forced firefighters to walk through "a fireball," setting their coats ablaze and sending four crew members to an intensive care unit.

At least 11 firefighters were injured, and all are expected to survive, officials said. Four were taken to the Burn Intensive Care Center at Los Angeles County USC Medical Center, LAFD Medical Director Dr. Marc Eckstein said. He said two firefighters were put on ventilators "to protect their airway, which showed some early degree of swelling from inhalation of the super-heated gases."

Firefighters initially responded to a blaze near Little Tokyo and Skid Row on Saturday evening when "light to moderate" smoke was coming out of a building. The blaze may have started at [Smoke Tokes Wholesale Distributor](#) -- "reportedly a supplier for those who make butane honey oil," LAFD said. Butane a highly flammable colorless gas, and there was apparently an abundance of it inside

Story link: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/16/us/los-angeles-building-explosion-fire/index.html>

Coronavirus Update

Kentucky - Cases - 7,688 | Deaths - 334 | Recovered - 2,768

Indiana - Cases - 27,778 | Deaths - 1,607 | Recovered - **not provided*

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

Trendline for new cases of the coronavirus remains up, but Beshear says cases at two Louisville facilities skew the numbers

(Kentucky Health News - AI Cross) As Kentucky prepares to allow all retail stores to open Monday, its two-week trend of new coronavirus cases is up, contrary to the federal guidelines that say such reopening shouldn't begin unless cases have shown a downward trajectory for the previous two weeks.

Gov. Andy Beshear announced 244 new cases Saturday, the second day in a row that tilted the state's two-week trendline upward. That moved Kentucky into the red "criteria not met" category on the [CovidExitStrategy.org website](#), which monitors states' compliance with the guidelines.

COVID-19 may cause strokes in healthy young adults, U of L doctors warn

(WDRB) Blood clots, typically found in the veins, are showing up in arteries around COVID-19 patients' hearts and brains and can cause the strokes to occur, according to Dr. Jon Klein of U of L's School of Medicine.

Read more: https://www.wdrb.com/news/coronavirus/covid-19-may-cause-strokes-in-healthy-young-adults-u-of-l-doctors-warn/article_e5d84c2c-97d1-11ea-8f44-f7d888338cc2.html

As Nursing Homes Report More COVID-19 Deaths, More Governors Order Universal Testing

(NPR) With the coronavirus hitting long-term care facilities especially hard, a growing number of state leaders are mandating universal testing of all nursing home residents and staff. The CDC has issued [guidelines](#) for retesting, and several states have announced plans for continuous testing.

States including New York, Arizona, Texas, New Jersey, Delaware, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota are developing and implementing plans to test residents and workers at long-term care facilities. Many announced these initiatives the week of May 11, as new [state data](#) and [calls from the federal government](#) stressed the need for more robust testing efforts. Recent data shows that in most states, long-term care facility deaths account for [at least a third](#) of total COVID-19 fatalities.

West Virginia became the first state to require universal testing, through an [executive order](#) issued April 17. Allison Adler, the director of communications at the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, tells NPR over email that all testing of nursing homes has been completed. She adds that the mandated testing identified the first cases of COVID-19 at 28 facilities statewide, and that 70% of facilities have had no identified cases.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee [announced](#) plans on April 29 to test nursing homes and care facilities, saying he expected the effort to take several weeks. A tenet of Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz's [five-point plan](#) for long-term care facilities is expanding testing to symptomatic residents and staff, "as well as facility-wide testing when a case is confirmed or when multiple people develop symptoms."

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/05/15/857279265/as-nursing-homes-report-more-covid-19-deaths-more-governors-order-universal-test>

Monkey Trial of COVID-19 vaccine shows promise

(CBS) The director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has said that no corners will be cut in [the search for a coronavirus vaccine](#). But now, there's encouraging news about a potential vaccine that's now being tested on humans and monkeys.

NIH researchers in Montana tested the vaccine using six rhesus macaque monkeys. They said the monkeys that got the vaccine developed protective antibodies against the coronavirus.

But it's what happened next that's giving doctors hope. When they exposed the animals to coronavirus, the monkeys that weren't vaccinated developed pneumonia, a sign of COVID-19. But those that got the vaccine, and developed the protective antibodies, had no pneumonia and no virus in their lungs.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/oxford-university-monkey-trial-of-coronavirus-vaccine-shows-encouraging-results/>

New Evidence Suggests COVID-19 Patients on Ventilators Usually Survive

(NPR) Early reports found death rates as high as 90% among COVID-19 patients on ventilators. But some hospitals are now reporting mortality lower than 30%.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/05/15/856768020/new-evidence-suggests-covid-19-patients-on-ventilators-usually-survive>

PTSD May Plague Nurses, Especially in COVID-19 Era

(HealthDay News) -- [Nursing](#) is not a profession for the fainthearted, but new research shows that [post-traumatic stress disorder \(PTSD\)](#) can strike nurses, and suggests the new coronavirus may make things even worse for those on the front lines of the pandemic.

Though the study was conducted a year ago, the results are particularly timely as nurses around the world are treating millions of [COVID-19](#) cases in incredibly trying conditions, the researchers noted.

Full story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=231511>

----- *From the American Hospital Association's AHA Today from May 16* -----



Day-in-the-life video of an ICU nurse marks 'Health Care Heroes Month'

To help demonstrate what it takes to be a health care hero, an intensive care unit nurse created a poignant video about life on the front lines at Hartford HealthCare in Connecticut. [See the video](#), released by the hospital for its "Health Care Heroes Month."



Health system encourages workers through videos

UofL Health, based in Louisville, Ky., shows its appreciation of health care workers by sharing video messages of encouragement and spotlighting employees on social media. [Read more.](#)

Kids' ER Visits for Mental Health Problems Soared Over 10 Years

<https://news360.com/article/528423669>

**Statins may help older coronavirus patients avoid symptoms;
COVID-19 more than respiratory illness**

(Reuters) - The following is a brief roundup of some 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. Statins may help protect frail older people from severe COVID-19 symptoms.

Widely-used cholesterol-lowering statin drugs may be associated with substantially fewer symptoms in older, frail COVID-19 patients, a small study suggests. Among 154 coronavirus patients at two nursing homes, those who took a statin, such as Lipitor, were nearly three times more likely to be free of symptoms during their infection than those who did not, researchers in Belgium found. There was also slight trend toward lower risks for lengthy hospital stays and death that was not statistically significant. The study was not randomized, so more formal trials are needed to definitively prove that statins affect outcomes. "In the current absence of other valuable therapies and considering the benefit-risk balance, an older person living in a nursing home could consider taking a statin if at high COVID-19 infection risk," the authors advised. The study, reported on Friday on the medRxiv website, has not yet been peer-reviewed. (bit.ly/2X3K57g)

Read full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-science/statins-may-help-older-coronavirus-patients-avoid-symptoms-covid-19-more-than-respiratory-illness-idUSKBN22R2WA>

How sewer science could ease testing pressure and track COVID-19

(Reuters) - The science of sewage surveillance could be deployed in countries across the world to help monitor the spread of national epidemics of COVID-19 while reducing the need for mass testing, scientists say.

Experts in the field - known as wastewater epidemiology - say that as countries begin to ease pandemic lockdown restrictions, searching sewage for signs of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus could help them monitor and respond to flare-ups.

Small early studies conducted by scientific teams in The Netherlands, France, Australia and elsewhere have found signs that the COVID-19-causing virus can be detected in sewage.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-sewage/how-sewer-science-could-ease-testing-pressure-and-track-covid-19-idUSKBN22Q2I8>

[CDC Coronavirus What's New this weekend?](#)

- [COVID-19 Serology Surveillance Strategy](#) Sunday, May 17, 2020
- [CDC Seroprevalence Survey Types](#) Sunday, May 17, 2020
- [COVID-19 Serology Surveillance](#) Sunday, May 17, 2020
- [Checklist for Homeless Service Providers During Community Re-opening](#) Saturday, May 16, 2020
- [Staffing Resources](#) Saturday, May 16, 2020
- [Recommendation Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings, Especially in Areas of Significant Community-Based Transmission](#) Saturday, May 16, 2020

From the FDA - *Donate COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma*

If you have fully recovered from COVID-19, you may be able to help patients currently fighting the infection by donating your plasma. Because you fought the infection, your plasma now contains COVID-19 antibodies. These antibodies provided one way for your immune system to fight the virus when you were sick, so your plasma may be able to be used to help others fight off the disease.

Learn more: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/donate-covid-19-plasma>

FDA: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Authorizes First Standalone At-Home Sample Collection Kit That Can Be Used With Certain Authorized Tests](#)

**FDA ordered an at-home coronavirus testing program funded by Bill Gates
to stop testing until the agency gives approval**

<https://www.businessinsider.com/bill-gates-backed-coronavirus-testing-program-stopped-by-fda-2020-5>

Not COVID-19, but important!

To Prevent Injuries, Give Your Kids a Pass on Cutting the Grass

(HealthDay News) -- Asking your child to mow the lawn is a risky proposition, a new study suggests. About 9,400 American kids are injured by lawn mowers each year, and mowers cause 12% to 29% of all traumatic amputations among them, according to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Toe and foot amputations are the most common.

"Lawn mower injuries are largely preventable, but despite increased awareness, my colleagues and I continue to see a significant number of cases from May through October, some of which can be truly devastating," said study senior author Dr. Theodore Ganley, an orthopedic surgeon at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

His team analyzed data on more than 1,300 patients under age 18 who were treated for lawn mower injuries at 49 U.S. hospitals between 2005 and 2017.

The lawn mower incident rate was 7.26 injuries per 100,000 cases in rural areas, and 1.47 injuries per 100,000 in urban areas, the findings showed.

The average age of injured kids was 7.7 years. Rural areas had a significantly higher percentage of injuries among 1- to 5-year-olds, compared to urban areas.

Full story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=231472>

CDC Clinician's Call

**Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)
Associated with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

More info: https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_051920.asp?deliveryName=USCDC_1052%29-DM28626

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Time: 2:00pm-3:30pm (ET)

Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1602255337>

Or iPhone one-tap:

US: +16692545252,,1602255337#

or +16468287666,,1602255337#

Or Telephone:

+1 669 254 5252

or +1 646 828 7666

Webinar ID: 160 225 5337

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 (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.