



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 18, 2020

National EMS Week (May 17-23)  
*Ready Today. Preparing for Tomorrow*  
<http://www.emsstrong.org/>  
<http://www.naemt.org/initiatives/ems-week>

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As of today, a total of **1.5 million Americans** have contracted COVID-19  
**90,312 people** have died from the virus  
**Moderna vaccine delivers promising phase 1 results**

Full CIDRAP story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/05/us-covid-19-deaths-pass-90000-moderna-vaccine-delivers-promising-phase-1>

**Related - [Prolonged COVID-19 virus shedding noted in China](#)**

## KY Coronavirus Numbers for today

491 new cases, 7,935 total to date  
14 new deaths, 346 total to date  
17,549 new tests, 145,238 to date

Full Governor's press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&pId=171>

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*In case you missed it...*

**Mystery Ailment Linked to Kids, Coronavirus Has a Name: **MIS-C****

**CDC Case definition outlined ([HAN 432](#))**

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s290926>

**CDC Health Advisory from May 14, 2020:**

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020/han00432.asp>

**TUESDAY>>> CDC Clinician's Call on  
Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)**

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

International numbers available: <https://www.zoomgov.com/u/acMT9czZKu>

## HHS Cancels Remdesivir Data Deadline today

(AHA) Over the weekend, HHS determined that it did not need the additional data at this time. Registered users of the TeleTracking portal reportedly received an email announcing the agency's decision to *postpone* data collection and reporting by midnight today. While hospitals do not have to submit the COVID-19 admission and COVID-19 intensive care unit occupancy data to TeleTracking today, HHS has indicated it intends to ask for updated data again in the next few weeks.

## Trump says he is taking hydroxychloroquine though health experts question its effectiveness

CNN story & video report: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/18/politics/donald-trump-hydroxychloroquine-coronavirus/index.html>

- **Related story** -

## Studies find further lack of COVID benefit from hydroxychloroquine

(CIDRAP) Results from two new studies, including the first randomized controlled trial, are providing further evidence that the antimalaria drug hydroxychloroquine may not help COVID-19 patients.

The two studies, published yesterday in *BMJ*, found that, when compared with standard treatment, the use of hydroxychloroquine did not increase the likelihood of virus elimination in Chinese patients with mild-to-moderate

COVID-19, nor did it have any effect on reducing admissions to intensive care or death in French patients with more severe illness. Both studies also found a higher rate of adverse events in patients treated with the drug.

**The authors of both papers conclude that the results do not support the continued use hydroxychloroquine in these patients.**

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/05/studies-find-further-lack-covid-benefit-hydroxychloroquine>

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**Insurers seek relief from mandate to pay for virus antibody tests**

(Politico) Health insurers are trying to get rid of a blanket mandate that they pay for coronavirus antibody tests, saying some are too flawed to produce useful results. Congress and the Trump administration blocked the insurers from charging deductibles and co-pays for the pricey tests that tell if a person has been exposed to the virus and other Covid-19 diagnostics when they rushed to enact relief packages in the early weeks of the pandemic. That could leave health plans paying for too many unreliable tests that produce false results, say health insurance lobbyists, who are demanding the plans have more discretion deciding what gets covered.

A CMS spokesperson said the administration is still considering "evolving questions and issues" about coverage for tests and treatment of the virus, and said the agency will continue posting updated guidance.

Full story: <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/05/15/health-insurers-coronavirus-antibody-tests-260769>

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**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines**  
**Extracts from [May 18, 2020](#)**

**[‘I Can’t Turn My Brain Off’: PTSD and Burnout Threaten Medical Workers](#)** (*New York Times*) Before Covid-19, health care workers were already vulnerable to depression and suicide. Mental health experts now fear even more will be prone to trauma-related disorders.

**[State and Federal Data on COVID-19 Testing Don’t Match Up](#)** (*The Atlantic*) How many coronavirus tests have been conducted in the United States? For the first time since February, the federal government has an answer. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now say that 10,847,778 coronavirus tests have been conducted nationwide. These tests have found about 1.4 million positive cases.

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CDC Coronavirus [What’s New?](#)

- [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE](#) Monday, May 18, 2020
- [Staffing Resources](#) Monday, May 18, 2020
- [COVID-19 Serology Surveillance Strategy](#) Sunday, May 17, 2020

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**Exploring respirator options for protecting health workers from COVID-19**

(CIDRAP) Since the beginning of America’s battle with the novel coronavirus, N95s, the close-fitting respirators worn instead of face masks to protect frontline workers from infectious aerosols and respiratory droplets, have been in short supply.

The respirators, most manufactured by 3M and Honeywell, are used globally and act as the crux of personal protective equipment (PPE) for hospital staff.

Traditionally they are donned and discarded after a single patient examination, but shortages and supply chain issues during the pandemic have resulted in countless stories of doctors and nurses reusing a single respirator per shift. The shortage has prompted the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention to recommend that respirators be reserved for aerosolizing procedures only.

But rather than accepting the new normal, industrial hygienists, hospitalists, and other healthcare professionals have embraced new technologies and old equipment in an attempt to work around the N95 shortage, and they suggest that health systems do the same before a second wave of infections threatens to overwhelm hospitals.

Read more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/05/exploring-respirator-options-protecting-health-workers-covid-19>

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----- Extracts from AHA Today for [May 18](#) -----

**Studies: COVID-19 virus can spread through feces, surfaces contaminated by presymptomatic patients.**

Infectious virus in feces is a common manifestation of COVID-19, according to a [study](#) from China published today in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Emerging Infectious Diseases journal. "Our findings indicate the need for appropriate precautions to avoid potential transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from feces," the authors said. "Discharge and hospital cleaning practices should consider this possibility for critically ill patients or those who died who had high viral loads and are more likely to shed infectious virus."

Another [study](#) from China published in the journal investigated environmental contamination in two rooms of a quarantine hotel after two presymptomatic students who stayed there were laboratory-confirmed as having coronavirus disease. "We detected SARS-CoV-2 RNA on eight (36%) of 22 surfaces, as well as on the pillow cover, sheet, and duvet cover," demonstrating that presymptomatic patients can easily contaminate

environments, the authors said. "Our data also reaffirm the potential role of surface contamination in the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and the importance of strict surface hygiene practices, including regarding linens of SARS-CoV-2 patients," they said.

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**Police Say Crooks Are Using Coronavirus Masks to Commit Crime**

(IACP News) The [AP](#) (5/16, Babwin, Dazio) reported from Chicago, "The way the FBI tells it, William Rosario Lopez put on a surgical mask and walked into the Connecticut convenience store looking to the world like a typical pandemic-era shopper as he picked up plastic wrap, fruit snacks and a few other items. Then, when the only other customer left, he went to the counter, pulled out a small pistol, pointed it at the clerk and demanded that he open the cash register." The AP added, "The scene, the FBI contends in a court document, was repeated by Lopez in four other gas station stores over eight days before his April 9 arrest. It underscores a troubling new reality for law enforcement: Masks that have made criminals stand apart long before bandanna-wearing robbers knocked over stagecoaches in the Old West and ski-masked bandits held up banks now allow them to blend in like concerned accountants, nurses and store clerks trying to avoid a deadly virus. 'Criminals, they're smart and this is a perfect opportunity for them to conceal themselves and blend right in,' said Richard Bell, police chief in the tiny Pennsylvania community of Frackville. He said he knows of seven recent armed robberies in the region where every suspect wore a mask."

[Newsweek](#) (5/16) reported, "Police say investigations involving the cheap and now-common item have spiked in recent weeks, popping up in armed robberies across the country. 'In the past if you did a search warrant and you found surgical masks that would be highly indicative of something [suspicious]. Now everybody has masks or latex gloves,' FBI Special Agent Lisa MacNamara told the AP, which detailed several such crimes and reported a surge in the wearing of latex gloves has also resulted in fewer fingerprints left at crime scenes."

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**FBI: Missouri man planning to bomb hospital killed himself**

(WAVY) [Note: This is an AP update to a story from April, 2020, about a Missouri man who was planning to bomb a Kansas City area hospital. He was distressed by the government's response to the coronavirus crisis and motivated by racial, religious and anti-government animus, according to court documents.]

Story link: <https://www.wavy.com/news/national/fbi-missouri-man-planning-to-bomb-hospital-killed-himself/>

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**InfraGard "Securing the Health Sector" Webinar Series**

This week's focus: **"Animal Rights Extremists"**

Friday, May 22, 1 PM ET

Register in advance at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2216981985744168718>.

This week's offering, "Animal Rights Extremists," will offer a strategic, introductory-level overview of these extremists' targets and tactics, discussions of some recent criminal activity affecting the health sector and other sectors, and an assessment of the threat environment in 2020. This webinar is one in a series cohosted by HHS, DHS and InfraGard from the National Capital Region.

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**IED Discovered During Ohio Radio Interference Investigation  
Potentially disrupting public safety communications**

([US DHS TRIPwire](#)) On 12 May 2020 at approximately 1200 hours local time, the Allen County Sheriff's Office (NW Ohio) started receiving reports from law enforcement and fire departments of severely diminished radio communication abilities. After failing for two days to restore radio communication, authorities determined the problem was caused by a source of interference in the area, which they tracked to a private residence in Lima. Authorities contacted the home's 59-year-old male resident, who refused to cooperate and denied causing the radio interference. On 14 May at approximately 1830 hours local time, the Allen County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team executed a search warrant at the residence, where they discovered multiple suspected explosive devices. Allen County Regional Bomb Squad technicians responded to the scene, rendered safe one device that was described as a pipe bomb, and assisted in clearing the rest of the residence. During the search, officers discovered at least one unidentified device that could have been the source of the interference. The suspect left the property in a vehicle before the warrant was executed but was stopped by patrol units and arrested. He was charged with suspicion of disruption of emergency services. The West Central Ohio Crime Task Force, FBI, FCC, Allen County Prosecutor's Office, Allen County Emergency Management Agency, Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau, and communications sector partners are assisting with the investigation.

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**UPCOMING NETEC WEBINARS**

Join this week's NETEC webinar on Wednesday, May 20th at 12:00 PM CT / 1:00 PM ET on our first topic in our Emergency Management series covering the **Use of HICS for COVID-19 Preparedness, Mitigation and Response**. [Register here](#) and if you're unable to make it, we will send you the recording.

The next webinar in the series will occur on Wednesday, June 3rd at 12:00 PM CT / 1:00 PM ET and will discuss the ***Use of HICS for COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery***. [Save your spot here](#).

Learn more about HICS: <https://emsa.ca.gov/disaster-medical-services-division-hospital-incident-command-system-resources/>

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**HHS/ASPR COVID-19 CLINICAL ROUNDS**  
**A Peer to Peer Virtual Community of Practice**

Upcoming Training Opportunities This Week:

**Critical Care: Lifesaving Treatment and Clinical Operations**

Tuesday, May 19, 12:00-1:00 pm ET

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

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

Thursday, May 21, 12:00-1:00 pm ET

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

**Special Session: COVID-19 and Pediatrics**

Friday, May 22, 12:00-1:00 pm ET

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

**ASPR TRACIE Webinars**

**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](#).

----- **Resources** -----

**ASPR's TRACIE Novel Coronavirus Resources:**

<https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/covid-19>

**CDC COVID-19 Resources for Health Care Professionals:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>

**NETEC, the National Emerging Special Pathogen Training and Education Center:**

<https://netec.org/>

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**NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT FOR THE DRAFT NIMS IMPLEMENTATION**  
**OBJECTIVES FOR FEDERAL DEPARTEMENTS AND AGENCIES**

FEMA's National Integration Center is seeking public feedback for an update of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Implementation Objectives for Federal Departments and Agencies. This National Engagement Period will conclude at 5:00 p.m. EDT on June 17, 2020. National Engagement provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the draft implementation objectives, to ensure they are relevant for all implementing partners.

FEMA will host a series of webinars to discuss the proposed *NIMS Implementation Objectives for Federal Departments and Agencies* and answer related questions. All webinars are open to the whole community. For more information on the webinars and to review the draft objectives, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system/national-engagement>.

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**Study Finds State Texting Bans Save Teen Drivers' Lives**

[HealthDay](#) (5/15, Mozes) reported, "In a finding that illustrates how distracted driving laws are saving lives, researchers report that car crash deaths among teens plunged by one-third during a period when the number of U.S. states with such laws on the books tripled. 'We found that states which had primary enforced distracted driving laws had lower fatal crashes involving 16- to 19-year-old drivers and passengers,' said study author Dr. Michael Flaherty. He's an attending physician in pediatric critical care medicine with both Massachusetts General Hospital and the Shriners Hospitals for Children in Boston." Flaherty "explained that 'primary' distracted driving laws are the kind that authorize police to pull over a driver specifically because of a distracted driving infraction. In all, 40 states had that kind of law in place to ban texting while driving by 2017."

The KHEREF 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 KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.