



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 19, 2020

KY Health commissioner says he's worried that too many Kentuckians think the coronavirus doesn't pose a danger to them

(KY Health News - AI Cross) - Dr. Steven Stack, the state commissioner of public health, said in an interview recorded Friday and broadcast Monday night that he fears Kentuckians aren't taking the coronavirus seriously enough.

"I'm very worried that the public is becoming comfortable that this is not a danger," and does not realize that only about 5 percent of Kentuckians have had the virus, he told Renee Shaw for "Kentucky Tonight" on KET. "The entire crisis we have successfully avoided is still waiting to happen in June or July," he warned, if too many Kentuckians don't take precautions.

Asked if it would have been better to have had a national strategy, Stack said "I would like to have had much more cohesion across the country," because the varying rules in states make it difficult for the public to know what to do. He repeated his advice to limit daily activities to avoid unknowingly spreading the virus, which can be most contagious before people realize they have it. He said people "should think twice about what is really important for them" as they choose where to go each day.

Learn more: <http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/KentuckyHealthNews/~3/KGU60Ufm3tg/health-commissioner-says-hes-worried.html>

Testing, contact tracing planned to thwart spread of virus as economy reopens in Kentucky

(KyForward News/KY Health News) As Kentucky begins to reopen its economy, increased testing and contact tracing are the primary lines of defense to suppress a resurgence of the coronavirus and its covid-19 disease.

Gov. Andy Beshear says the state is more than able to do the recommended 2 percent of testing that is called for in White House guidance to reopen the economy, which amounts to almost 21,000 tests per week, or almost 3,000 a day, counting weekends.

Testing leads to contact tracing, tracking down people who have been in contact with an infected person, then asking them and their contacts to isolate for two weeks, the incubation period for the virus.

Beshear says the state is preparing to hire more than 700 people to help with contact tracing. "Now those that are ready for the economy to reopen, great," he said. "But the only way to do it, and this is coming from the White House, from the president himself, from the experts they have for our public health, is testing plus tracing.

Learn more: <https://www.kyforward.com/testing-contact-tracing-planned-to-thwart-spread-of-virus-as-economy-reopens-in-kentucky/>

Re-opening includes hospital visitors; one per patient room

(WLEX) As Kentucky gradually phases back into some sense of everyday life, the state's hospitals are prepared to join by allowing visitors into patient rooms.

"We have many patients concerned about not having a support person with them," said Melissa Bennett, a VP of Patient Services for CHI Saint Joseph Health in Lexington. "They're scared, and they've been asking for this, and we believe there's a lot of patients who've been waiting for this point in order to come back and get procedures that they desperately need," Bennett continued.

Anyone arriving at a hospital to visit a patient's room will have to undergo a brief health screening and questionnaire. The same policies are reportedly in place at Baptist Health.

Full story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/re-opening-includes-hospital-visitors-one-allowed-per-patient-room>

KNA Partners with Psychiatric Nurses Association to Offer Mental Health Support

Recognizing the emotional impact and unprecedented challenges COVID-19 has on those providing direct care such as nurses, the Kentucky Nurses Association (KNA) recently partnered with the International Society of Psychiatric Nurses (ISPN) to launch its [Kentucky Nurses Helping Nurses \(KNHN\)](#) mental health program — a volunteer network of nurses, working and retired, who have a passion for and expertise in mental health nursing who want to support and be there for nurses while they are caring for others. Requests for information/support/assistance are confidential. KNHN includes a myriad of web-based resources such as relevant articles, free webinars, blogs and PowerPoint presentations. Through its volunteer component, psychiatric nurses offer peer support and refer to professional therapy and psychiatric services as needed. Along with online access, nurses can also call the KNHN hotline at 1-877-358-0420 or communicate by emailing admin@kentucky-nurses.org.

COVID-19 Cases in Kentucky Could Have Been 35 Times Higher, Study Says

UKNow recently [reported on a study](#), released by the Institute for the Study of Free Enterprise (ISFE) at the University of Kentucky, that suggests so. According to the report, confirmed COVID-19 cases in the commonwealth could have reached a staggering 45,000 by April 25 without any state-imposed measures. For comparison, the current total of confirmed COVID-19 cases was fewer than 4,000.

>> Link to the [Full Article](#)

Why Do Countries' COVID-19 Death Rates Vary So Much?

Multiple factors at play: testing capacity, case definitions, age distribution, preparedness

(MedPage Today) There's a mysterious pattern in the deadliness of COVID-19. Countries across the world, each with their unique healthcare system, combat the pandemic with varying containment and mitigation strategies, leading to drastically different mortality rates. Substantial disparities can be seen by continent.

Countries	Cases	Cases per million	Deaths	Deaths per million	Case-Fatality
United States	1,291,100	3881.8	77,489	233.0	6.0%
Switzerland	30,251	3601.3	1,830	217.9	6.0%
Sweden	25,921	2541.3	3,220	315.7	12.4%
Belgium	52,596	4495.4	8,581	733.4	16.3%
Spain	222,857	4457.1	26,299	526.0	11.8%
France	174,318	2571.1	26,192	386.3	15.0%
Germany	170,876	2136.0	7,510	93.9	4.4%
Italy	218,268	3497.9	30,395	487.1	13.9%
Netherlands	42,382	2449.8	5,422	313.4	12.8%
Canada	67,729	1796.5	4,697	124.6	6.9%
United Kingdom	215,260	3273.4	31,587	480.3	14.7%
Hong Kong	1,044	144.0	4	0.6	0.4%
Singapore	22,460	3622.6	20	3.2	0.1%
South Korea	10,840	209.3	256	4.9	2.4%
Taiwan	440	18.6	6	0.3	1.4%
Mainland China	82,887	59.6	4,633	3.3	5.6%
Japan	15,575	124.1	590	4.7	3.8%

Cases, deaths, and case-fatality rates from COVID-19 with and without adjustment for population size in 17 countries/regions as of May 9, 2020. Sources: Cases and deaths are from Bloomberg tracking data on May 9, 2020. Population sizes are from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Read more: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/86527>

Pandemic-related vaccination drop raises concern about U.S. measles outbreak

Story link: <https://news360.com/article/528550809>

Exclusive: CDC plans sweeping COVID-19 antibody study in 25 metropolitan areas

(Reuters) - The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plans a nationwide study of up to 325,000 people to track how the new coronavirus is spreading across the country into next year and beyond, a CDC spokeswoman and researchers conducting the effort told Reuters.

The CDC study, expected to launch in June or July, will test samples from blood donors in 25 metropolitan areas for antibodies created when the immune system fights the coronavirus, said Dr. Michael Busch, director of the nonprofit Vitalant Research Institute.

Antibody studies, also known as seroprevalence research, are considered critical to understanding where an outbreak is spreading and can help guide decisions on restrictions needed to contain it. The CDC study should also help scientists better understand whether the immune response to COVID wanes over time.

The six metropolitan areas being surveyed in the precursor study are New York, Seattle, the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, Boston and Minneapolis, said Dr. Graham Simmons, another Vitalant researcher involved in

the project. "In all likelihood" the next phase will add Miami, Atlanta, New Orleans, Dallas, St. Louis, Chicago, Denver and others, Simmons said.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-testing-cdc-exclus/exclusive-cdc-plans-sweeping-covid-19-antibody-study-in-25-metropolitan-areas-idUSKBN22U2TZ>

[New Report Highlights Role of Local Health Departments in Addressing Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antibiotic Resistance.](#)

NACCHO has released high-level results of its 2019 Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antibiotic Resistance Assessment. The resource highlights the extent to which LHDs engage in HAI/AR activities, existing LHD partner engagement, the role that LHDs play in outbreak response, and LHD capacity and infrastructure in HAI/AR prevention and control. These results can help inform current and future actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in healthcare facilities. (NACCHO, 5/18/20)

[COVID-19 in Correctional and Detention Facilities — United States, February–April 2020.](#)

Among 37 jurisdictions reporting, 32 reported at least one confirmed COVID-19 case among incarcerated or detained persons or staff members, across 420 correctional and detention facilities. As of April 21, 2020, 4,893 cases and 88 deaths among incarcerated and detained persons and 2,778 cases and 15 deaths among staff members have been reported. Prompt identification of persons with COVID-19 and consistent application of prevention measures within correctional and detention facilities are critical to protecting incarcerated or detained persons, staff members, and the communities to which they return. (CDC MMWR, 5/15/20)

***Related* - Two more prisoners at Lexington Federal Medical Center die of COVID-19; total is now three**

Read more here: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/coronavirus/article24276791.html>

CDC COVID-19 [What's New](#) page

- [What Workers and Employers Can Do to Manage Workplace Fatigue during COVID-19](#) Tuesday, May 19, 2020

COVID-19 data sharing with law enforcement sparks concern

(Miami Herald) Two-thirds of U.S. states are sharing addresses of people who have coronavirus with first responders, a policy that has been criticized by minority communities who already distrust law enforcement. Story and audio report link: <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/article242832416.html>

Oklahoma Could Be First US State to Implement Marijuana Breathalyzers

Read more: <https://www.chron.com/news/article/Oklahoma-may-be-first-to-implement-marijuana-15278673.php>

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 (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.