



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 27, 2020

Kentucky COVID-19 Updates
127 new cases as of 5 P; Total 9077
6 new deaths were reported; Total is now 400.

CDC Issues Interim Guidelines for COVID-19 Antibody Testing

(CDC Summary) Serologic methods have been developed and will have important public health and clinical uses to monitor and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Serologic assays for SARS-CoV-2 now have Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which has independently reviewed their performance.
- Currently, there is no identified advantage of assays whether they test for IgG, IgM and IgG, or total antibody.
- It is important to minimize false positive test results by choosing an assay with high specificity and by testing populations and individuals with an elevated likelihood of previous exposure to SARS-CoV-2. Alternatively, an orthogonal testing algorithm (i.e., employing two independent tests in sequence when the first test yields a positive result) can be used when the expected positive predictive value of a single test is low.
- Antibodies most commonly become detectable 1-3 weeks after symptom onset, at which time evidence suggests that infectiousness likely is greatly decreased and that some degree of immunity from future infection has developed. However, additional data are needed before modifying public health recommendations based on serologic test results, including decisions on discontinuing physical distancing and using personal protective equipment.

Read more: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/antibody-tests-guidelines.html>

FEMA distributing infrared thermometers for workplace use

(AHA Today) The Federal Emergency Management Agency is sending more than 438,000 non-contact infrared thermometers from the Strategic National Stockpile to state, territorial and tribal governments to distribute to local authorities and businesses based on their priorities as the nation's workplaces and economy reopen, the agency [announced](#) yesterday. FEMA said the thermometers are intended for use by workplaces with high person-to-person interaction in accordance with [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) guidance for identifying potentially ill employees and visitors. The agency expects additional thermometers to be available in June.

COVID-19 Hot Spots Appearing In Rural Areas

The [Washington Times](#) (5/26, Howell) reports "lax summertime behavior and rural hot spots" are sparking new coronavirus "fears even as hard-hit places such as New York and New Jersey reported progress." In Alabama, "hospitals were reporting a surge in COVID-19 cases in Montgomery," and "smaller hot spots are popping up. A New York Times page that tracks places with high numbers of cases per capita lists towns across the heartland, including in Tennessee, Nebraska and Indiana."

More older adults in Kentucky are struggling with food insecurity as coronavirus pandemic drags on

(Public News Service) Kentucky has the highest rate in the nation of food insecurity among older adults, and that's likely to worsen amid the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new report released by the group Feeding America.

Using the most recent available data from 2018, researchers found that nearly 7% of Kentuckians over 60 and around 17% of adults age 50 to 59 were food insecure. According to the report, more than 5 million seniors across the country aren't sure where their next meal will come from.

Stan Siegwald, director of strategic initiatives for Dare to Care Food Bank, says fixed incomes, higher health care costs, transportation issues and physical difficulty in preparing meals are all reasons many older Americans go hungry. Siegwald adds because seniors are at higher risk for COVID-19 illness and may face additional challenges accessing food amidst closures and social distancing orders, food insecurity among older Kentuckians is likely to increase.

Full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/more-older-adults-in-kentucky-are-struggling-with-food-insecurity-as-coronavirus-pandemic-drags-on/>

Norton Healthcare plans to open a "first of its kind, permanent drive-thru and walk-up facility"

(WDRB) -- Norton Healthcare announced last Friday that it will open the first of its kind, permanent drive-thru and walk-up facility. The pandemic has put an emphasis on tele-health and the importance of drive-thru testing. Services will include vaccines, COVID-19 testing, flu, strep, EKG and minor x-rays. The express healthcare site is set to open this fall in the old Kmart site on Breckenridge Lane and Taylorsville Road.

More with video report: https://www.wdrb.com/news/norton-healthcare-to-open-first-permanent-drive-thru-walk-up-facility/article_48730aae-9c3f-11ea-829e-83058a62acda.html

CDC Coronavirus What's New?

- ✓ [Cases in U.S.](#) Wednesday, May 27, 2020
- ✓ [Households Living in Close Quarters](#) Wednesday, May 27, 2020
- ✓ [Funeral Guidance for Individuals and Families](#) Wednesday, May 27, 2020
- ✓ [Key Resources](#) Wednesday, May 27, 2020
- ✓ [Resources for State, Local, Territorial and Tribal Health Departments](#) Wednesday, May 27, 2020
- ✓ [COVID-19 Employer Information for Office Buildings](#) Wednesday, May 27, 2020
- ✓ [Cruise Ship Crew Member Disembarkations](#) Wednesday, May 27, 2020
- ✓ [Financial Resources](#) Wednesday, May 27, 2020
- ✓ [Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19](#) Wednesday, May 27, 2020
- ✓ [Clean & Disinfect](#) Wednesday, May 27, 2020
- ✓ [Considerations for Restaurants and Bars](#) Wednesday, May 27, 2020
- ✓ [Travelers from Countries with Widespread Sustained \(Ongoing\) Transmission Arriving in the United States](#) Wednesday, May 27, 2020
- ✓ [Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations](#) Wednesday, May 27, 2020
- ✓ [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#) Wednesday, May 27, 2020
- ✓ [Protect Yourself When Using Transportation](#) Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Oregon healthcare workers say improper PPE data tracking is causing shortages

(Becker Hospital Review) Some healthcare workers in Oregon claim that hospitals are not accurately documenting their personal protective equipment needs in the state's central hospital capacity and supplies reporting system, according to [Portland Tribune](#).

The state has been tracking the number of masks, gowns, respirators and face shields each Oregon hospital has since May 5. However, healthcare workers in Oregon claim hospitals are neglecting to accurately document their PPE needs via the state's HOSCAP reporting system, leaving some facilities without adequate supplies.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) said in a statement that it is aware current PPE data recorded in the state tracking system is not as accurate or useful as it could be, according to the report. OHA is working with the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems to improve the PPE supply reporting process.

Story link: <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/data-analytics/oregon-healthcare-workers-say-improper-ppe-data-tracking-is-causing-shortages.html>

COVID-19 Pandemic Results in Steep Drop In Major Crimes In US

(IACP News) The [New York Times](#) (5/26, Macfarquhar, Kovaleski) reports, "The absence of people during the coronavirus pandemic has produced a rare payoff in...most American cities – a steep drop in major crimes. 'The dynamics of street crimes, of street encounters, of human behavior are changing because people are staying home,' said Philip M. Stinson, a former police officer turned criminal justice professor at Bowling Green State University." According to the Times, "Crime, say those who study it and those who fight it day to day, requires three things – a perpetrator, a victim and an opportunity. With tens of millions of Americans off the streets, would-be victims and opportunities for crimes have vanished, causing a drop in the number of perpetrators committing infractions. The dip in crime is compounded by the fact that some police departments have been hampered by quarantines, or have made fewer arrests to limit interactions or to avoid filling the jails."

Cleveland's University Hospitals partnership uses facial recognition for reopening public spaces

(Becker Hospital Review) University Hospitals is [working](#) with a technology company on facial recognition technology as part of the effort to return people to work and reopen restaurants and entertainment venues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Cleveland-based health system is partnering with a cloud-based artificial intelligence technology and computer vision tech provider to combine COVID-19 test results with facial recognition software that will allow employers, retail venues, sports arenas and concert venues to validate whether the person has tested positive for COVID-19 or not.

Consumers can opt in to the technology, giving the health system permission to include their COVID-19 test information in a databank that would identify their COVID-19 status. Participants would be able to validate their COVID-19 test status through mobile devices or by a device at the entrance of a specific location to identify individuals via facial recognition. Then, locations can fast-track entrance by automatically unlocking or opening doors. Employers can use the technology to validate that employees are healthy and can safely enter their office space.

Story source: <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/digital-transformation/university-hospitals-partnership-uses-facial-recognition-for-reopening-public-spaces-4-details.html>

**Related-1 - Contact tracing must balance 'privacy and values':
Johns Hopkins report's 7 standards [Full story](#)**

Related-2 - New York City taps cloud platform for contact tracing program

New York City is [teaming up](#) with cloud communications platform to power the city IT and telecommunications department's COVID-19 contact tracing program. The department plans to deploy a cloud-based contact center on to oversee the contact tracing program, which comprises thousands of workers. The contact center can send out voice calls, text messages and emails to COVID-19 patients to educate them on the virus and pinpoint their close contacts through self-reporting. It also allows program officials to send out alerts to patients via voice call, text message, email and WhatsApp to remind patients to fill out symptom surveys.

Story source: <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/healthcare-information-technology/new-york-city-taps-cloud-platform-for-contact-tracing-program.html>

ASPR Clinical Rounds

Emergency Department: Recovery and Preparing for a Second Wave

Thursday, May 28, 2020
12:00 PM EDT / 9:00 AM PDT

[Click here for registration](#)

Join presenters to discuss emergency management resources and information that can be utilized to improve effective hospital and emergency department function during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NETEC webinar COVID clinical series

Friday, May 29 at 1:00 PM CT / 2:00 PM ET

**Ventilator Support for Patients with COVID-19:
Initial Approach and Advanced Modalities.**

[Save your spot here.](#)

InfraGard "Securing Health Sector" - 6th in the series

Friday, May 29, 1 PM ET

Threats to Vaccine Researchers and Manufacturers

Featured speakers are intelligence analysts from the Counterintelligence and Cyber Divisions of FBIHQ

You must register in advance at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6483010135762557451>.

Connection details will arrive directly from GoToWebinar.

CMS Lessons from the Front Lines: COVID-19

Friday, May 29, at 12:30 - 2:00 pm ET

[Click here for 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.

Ensuring Healthcare Safety Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic Webinar

Tuesday, June 2, at 2:00 pm ET

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

ASPR TRACIE, in collaboration with the HHS/FEMA COVID-19 Healthcare Resilience Task Force, is hosting this webinar to share experiences and lessons learned from healthcare systems who have planned, implemented, and managed operational adaptations due to COVID-19 in their organizations to strengthen healthcare resilience and maintain safety.

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.