



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 4, 2020

KY COVID-19 Update

As of 4 p.m. June 4, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 10,705 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 295 of which were newly confirmed Thursday. Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported eight new deaths Thursday, raising the total to 458 Kentuckians lost to the virus. At least 3,303 Kentuckians have recovered from the virus.

Full press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=198>

No benefit of convalescent plasma in COVID-19 patients, study finds

(CIDRAP) Convalescent plasma therapy didn't help 52 seriously ill COVID-19 patients recover in the first known randomized [study](#) of its kind, although it was stopped early because of low enrollment.

The study, published yesterday in *JAMA*, involved coronavirus patients with severe illness (respiratory distress and/or low oxygen levels) or life-threatening disease (shock, organ failure, or the need for mechanical ventilation) in seven medical centers in Wuhan, China, from Feb 14 to Apr 1, with final follow-up on Apr 28.

The trial was stopped early because, owing to containment of the Wuhan outbreak, researchers were able to recruit only 103 of 200 patients needed to generate a clinically meaningful result. One patient withdrew from the study, and one in the control group received convalescent plasma, a protocol violation, because of a life-threatening infection.

Convalescent plasma therapy, which dates back to the early 20th century, involves the transfusion of blood plasma collected from patients recovered from infection to improve immune response in the recipient.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/06/no-benefit-convalescent-plasma-covid-19-patients-study-finds>

Trump Administration Selects Five Coronavirus Vaccine Candidates as Finalists

(*New York Times*) The Trump administration has selected five companies as the most likely candidates to produce a vaccine for the coronavirus, senior officials said, a critical step in the White House's effort to deliver on its promise of being able to start widespread inoculation of Americans by the end of the year. By winning the field in a matter of weeks from a pool of around a dozen companies, the federal government is betting that it can identify the most promising vaccine projects at an early stage, speed along the process of determining which will work and ensure that the winner or winners can be quickly manufactured in huge quantities and distributed across the country.

KDPH connection with Battelle for PPE after decontamination

Letter from Dr. Stack, Commissioner:

<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/battelleCCDS2letter.pdf>

Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System

<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/BattelleCCDSinfo.pdf>

KY CHFS "Guidance Memos"

The 5/29/20 from the KDPH entitled "Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Disease Clearance Guidance (Release from Isolation / Return to Work)" supersedes the two guidance memos (persistent positive testers and staff return to work) issued jointly by the Secretary & OIG on 6/1/20, despite the dates being out of sequence. The websites here will be updated today to reflect this – sorry any confusion this may have created in the interim.

[From IACP News] Federal Officials Investigating Groups Coordinating Protests Violence

On its website, [Fox News](#) (6/3, Gibson) cites "a senior Department of Justice official" who said that federal law enforcement officials are investigating whether "criminal actors" are coordinating violent activities during protests. The official said the officials are looking into reports that "rocks and bricks" have been placed to throw at police and other law enforcement. The official said, "You see the hallmarks. ... We're trying to see if there's a coordinated command and control, you see those bread crumbs and that's what we're trying to verify." Fox cites "another DOJ official" who "said the feds have seen signs of 'very organized' coordination from 'professional' agitators, some linked to Antifa."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/3, A1, Gertz) reports that according to "a law enforcement official with access to intelligence" about Antifa, activists from the group "began planning to foment a nationwide anti-government insurgency as early as November as the U.S. presidential campaign season kicked off in earnest." While the official "would not speak on the record on Antifa's plans as the U.S. election season heats up...longtime analysts of the group say such a move would be entirely in character."

DHS, FBI Analysis: Looting And Violence Driven By Opportunists, As Well As Antifa. [Reuters](#) (6/3, Hesson, Hosenball, Rosenberg, Heath) reports that although President Trump “has blamed leftwing extremist groups for instigating nights of looting and violence in cities across the United States...an intelligence assessment offers limited evidence that organized extremists are behind the turmoil.” In a “June 1 internal intelligence assessment of the protests,” DHS officials “said most of the violence appears to have been driven by opportunists.” Reuters adds that the assessment “said there was some evidence based on open-source and DHS reporting that the anti-fascist movement Antifa may be contributing to the violence, a view shared by some local police departments.”

[ABC News](#) (6/3, Levine, Margolin) reports, “Federal authorities are increasingly worried that ‘violent opportunists’ are infiltrating otherwise peaceful protests across the country and could be “emboldened” to attack law enforcement as they see police officers targeted elsewhere, according to new warnings from the FBI and Department of Homeland Security. In fact, the FBI’s field office in Boston ‘received credible intelligence that rioters are looking for officers’ home addresses via public [records],’ the FBI office said in an internal report issued Tuesday.” ABC News adds, “In their reports, neither DHS nor the FBI field office offered details about the “violent opportunists” they are tracking.”

Multiple Vulnerabilities in Mozilla Firefox Could Allow for Remote Code Execution

(CISA) Multiple vulnerabilities have been discovered in Mozilla Firefox and Mozilla Firefox ESR, the most severe of which could allow for remote code execution. Mozilla Firefox is a web browser used to access the Internet. Mozilla Firefox ESR is a version of the web browser intended to be deployed in large organizations. Successful exploitation of the most severe of these vulnerabilities could allow for remote code execution in the context of the logged-on user. Depending on the privileges associated with the user, an attacker could then install programs; view, change, or delete data; or create new accounts with full user rights. Users whose accounts are configured to have fewer user rights on the system could be less impacted than those who operate with administrative user rights.

More: https://www.cisecurity.org/advisory/multiple-vulnerabilities-in-mozilla-firefox-could-allow-for-remote-code-execution_2020-061/

**TJC Regular surveys and reviews to resume in June
...with some changes to protect safety**

The Joint Commission will resume regular surveys and reviews in June. The Joint Commission is committed to working closely with organizations, with safety being the first and foremost priority. As we start to resume surveys and reviews, account executives will begin to contact organizations due for a survey to assess the impact that the coronavirus pandemic had on their operations and their current state. The Joint Commission is reviewing a variety of factors and criteria for determining where and which organizations will be surveyed, including identifying and then prioritizing low-risk areas in which we can go in safely to survey. Our survey process will look somewhat different, as we will need to employ physical distancing practices to ensure the safety of all parties.

Full announcement: <https://www.jointcommission.org/-/media/tjc/documents/covid19/joint-commission-to-resume-surveying.pdf>

**American Association of Medical Colleges
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Clinical Guidance Repository**
<http://www.Aamc.org/covid19guidance>

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

- [Contact Tracing](#) Thursday, June 4, 2020
- [Interim COVID-19 Contact Tracing Communications Toolkit for Health Departments](#) Wednesday, June 3, 2020
- [COVID-19 Forecasts for the United States](#) Thursday, June 4, 2020
- [Identify the Primary Components of COVID-19 Case Investigation](#) Thursday, June 4, 2020
- [Identify the Primary Components of COVID-19 Contact Tracing](#) Thursday, June 4, 2020
- [HHS Announces New Laboratory Data Reporting Guidance for COVID-19 Testing](#) Thursday, June 4, 2020
- [Cases in U.S.](#) Thursday, June 4, 2020
- [Staffing Resources](#) Thursday, June 4, 2020
- [Other At-Risk Populations](#) Thursday, June 4, 2020
- [Testing in the U.S.](#) Thursday, June 4, 2020
- [COVID-19 By the Numbers](#) Thursday, June 4, 2020
- [Guidance for Handlers of Service and Therapy Animals](#) Thursday, June 4, 2020
- [Agriculture Workers and Employers](#) Wednesday, June 3, 2020
- [Keeping Workplaces, Homes, Schools, or Commercial Establishments Safe](#) Wednesday, June 3, 2020

**Securing the Health Sector
HHS, InfraGardNCR, and DHS Webinar
Patient-Generated Violence
Friday, June 5, at 1-2 pm ET**

The webinar will give an overview of violence in healthcare. The presenters are seasoned healthcare security executives who will describe what kinds of workplace violence occur in healthcare settings and why. They'll address specifically what's being done to combat patient-generated violence, including legislative remedies. They'll offer specific techniques and strategies for mitigating and preventing violence in a healthcare setting, including the importance design plays in the care environment.

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

**CMS Lessons from the Front Lines: COVID-19
Friday, June 5, 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](#).

**EMS.gov/NHTSA Webinar
EMS Response to COVID-19 and Protests**

Monday, June 8, 12 PM ET/11 AM CT

[Click here for registration](#)

**U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Virtual Town Hall Series
Immediately in Effect Guidance on Coronavirus (COVID-19) Diagnostic Tests**

Wednesday, June 10, at 12:15 pm ET

[Click here for connection information](#)

The FDA will host a virtual Town Hall for clinical laboratories and commercial manufacturers that are developing or have developed diagnostic tests for SARS-CoV-2. The purpose of this Town Hall is to help answer technical questions about the development and validation of tests for SARS-CoV-2.

***...and just to finish the week off with a bang!*
Stadium-sized asteroid heading near Earth this weekend**

(WLKY) An asteroid about the size of a stadium is headed toward Earth Saturday. Fear not: It will only come within 3.16 million miles, according to NASA-linked Jet Propulsion Laboratory. But it may be taller than the Empire State Building, which is 1,454 feet tall. The asteroid is estimated to be between 820 feet and 1,870 feet in diameter. The asteroid was first spotted nearly two decades ago and is called 2002 NN4.

Source AND video on how NASA protects us from thousands of asteroids:

<http://wlky.com/article/stadium-sized-asteroid-heading-near-earth-this-week/32760253>

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.