



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 5, 2020

KY COVID-19

As of 4 p.m. June 5, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 10,977 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 289 of which were newly confirmed Friday.

“Remember, COVID-19 is still out there spreading aggressively and it can be lethal to certain populations,” said Gov. Beshear. “Let’s make sure we’re keeping our social distance, let’s make sure we’re wearing masks and let’s protect one another.”

Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported eight new deaths Friday, raising the total to 466 Kentuckians lost to the virus.

Full press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=200>

Kentucky **Healthy at Work**

June 8, 2020:

- [Educational and Cultural Activities](#)
 - Aquariums
 - Distilleries
 - Libraries
 - Limited Outdoor Attractions
 - Museums
- [Horse Shows](#)
- [Some Childcare \(in-home programs\)](#)

June 11, 2020:

- Kentucky Horse Park
- Kentucky State Park Campgrounds

June 15, 2020:

- [Some Childcare \(center-based programs, day camps\)](#)
 - [Español](#)
- [Youth Sports \(Low Touch\)](#)

June 29, 2020:

- Bars
- Groups of 50 people or fewer
- [Youth Sports \(Expanded Activities\)](#)

Healthy at Work - Healthcare Facilities

A Second Major COVID Study Is Retracted

(Newser) – First, the esteemed *Lancet* medical journal [retracted a major study](#) on Thursday about hydroxychloroquine. Then, the *New England Journal of Medicine* did the same with another big study related to COVID-19 and blood pressure drugs. Both retractions have a common denominator: They relied on data supplied by a US analytics company called Surgisphere, which is coming under [increasing scrutiny](#) over the credibility of its international database.

The *Lancet* study had cast doubt on the effectiveness of the anti-malarial drugs hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine as a coronavirus treatment, reports the [Wall Street Journal](#). The retraction is now renewing the hope that the drugs (highly [touted by President Trump](#)) can work safely after all, and the World Health Organization already has said it would resume trials, notes the [New York Times](#).

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/291846/a-second-major-covid-study-is-retracted.html>

Tear gassing protesters during an infectious outbreak called “a recipe for disaster”

(NPR) Researchers say police should not be using tear gas or pepper spray against protesters. They make people cough droplets and damage the body in ways that could make people sicker from COVID-19.

Story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/06/05/870144402/tear-gassing-protesters-during-an-infectious-outbreak-called-a-recipe-for-disast>

How Much a Mask Reduces Coronavirus Transmission?

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s291760>

CNN COVID-19 Latest: <https://www.cnn.com/specials/health/coronavirus-videos-latest>

Kentucky Providers Have Stayed Ahead of COVID-19

(Lane Report) Health care workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic have handled an unprecedented strain on medical supply chains and human resources, testing and tending to patients, educating the public, and implementing and adapting to new safety protocols for themselves and their patients.

Meanwhile, Kentucky-based researchers, faculty and physicians are also busy working on treatments for the deadly virus.

A multidisciplinary team of UK researchers and faculty are working with their peers worldwide in a workgroup called the COVID-19 Unified Research Experts Alliance team. Its focus is “advising COVID-19 patient care and clinical trials based on emerging research and potential treatment options,” Newman said.

On March 29, Baptist Health Lexington transfused donated plasma from a recovered COVID-19 patient into two patients who were critically ill with the virus. The premise is that antibodies in plasma from recovered patients may help those still battling the virus. The treatment was a first-of-its-kind partnership with the Kentucky Blood Center and was performed after FDA and institutional review board approvals.

A COVID-19 patient at Norton Healthcare in Louisville has become the first worldwide to participate in a clinical study examining whether selinexor, a low-dose oral cancer treatment, can also benefit COVID-19 patients.

And at UofL, researchers announced in late April that they have developed a technology that shows promise for blocking the novel coronavirus from infecting human cells, with a requested fast-tracking from the Food and Drug Administration.

Full story: <https://www.lanereport.com/125925/2020/05/kentucky-providers-have-stayed-ahead-of-covid-19/>

FEMA Guidance for Fire and EMS Response to Civil Unrest

Civil unrest may occur as a period of social upheaval, following sporting events or during periods of heightened community tension. Fire and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel will be called to respond to these incidents, placing themselves at higher than anticipated levels of risk. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEM) worked together to compile these best practices to assist you as you respond to civil unrest incidents in your community.

GOAL: Prepare personnel, the station, apparatus and the community for emergency response in a challenging environment. Read full guidance:

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USDHSFACIR/2020/06/05/file_attachments/1467467/Fire%20and%20EMS%20Response%20to%20Civil%20Unrest%20-%20June%202020.pdf

"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. [**Article**](#)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/16/health/coronavirus-ptsd-medical-workers.html>

Nasal ACE2 Levels and COVID-19 in Children

(JAMA) Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has disproportionately affected certain vulnerable populations. Studies noted higher rates of certain comorbidities such as hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in patients infected with COVID-19 with severe disease.¹ Additionally, areas with more racial/ethnic minorities and higher rates of poverty have been shown to have higher rates of COVID-19 hospitalization and death.² After adjustment for comorbidities, age has been independently associated with increased mortality due to COVID-19.³ However, limited attention has been given to children, who appear to have lower risk of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection and mortality.

In this issue of *JAMA*, Bunyavanich et al⁴ identify a possible factor that may be related to lower rates of SARS-CoV-2 infection in children. The authors evaluated gene expression in nasal epithelial samples collected as part of a study involving patients with asthma from 2015 to 2018. The nasal epithelium is one of the first sites of infection with SARS-CoV-2, and the investigators probed for the expression of the cell surface enzyme angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2), which has been proven to bind to SARS-CoV-2 spike protein and promote internalization of the virus into human cells.⁵ Among a cohort of 305 patients aged 4 to 60 years, older children (10-17 years old; n = 185), young adults (18-24 years old; n = 46), and adults (≥25 years old; n = 29) all had higher expression of ACE2 in the nasal epithelium compared with younger children (4-9 years old; n = 45), and ACE2 expression was higher with each subsequent age group after adjusting for sex and asthma.

Numerous studies have highlighted the low rates of SARS-CoV-2 infection in children compared with adults. Children have been shown to have fewer and less severe symptoms compared with adults.^{6,7} This leads to the question of whether low rates of SARS-CoV-2 infection in children are due to low rates of testing in children, or if children are less susceptible to infection. Full article: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2766522>

First Confirmed Dog Virus Case Isn't NC Pug

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s291768>

No, coronavirus apps don't need 60% adoption to be effective

(MIT) Digital contact tracing may work at much lower levels of usage than most people think, thanks to a misunderstanding of the research. Because of the way such digital contacting tracing and exposure notification apps work—by notifying users if their phone has been in proximity to the phone of somebody who later gets a diagnosis of covid-19—blanket coverage is preferable. The greater the number of users, the higher the likelihood that it will help at-risk people to self-quarantine before they can infect others.

But much of the debate over contact tracing apps has focused on the fact that reaching the 60% target seems almost impossibly difficult—especially because many people (including very young users, older users, and those with older model phones) may be unwilling or unable to download and use the software required.

Read more: <https://www.technologyreview.com/2020/06/05/1002775/covid-apps-effective-at-less-than-60-percent-download/> (Subscription may be required.)

CDC Coronavirus What's New?

- [Staffing Resources](#) Friday, June 5, 2020
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Laboratory Biosafety and SARS-CoV-2](#) Friday, June 5, 2020
- [Communication Toolkit](#) Friday, June 5, 2020
- [People Who Need to Take Extra Precautions](#) Friday, June 5, 2020
- [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#) Friday, June 5, 2020
- [Public Health Recommendations for People in U.S. Communities Exposed to a Person with Known or Suspected COVID-19, other than Health Workers or other Critical Infrastructure Workers](#) Friday, June 5, 2020

Pandemic re-emphasizes need for universal flu vaccine

(AXIOS) The quest for a universal flu vaccine in the U.S. is making "promising" progress, with the possibility of having one ready in five years. Just because we're battling a coronavirus pandemic right now, doesn't mean a deadly influenza pandemic isn't waiting around the corner. Experts are aiming to create a vaccine that could target a broader array of flu strains in order to prepare for future pandemics.

While trials of universal flu vaccines are ongoing and they don't have published results, early human data is showing the vaccine focused on the stem is safe, well-tolerated and generated a "robust immune response" so far.

Read more: <https://www.axios.com/universal-flu-vaccine-pandemic-preparedness-05258e09-52fd-4568-a559-1131ffc88ffc.html>

Here is something you DON'T want to be a leader in....

Flash Flood preventable drownings

Kentucky and Indiana are very competitive and like to be #1, but NOT in this category.

PLEASE pass this information (and its website - <https://www.weather.gov/arx/usflood>) on to anyone you want to help protect from the deadliest, yet most preventable weather-related killer in Kentucky and Indiana - Flash Floods. (From Joe Sullivan, Warning Coord. Meteorologist, NWS Louisville)

Remember T.A.D.D. - Turn Around Don't Drown

Take a look ahead at the NWS Models for **Tropical Storm Cristobal**
form the National Hurricane Center

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/storm_graphics/AT03/refresh/AL032020_5day_cone_no_line_and_wind+png/175034.png

Bookmark for the future - **Watches, Warnings and Advisories for KY**

<https://alerts.weather.gov/cap/ky.php?x=1>

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