



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 15, 2020

COVID Case Updates

[Kentucky](#) - Cases - 12,647 | New: 120

Deaths - 505 | New: 5

Total Tested: 325,065 | PCR: 295,530 | Serology: 29,535

[Indiana](#) - Cases - 40,430 | Deaths - 2,251

Check here later this evening for the latest Governor's Press release: <https://governor.ky.gov/news>
(Briefings will be Tuesday and Thursday at 4 PM this week.)

Developing story: Reports T-Mobile and other phone carriers are experiencing outages in the US

(Business Insider) T-Mobile and other wireless carriers throughout the US are experiencing issues on Monday afternoon. Service-tracker [Down Detector reported T-Mobile outages](#) in New York, Florida, Texas, Georgia, California, and the Washington, DC, area. As of about 3:09 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, Down Detector had seen over 93,000 reports of T-Mobile outages, and varying reports from the other carriers. Phone owners in the US also reported issues on social media Monday afternoon with their cell service, particularly T-Mobile.

While both Down Detector and customers on social media reported that AT&T and Verizon service was down, an AT&T spokesperson told Business Insider its "network is operating normally." A Verizon spokesperson also told Business Insider the carrier is "operating at normal service levels" and noted that given that "another national carrier" is having issues, calls to and from that carrier may get an error message, resulting in reports of issues.

Read more: <https://www.businessinsider.com/verizon-sprint-att-t-mobile-service-down-some-areas-us-2020-6>

Florida has largest daily spike in COVID-19 cases after Republicans move convention to Jacksonville

Despite rising cases, the GOP plans to reject social distancing guidelines and won't require masks

(Salon) The state saw at least 2,581 new confirmed cases on Saturday, a 35% increase over the previous day. It was the third consecutive day that the state recorded its highest daily total of cases yet, according to the [Miami Herald](#). The number dipped slightly Sunday, but the state still [reported more than 2,000 new coronavirus cases](#) for the second straight day in a row. The state has now seen more than 1,000 new cases for 12 consecutive days.

President Donald Trump on Thursday announced that he will accept the Republican Party's nomination this August in Florida. The RNC will not insist on social distancing in the arena for Trump's speech and masks would be offered by not required. Instead, convention organizers plan to conduct temperature checks on attendees, provide sanitizer and disinfect the space.

Full story: <https://www.salon.com/2020/06/15/florida-has-biggest-daily-spike-in-covid-19-cases-after-republicans-move-convention-to-jacksonville/>

Related - Texas Sets Another Record High Of COVID-19 Hospitalizations

Read more: <https://news360.com/article/530575349>

[As masks become controversial, evidence mounts that they work](#)

(KY Health News) [Washington Post reports](#). The broadest piece of research "concluded that data from 172 observational studies indicate wearing face masks reduces the risk of coronavirus infection."

Masks appear to work best when coupled with hand-washing and physical distancing, said a review of reports by epidemiologist-physician [Holger Schünemann](#) and his colleagues at **McMaster University** in Ontario. "Most studies in the review analyzed face masks in hospitals or other medical settings, and some took place in households where an infected person lived," the Post reports.

This was, of course, nothing new to infectious-disease specialists, but it comes at a time when "partisan interests sew symbolism and controversy into masks" and scientists are trying to see just how effective masks are, write Post reporters Ben Guarino, Chelsea Janes and Ariana Eunjung Cha.

Related - MedPage Today: Face Masks Prevented Thousands of COVID-19 Cases

<https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/87047>

HCQ No Longer Approved Even a Little for COVID-19

Study after study showed no benefit, and now the FDA has had enough

(MedPage Today) The FDA rescinded its emergency use authorization (EUA) of hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) to treat COVID-19 patients, citing concerns about efficacy and risks associated with its use, and saying the drug no longer meets the criteria for an EUA, the agency said on Monday.

A brief paragraph [at the bottom of the FDA's emergency use authorization page](#) noted that the FDA has determined that based on continued review, the "statutory criteria" for an emergency use authorization are no longer met. The agency went on to say both hydroxychloroquine a related antimalarial drug, chloroquine (CQ), are "unlikely to be effective at treating COVID-19" for uses described in the EUA.

Read full story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/87066>



No 'rule book' for EMTs responding to protests amid a pandemic

(Kaiser Health) Emergency medical services across the country, already burdened by the high demands of Covid-19, have faced added pressure in the past week as they responded to [protests ignited by the death of George Floyd](#) in the custody of [Minneapolis police](#).

The need to protect themselves against the coronavirus adds another complication to emergency crews' efforts in these dangerous conditions. Their personal protective equipment (PPE) can be difficult to wear in a crowd, said emergency medical services officials. Plus, switching from that gear to equipment needed to shield medics from bullets, rocks or tear gas can be challenging. An added consideration is how to distinguish themselves from the police and deflect any crowd hostility, several EMS officials said. In Oakland, California, the word "medic" is printed on the vests, said a private ambulance shift commander. Read full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/15/health/emt-protests-pandemic-wellness/index.html>

Police in US Turning to Paintballs to Control Crowds

(IACP News) The [New York Times](#) (6/12, Gross) reported police are increasingly "turning to a lesser-known crowd control agent: paintballs." The Times added that while companies that make paintball guns "tout them as safe tools for crowd dispersal, in reality, they carry significant risk. Even some police chiefs are now questioning their use." The Times highlighted that unlike players of recreational paintball "people at protests tend not to wear protective gear. At least one study found paintballs pose significant risk for devastating ocular trauma."

Eye Injuries Spark Calls To Bar Rubber Bullets From Being Used For Crowd Control. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/13, Bauerlein, Calvert, Subscription Publication) reported the American Academy of Ophthalmology indicates that no less than 20 individuals have sustained traumatic eye injuries following having been struck by rubber bullets and other objects amid protests over George Floyd's killing, sparking calls to forbid law enforcement from utilizing such bullets for crowd control.

Study cites benefits of telehealth; authors say mental telehealth 'clinically equivalent to in-person care'

(KyForward News) As people across the nation have been asked to shelter in place because of the novel coronavirus, never before has the importance of telehealth, especially for mental-health care, become more evident, says a commentary in The Journal of Rural Health.

The authors assert that mental-health therapy over video platforms "has been demonstrated as clinically equivalent to in-person care."

Before the pandemic, they write, video-to-home telehealth services for mental-health care was not uniformly offered, but has since gained some traction, especially in rural areas where mental-health provider shortages are great.

The authors note that telehealth visits have ensured continuity of care during stay-at-home orders, all while minimizing physical contact to keep both patients and providers safe.

But they also recognize that this type of care also comes with many challenges, including overburdened networks, poor internet bandwidth, inconsistent internet service, a lack of equipment, billing and scheduling challenges, and usability issues for both providers and patients. These challenges have resulted in some providers conducting phone-only visits, especially after federal rules were relaxed to allow reimbursement for such visits.

Full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/study-cites-benefits-of-telehealth-authors-say-mental-telehealth-clinically-equivalent-to-in-person-care/>

CDC Clinicians webinar
Applying COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Strategies in Nursing Homes

Tuesday, June 16, 2-3 PM ET

ZOOM: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1615543668>

More info: https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_061620.asp?deliveryName=USCDC_1052-DM30617

HHS/ASPR COVID-19 Clinical Rounds
Critical Care: Supporting Our Mental Health
Tuesday, June 16, 12:00-1:00 pm ET
[Click here for registration and connection information](#)

Emergency Department: COVID-19 and Hurricanes
Thursday, June 18, 12:00-1:00 pm ET
[Click here for registration and connection information](#)

Not Just About Blood Sugar: 'He Died Because He Lost His Job'
(MedScape - Commentary) <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/930377>

4,200+ pounds of organic beef recalled due to E. coli
Read more: [https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/recalls-and-public-health-alerts/
recall-case-archive/archive/2020/recall-012-2020-release](https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/recalls-and-public-health-alerts/recall-case-archive/archive/2020/recall-012-2020-release)

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.