



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 16, 2020

## KY COVID Case Update

12,829 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 203 of which were newly confirmed Tuesday.

Seven new deaths Tuesday, raising the total to 512 Kentuckians lost to the virus

At least 3,431 Kentuckians have recovered from the virus

Out today -Updated guidance covering [public pools](#) and gatherings of [up to 50 people](#).

Full press release from Governor: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=216>

## World coronavirus total tops 8 million cases

(CIDRAP) The global COVID-19 total topped 8 million cases today, driven by accelerating activity in Latin America and other parts of the world, as health officials in Beijing closed schools and ordered lockdowns to curb the further spread of a recently detected cluster.

It took only 8 days for the pandemic total to climb from 7 million to 8 million, 1 day less than it took to rise from 6 million to 7 million. The global number of cases today stands at 8,092,109, and 438,806 people have died from their infections, according to the Johns Hopkins [online dashboard](#).

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/06/world-coronavirus-total-tops-8-million-cases>

## Miami pauses reopening as Florida's new coronavirus cases rise

**The state reported a record-high one-day increase of 2,783 new cases on Tuesday.**

Read more: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/miami-pauses-reopening-floridas-coronavirus-cases-rise/story?id=71254648>

## In This State, the Virus Is 'Spreading like Wildfire'

*Arizona has become the new COVID hot spot*

(Newser) [Business Insider](#) reports the coronavirus outbreak "is going very badly" in Arizona, with more than 4,400 new cases over the weekend, bringing the total number of cases in the state to more than 37,500 as of Sunday, with nearly 1,200 deaths.

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/292299/how-arizona-became-the-new-coronavirus-hot-spot.html>

## COVID-19 cases surging in Alabama, South Carolina and Oklahoma

(Reuters) New cases of COVID-19 nearly doubled in Alabama and South Carolina in the second week of June compared to the prior seven days, a Reuters analysis found, as 17 U.S. states reported weekly increases in the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-trends-graphic/covid-19-cases-surging-in-alabama-south-carolina-and-oklahoma-idUSKBN23N1OP>

## Beijing expands lockdowns as cases top 100 in new outbreak

**New Zealand no longer COVID-free**

(AP) — Chinese authorities locked down a third neighborhood in Beijing on Tuesday as they rushed to prevent the spread of a new coronavirus outbreak that has infected more than 100 people in a country that appeared to have largely contained the virus.

The resurgence in China highlighted public health expert calls for vigilance as many nations move forward with easing virus restrictions to revive their economies.

**READ: [China delayed releasing coronavirus info, frustrating WHO](#)**

New Zealand, which hadn't seen a new case in three weeks, said it is investigating a case in which two women who flew in from London to see a dying parent were allowed to leave quarantine and drive halfway across the country before they were tested and found to be positive. And the Philippines reimposed a strict lockdown on the city of Cebu after a rise in cases.

Full story: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/beijing-expands-lockdowns-as-cases-top-100-in-new-outbreak>

## Under 20s around half as susceptible to COVID-19

Reuters) People under 20 are around half as susceptible to COVID-19 as people aged 20 or above, according to research published on Tuesday, and clinical symptoms of the pandemic disease appear in only about a fifth of infections in children and teens.

The research, a modeling study using data from 32 locations China, Italy, Japan, Singapore, Canada and South Korea, found that by contrast, COVID-19 symptoms appear in 69% of infections in people aged 70 or older.

The findings suggest that school closures - introduced in many countries as part of lockdowns aimed at controlling the coronavirus pandemic - are likely to have a limited impact on transmission of the disease, the researchers said.

Published in the journal Nature Medicine, the study compared the effect school closures on simulated outbreaks of flu - which is known to spread swiftly in children - and of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-age/under-20s-around-half-as-susceptible-to-covid-19-study-finds-idUSKBN23N1RP>

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**Coronavirus May Be Seasonal After All**

(HealthDay News) -- Here's a glimmer of hope about the new coronavirus: New research finds it appears to follow a seasonal pattern that is similar to the [flu](#).

Scientists found that all cities/regions with large [COVID-19](#) outbreaks have similar winter climates, with an average temperature of 41 to 52 degrees Fahrenheit, average humidity levels of 47% to 79%, and are located within a latitude band of 30 to 50 N. This includes Wuhan, China; South Korea; Japan; Iran; Northern Italy; Seattle; and northern California.

The findings also suggest that U.S. mid-Atlantic states may be at risk, as well as New England, according to researchers at the Institute of Human Virology (IHV) at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) and the Global Virus Network (GVN).

Full story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=234703>

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**Mutation in new coronavirus increases chance of infection: study**

(Reuters) - A specific mutation in the new coronavirus can significantly increase its ability to infect cells, according to a study by U.S. researchers. The research may explain why early outbreaks in some parts of the world did not end up overwhelming health systems as much as other outbreaks in New York and Italy, according to experts at Scripps Research.

The mutation, named D614G, increased the number of "spikes" on the coronavirus - which is the part that gives it its distinctive shape. Those spikes are what allow the virus to bind to and infect cells.

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-infectivity-idUSKBN23M1M9>

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**Coronavirus death rate is higher for those with chronic ill**

(AP) Death rates are 12 times higher for coronavirus patients with chronic illnesses than for others who become infected, a new U.S. government report says. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report released Monday highlights the dangers posed by heart disease, diabetes and lung ailments. These are the top three health problems found in COVID-19 patients, the report suggests.

The report is based on 1.3 million laboratory-confirmed coronavirus cases reported to the agency from January 22 through the end of May. Information on health conditions was available for just 22% of the patients. It shows that 32% had heart-related disease, 30% had diabetes and 18% had chronic lung disease, which includes asthma and emphysema. Learn more: <https://apnews.com/cff0dab9ae04c014cda3e9db9da1cd0d>

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**Scientists hail dexamethasone as 'major breakthrough' in treating COVID-19**

(Reuters) Dexamethasone, a cheap and widely used steroid, has become the first drug shown to be able to save lives among COVID-19 patients in what scientists hailed as a "major breakthrough". Trial results announced on Tuesday showed dexamethasone, which is used to reduce inflammation in other diseases such as arthritis, reduced death rates by around a third among the most severely ill COVID-19 patients admitted to hospital.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-steroid/scientists-hail-dexamethasone-as-major-breakthrough-in-treating-covid-19-idUSKBN23N1VP>

**Related - First drug proves able to improve survival from COVID-19**

<https://apnews.com/89d963958b042cc921e64ab3eff5a74d>

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**[Norway to halt COVID-19 track and trace app on data protection concerns](#)**

Norway will halt its COVID-19 track and trace app and delete all data collected so far after criticism from the Norwegian Data Protection Authority, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) said on Monday.

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**U.S. airlines threaten to ban passengers who refuse to wear masks**

(Reuters) - U.S. airline passengers who refuse to wear face coverings during the novel coronavirus pandemic could have their flying privileges revoked under tougher enforcement policies, the industry's main lobby group said on Monday. Major U.S. airlines may prevent anyone not wearing a mask from boarding and provide the

coverings to passengers who have none. Once on board, however, flight attendants have had little power over passengers who remove the face covering.

The airlines will clearly inform passengers about their individual policies on face coverings before flying, followed by an announcement with specific details onboard, it said. Each carrier will decide the appropriate consequences for passengers who fail to comply, up to and including being put on that airline's no-fly list.

Airlines offer certain exemptions, including when people are eating or drinking.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-airlines/u-s-airlines-threaten-to-ban-passengers-who-refuse-to-wear-masks-idUSKBN23M2Y5>

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**Nursing homes got masks that 'probably should have never gone out'**

(ABC) Federal officials are trying to correct errors that resulted in shipments of outdated or impractical equipment to America's hard-hit nursing homes in the midst of the [coronavirus](#) pandemic, according to an audio recording obtained by ABC News of a call between a top government official and advocates for those in nursing care.

Col. Brian Kuhn, the defense logistics official overseeing the shipments, acknowledged that some nursing homes received respirator masks that were "way expired" and "should have never gone out," according to the recording of a call with members of LeadingAge, an association of nonprofit providers of aging services that includes many nursing homes. The group also [posted the audio](#) of the call online.

"They just kinda carte blanche shipped them all out," said Kuhn, a representative from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on the White House Supply Chain Task Force. "It was one of those things, I'll be honest, just slipped through the cracks and probably should have never gone out."

Kuhn's comments followed reports from several media organizations, including ABC News, that found that nursing homes had received shipments of protective gear from the federal government that did not meet health care standards, including some masks with brittle or snapped elastic straps, and other cloth masks that carried stickers on them that read: "Do not use with COVID patients."

As the head of the coronavirus task force, Vice President Mike Pence plays a supervisory roll in the nursing home relief operation. LeadingAge has written twice to Pence to raise concerns about the shipments. A June 11 letter detailed more than a dozen complaints from nursing homes the organization had documented.

"On behalf of millions of older Americans who know that the coronavirus threat is not over, I implore you to investigate these reports seriously and thoroughly -- and take swift action to ensure they can trust the federal government to serve their interests," wrote Katie Smith Sloan, the president and CEO of LeadingAge.

Read more: <https://abc7.com/nursing-homes-got-masks-that-probably-should-have-never-gone-out-official/6250571/>

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**Study: Think Twice About Reusing KN95 or Surgical Masks**

*One sterilization technique worked better, small study finds*

(MedPage Today) For sterilizing N95, KN95 and surgical masks, plasma vapor hydrogen peroxide was superior to chlorine dioxide in preserving the products' filtration efficiency in a lab study.

Masks sterilized once with chlorine dioxide showed a marked reduction in overall filtration efficiency especially among KN95s and surgical masks, reported Changjie Cai, PhD, and Evan Floyd, PhD, both of the University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City, in a [JAMA Network Open research letter](#).

Mean filtration efficiencies prior to sterilization were 97.3% for N95 masks, 96.7% for KN95 masks (a Chinese version of N95s), and 95.1% for surgical face masks.

When post-sterilization filtration efficiency was stratified by aerosol particle size, the mean for KN95s and surgical masks dropped to below 50% for particles of approximately 300 nm when sterilized with chlorine dioxide. N95 mask efficiency decreased to approximately 86% with chlorine dioxide for particles of 300 nm, though overall filtration efficiency was approximately 95%. Little degradation was seen with plasma vapor hydrogen peroxide at all aerosol sizes, the researchers found.

Full story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/infectioncontrol/87077>

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**CDC releases consolidated COVID-19 testing recommendations**

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s0613-covid19-testing-recommendations.html>

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

- [Global COVID-19](#) Tuesday, June 16, 2020
- [Cases & Deaths by County](#) Tuesday, June 16, 2020
- [How Coronavirus Spreads](#) Tuesday, June 16, 2020
- [Resources](#) Tuesday, June 16, 2020
- [Cases and Deaths in the U.S.](#) Tuesday, June 16, 2020

- [Open Burning during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) Tuesday, June 16, 2020
- [About COVID-19](#) Tuesday, June 16, 2020
- [Environmental Health Practitioners](#) Tuesday, June 16, 2020
- [Contact Tracing](#) Tuesday, June 16, 2020
- [COVIDTracer 1.0](#) Tuesday, June 16, 2020
- [Staffing Resources](#) Tuesday, June 16, 2020
- [Cases in U.S.](#) Tuesday, June 16, 2020
- [Testing in the U.S.](#) Tuesday, June 16, 2020
- [Going Out](#) Tuesday, June 16, 2020
- [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#) Tuesday, June 16, 2020
- [Guidance for Handlers of Service and Therapy Animals](#) Tuesday, June 16, 2020

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**VA ECHO Offering**

**Free VA COVID-19 Clinician Education**

Join the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs on Wednesday, June 17 at 2:00 PM EST/11:00 AM PST for a free webinar featuring John R. Geyer, MD, attending physician at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System in primary care and acting instructor at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Dr. Geyer's presentation, Outpatient Management of Adults With COVID-19, will focus on evaluating the severity of patient cases, differentiating COVID-19 from other common influenza-like illnesses, and developing individualized plans of care. He will also review diagnosis, resolution and recovery guidelines. The training is open to both VA and non-VA clinicians. Space is limited – register today: [https://www.train.org/vha/course/1091836/live\\_event](https://www.train.org/vha/course/1091836/live_event).

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**Follow-up to story on June 15 about**

**T-Mobile outages cause issues for wireless customers across the US**

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/15/business/tmobile-outages-wireless-carriers/index.html>

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**More than 1 out of 3 tested federal inmates were positive for coronavirus**

***Bureau of Prisons has increased testing capabilities***

(ABC) More than 35% of federal inmates who have tested for [coronavirus](#) were positive, according to data from The Bureau of Prisons.

The agency says that of its 16,839 tested inmates, 6,060 have tested positive. In total, the BOP has tested more than 18,000 of its 163,441 federal inmates, with results pending in more than 2,300 cases.

Prisons with high percentages of inmates testing positive for coronavirus are scattered throughout the country.

At Federal Correctional Institution Butner (medium security) in North Carolina, 226 out of 295 inmates tested received positive results. Butner, which holds 880 inmates, is home to ponzi-scheme mastermind Bernie Madoff, who was recently denied compassionate release by a judge despite COVID-19 concerns.

Full story: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/tested-federal-inmates-positive-coronavirus/story?id=71275461>

**[Special Report: Millions of abandoned oil wells in KY are leaking methane, a climate menace](#)**

In May 2012, Hanson and Michael Rowe noticed an overpowering smell, like rotten eggs, seeping from an abandoned gas well on their land in Kentucky. The fumes made the retired couple feel nauseous, dizzy, and short of breath.

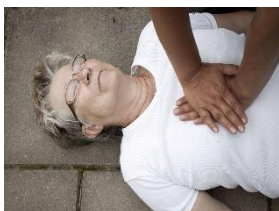
**Poll: Americans are the unhappiest they've been in 50 years**

Read more: <https://apnews.com/0f6b9be04fa0d3194401821a72665a50>

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**COVID Got You Scared of Performing CPR?**

**Study Finds Infection Risk Is Low**

(HealthDay News) -- Someone collapses with a [cardiac arrest](#) nearby -- in the [COVID-19](#) era, do you dare to assist? Here's some reassuring -- and potentially lifesaving -- news: You're at low risk for coronavirus infection if you perform CPR on someone in [cardiac arrest](#), new research shows.



CPR can save the lives of people who suffer cardiac arrest in a public place. But concerns have been raised during the current pandemic that chest compressions used in CPR could release respiratory droplets containing the coronavirus that causes [COVID-19](#).

We believe the current findings support telecommunicators and bystanders maintaining the most efficient approach that prioritizes rapid identification of cardiac arrest and immediately proceeds to chest compressions and use of a [defibrillator](#),"

wrote study authors led by Dr. Michael Sayre, a professor of [emergency medicine](#) at the University of Washington in Seattle.

"Delaying bystander CPR to [put on personal protective equipment] should only be considered when the prevalence of [COVID-19](#) infection is substantially increased," the researchers concluded.

Full story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=234710>

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**As calls to crisis hotlines spike amid the coronavirus, those who respond feel the strain**

(USA Today) Thousands of anxious, stressed, isolated and uncertain callers are flooding helplines nationwide. They are teenagers and senior citizens. They have lost jobs, homes and relatives. Some express suicidal thoughts or fears that their positive COVID-19 test is a death sentence. Others reach out in the throes of a panic attack. The dramatic increase is straining the licensed social workers and volunteers who strive to support callers' mental and emotional health even as the pandemic takes a toll on their own lives and families.

Full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2020/06/15/crisis-hotline-call-volume-spikes-straining-social-workers/5266072002/>

**Read more:** [The lifesaving lesson suicidal people can teach a world in a pandemic](#)

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**Tenet Sued After Firing Detroit Nurses Who Complained About COVID Understaffing**

Read more: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/87069>

**Related - 'Still scared': Health workers feel the toll of virus fight**

<https://apnews.com/8a490dd827bc37a655dd4c0f8a133253>

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**Most Asymptomatic Coronavirus Cases Stay That Way, Cruise Ship Data Shows**

<https://news360.com/article/530722960>

**More Evidence Do-It-Yourself COVID Tests Work Fine, Without the Discomfort**

<https://news360.com/article/530722875>

**2020 Kentucky Trauma and Emergency Medicine Symposium**

**POSTPONED by COVID-19**

**New date: October 21-22, 2021**

Pre-conference workshops October 20, 2021

Galt House Hotel, 140 N. Fourth Street, Louisville, KY

For program updates and registration, visit [NortonCME.com](http://NortonCME.com).

**Police Officer follows man attempting suicide, with twin daughters over cliff**

**Everyone expected to survives!**

(Newser) It's a harrowing story, so we'll start right now by telling you it has a positive ending. San Diego police Officer Jonathan Wiese was searching for a man early Saturday who was said to be suicidal. The man had left home with his twin 2-year-old daughters around 4:30am, and his wife said he planned to drive off a bridge.

Read more: <https://www.newser.com/story/292286/suicidal-man-goes-over-cliff-with-toddlers-officer-follows.html>

NETEC Webinar

**Challenges, Strategies, and Lessons Learned: COVID-19 in EMS**

**Friday, June 19, 1 PM ET/12 Noon CT**

[Register here](#) and if you're unable to make it, we will send you the recording.

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](mailto: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.