



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 24, 2020

Kentucky COVID-19 Update for June 23rd
314 new cases; Total 14,141
11 new deaths; Total 537
3,591 recovered from the virus.

Governor's Press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=226>

Kentucky students will be expected to wear masks in schools at times

(WDRB) Students will be expected to wear masks or face coverings at times when they return to school for the start of the 2020-21 school year, education and health officials told a group of Kentucky superintendents Monday. School leaders throughout Kentucky have begun planning for the resumption of in-person instruction after COVID-19 prompted Gov. Andy Beshear to recommend closing schools in mid-March to limit its spread. On Monday, KDE released guidance directing school districts to begin finding ways to serve meals in various settings to spread students throughout buildings. The state previously told district leaders to [prepare for short, medium and long-term closures if schools close amid COVID-19 outbreaks](#).

Beshear will present public health guidance on reopening schools during a news conference Wednesday (today), said Kevin Brown, interim education commissioner.

Full story: https://www.wdrb.com/in-depth/kentucky-students-will-be-expected-to-wear-masks-in-schools-at-times-state-officials-say/article_ce1757ce-b4ad-11ea-acc-777b32f8b942.html

Fauci: Next few weeks critical to tamping down virus spikes

Redfield: CDC Recommendation to test nursing home workers weekly

(AP) — The next few weeks are critical to tamping down a disturbing coronavirus surge, Dr. Anthony Fauci told Congress on Tuesday — issuing a plea for people to avoid crowds and wear masks just hours before mask-shunning President Donald Trump was set to address a crowd of his young supporters in one hot spot.

Fauci and other top health officials also said they have not been asked to slow down virus testing. The leading public health officials spent more than five hours testifying before the committee.

A worrisome trend: an increase in infections among young adults. Fauci said while COVID-19 tends to be less severe in younger people, some of them do get very sick and even die. And younger people also may be more likely to show no symptoms yet still spread the virus. About 2.3 million Americans have been infected and some 120,000 have died, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Robert Redfield, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, added that it's now recommended for workers in nursing homes — hard-hit by the virus — to be tested weekly.

Related story: Redfield tells Congress Coronavirus has "brought this nation to its knees".

Core public health capabilities in the US had been vastly underfunded for a long time and needed urgent investment.

Read more: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/23/anthony-fauci-covid-19-statement-house-hearing>

As for the anxiously awaited vaccine, Fauci said he believes "it will be when and not if" it arrives, and he's "cautiously optimistic" that some vaccine could be available at the end of the year. More than a dozen vaccine candidates are in various stages of testing around the globe, and the U.S. next month is poised to begin the largest study — in 30,000 people — to get the needed proof that one really works. Meanwhile, countries, including the U.S. under a program called "Operation Warp Speed," are beginning to stockpile millions of doses of different shots, in hopes at least some will prove usable. Health officials assured lawmakers Tuesday that there won't be shortcuts on safety. Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/a36ac8c2b3edf7f9c41f850e945c32e8>

Related - Forbes: [Fauci Says He'll Oppose Any Rush To Unveil Coronavirus Vaccine In Trump's 'Operation Warp Speed'](#)

Contact Tracing Has 'Very Bad' Start in NYC

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s292551>

Related - Washington Post: [Contact tracing is 'best' tool we have until there's a vaccine, health experts say](#)

Another COVID Plague: Big Surprise Medical Bills for Survivors

(Medicine Net/Health Day) Seattle resident Michael Flor's [heart](#) nearly stopped when he received a \$1.1 million dollar hospital bill for months of [COVID-19](#) treatment.

The 181-page bill listed nearly 3,000 itemized charges -- and didn't include other items likely to make Flor's bill even higher, the 70-year-old told *Time*.

But one fact provided Flor some solace: Kaiser Permanente, the health care company through which he receives his Medicare and Medicare Advantage coverage, has announced it will wave most out-of-pocket costs related to COVID treatment.

That's not going to be the case for a lot of folks who receive similarly high bills, a new study warns. More than 250,000 people have been hospitalized for COVID infection in the United States, according to background notes with the study. Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=238873>

Hospital improved COVID-19 outcomes with drug stockpiling

The University of Chicago Medicine health system's stockpiling of drugs used for critical care and rapid clinical interventions may have led to better outcomes for patients with COVID-19 and possibly a decreased mortality rate. Kevin Colgan, UCM's vice president and chief pharmacy officer, identified essential drugs, received permission to stockpile five months' worth of medications, and provided McKesson, UCM's wholesaler, with real-time treatment algorithm information and patient volume data. **Full Story:** [Specialty Pharmacy Continuum](#) (6/19)

Children's Robitussin and Dimetapp Recalled

It's not the medicine - it's the dosing cups that's the problem!

Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=238875>

U.S. Medical Supply Chain Isn't Ready for a Second Wave

(Barron's) The first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic isn't even over and U.S. preparations for the second wave are nowhere to be seen. Political leaders like Vice President Michael Pence have [said](#) there won't even be another resurgence, but fresh evidence suggests otherwise: [Seven states](#), including Arizona, Florida and South Carolina, are experiencing new daily cases that more than doubled from two weeks ago. Regardless of whether a second wave is on its way, one thing is clear: The U.S. health care system is still [struggling](#).

The novel coronavirus pandemic has revealed that supply chains of personal protective equipment are vulnerable to disruptions. Judging from its management of the Strategic National Stockpile to its inaction in ramping up domestic production of PPE, Washington's strategy has been chaotic and disastrous. The consequences of this poor planning resulted in prolonged shortages of PPE, especially N95 masks.

Will the U.S. health care system have enough critical medical supplies to tame the first wave and prepare for the next pandemic (or the next wave of a pandemic)? The answer is sadly no for two reasons.

First, the FDA and hospital procurement systems have virtually no supply chain visibility. Current FDA regulations require PPE manufacturers such as [3M](#) and [Honeywell](#) to report only the locations of their factories, rather than essential supply chain information such as their domestic and overseas production capacity.

Second, the federal government has not proven itself to be capable during the pandemic of maintaining an adequate stockpile or [distributing PPE efficiently and equitably](#). The U.S. health care system is operated in a decentralized manner with fragmented information, making coordination difficult. There is no centralized data reporting system that allows the federal government to keep track of the number and locations of infections and pandemic-related deaths, PPE consumption, and shortages, or production capacity and inventory levels in a timely and accurate manner. Most ordering decisions crucial to public health are made locally on the provider level, with minimal information-sharing. Without structural changes to the U.S. health care market, an efficient and effective response to the next pandemic is impossible to develop.

Read more: <https://www.barrons.com/articles/the-u-s-medical-supply-chain-isnt-ready-for-a-second-wave-51592953230>

Scarce medical oxygen worldwide leaves many gasping for life

(AP) As the coronavirus spreads, soaring demand for oxygen is bringing out a stark global truth: Even the right to breathe depends on money. In much of the world, oxygen is expensive and hard to get — a basic marker of inequality both [between and within countries](#).

In wealthy Europe and North America, hospitals treat oxygen as a fundamental need, much like water or electricity. It is delivered in liquid form by tanker truck and piped directly to the beds of coronavirus patients. Running short is all but unthinkable for a resource that literally can be pulled from the air. But in poor countries, from Peru to Bangladesh, it is in lethally short supply.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/df97326ec00fb7cc4abf5b3821ace984>

Why overuse of antibiotics in COVID-19 could have lasting impact in health care

(CBC) A leading Canadian microbiologist is sounding an alarm about overuse of precious antibiotics among the world's more than 8.7 million cases of COVID-19. So many people have been seriously sickened by COVID-19

that they need to be cared for in hospital, such as with oxygen. Doctors commonly prescribe antibiotics for people with COVID-19 in hospital.

Eric Brown, a professor at the McMaster University's Institute of Infectious Disease Research, has concerns about how COVID-19 could drive up antibiotic resistance in bacteria that aren't killed by standard drugs. Canadian infectious disease physicians say guidelines suggest a limited role for antibiotics in COVID-19 cases. Once it's clear that the person has COVID and there's no bacterial infection, then the antibiotic treatments should be stopped to avoid encouraging another infection in the same patient.

Full article: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/antibiotics-covid-1.5620076>

[Ten Ways Healthcare Systems Can Operate Effectively during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides healthcare systems and healthcare facilities practical approaches that can be used to protect healthcare personnel (HCP), patients, and communities.

The 10 practical examples within the tool are categorized into 5 areas, which include:

- **Worker Safety and Support**
 - *Approach:* Establish a plan for providing additional [support for HCP](#), considering aspects such as [mental health](#), [parenting](#), [meals](#) and [non-punitive sick policies](#).
- **Patient Service Delivery**
 - *Approach:* Understand the guidance for discharging a patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 [from the hospital to](#) home or to a [long-term care facility](#).
- **Data Streams for Situational Awareness**
 - *Approach:* Maintain awareness of the [COVID-19 situation](#) in the state, city, and facility. Provide access to evidence-based [guidance](#) for caring for patients with COVID-19.
- **Facility Practices**
 - *Approach:* Strengthen your facility's response mechanisms by becoming familiar with [pandemic, COVID-19 specific](#), and [crisis standards of care](#).
- **Communications**
 - *Approach:* Develop and maintain a [communication plan](#) for your HCP, patients, and the community. Consider including virtual town halls, daily huddles with local leadership, calls with partners, emails and phone conferences for staff, media briefs, and others.

[CDC What's News?](#)

- [Cases & Deaths by County](#) Wednesday, June 24, 2020
- [Health Departments](#) Tuesday, June 23, 2020
- [Hospitalization Forecasts](#) Tuesday, June 23, 2020
- [COVID-19 Forecasting: Background Information](#) Tuesday, June 23, 2020
- [Daily Life and Coping](#) Tuesday, June 23, 2020
- [Staffing Resources](#) Tuesday, June 23, 2020
- [Businesses and Workplaces](#) Tuesday, June 23, 2020
- [Youth Sports Program FAQs](#) Tuesday, June 23, 2020

Virus Cases Grow, but Some Police Officers Shed Masks

(NY Times) When America first reported an alarming wave of [coronavirus cases](#) this year, police departments across the country swiftly raised alarm about a lack of masks and other equipment that would protect officers as they went about their essential jobs.

But in Chicago as well as in other cities across the nation, police officers have been seen doing their jobs in recent weeks without masks, even in places where officials have mandated they wear them and even in situations such as [crowded protests over racial injustice and police abuse](#), in which social distancing is nearly impossible. Sightings of officers without masks have come amid an [uptick of virus cases in the South and the West](#) in the weeks since many [areas began reopening](#). It is a worrisome development, according to medical experts, who warn that such moves increase the risk of infections both for officers and the residents they are charged with protecting.

Police officers and representatives for departments defended the actions of officers. They described a fast-moving situation in recent months that began with urgent concerns about the virus but quickly turned to contending with large protests over the death of Mr. Floyd and others.

In San Jose, Calif., some officers were not wearing virus protection gear in the first days of protests despite a policy requiring them to wear masks, gloves and glasses during interactions with the public. They needed to put on gas masks to keep safe while deploying tear gas, said Lt. Todd Trayer, a police spokesman, noting that both types of masks cannot be effective if worn simultaneously.

Read full story: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/23/us/coronavirus-police-masks.html>

**7.5-magnitude earthquake shakes 6 Mexican states - leaves at least 4 dead, 30 injured
Seven hospitals damaged**

Read more: <https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/earthquake-felt-in-6-states-leaves-at-least-4-dead-30-injured-in-oaxaca/>

Scientists Say The Coronavirus Pandemic Has Worsened Deforestation Worldwide

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/531355666>

Bagged salad sickens 122 people in 7 state

(CBS) A recalled bagged salad distributed to a dozen Midwestern states by grocery stores has sickened 122 people in seven states and sent 19 to the hospital, the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [said](#) Tuesday. The salad distributed by Hy-Vee, [Jewel-Osco](#) and Aldi grocery stores is contaminated with cyclospora, a parasite that can cause diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea, and fatigue. The salad mix containing carrots, red cabbage, and iceberg lettuce is packaged as Hy-Vee Brand Garden Salads, Jewel-Osco Signature Farms Brand Garden Salads and ALDI Little Salad Bar Brand Garden Salads. All have been recalled and consumers are advised not to eat them.

The salads were sold in Arkansas, Illinois, **Indiana**, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, **Missouri**, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bagged-salad-cyclospora-sickens-122-people-7-states-cdc/>

US moves to exempt companies from reporting harmful chemical releases

(The Guardian) Federal regulators are crafting an exemption for polluters releasing harmful perfluorinated chemicals (PFAS) into the environment in a way that environmental advocates say circumvents a new law meant to address widespread contamination. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a rule Monday adding 172 PFAS chemicals to a list of those that are required to report when they release them into the air or water, or on land.

Dubbed 'forever chemicals,' PFAS have been found in drinking water around the country. They are used in weatherproof fabrics, nonstick cookware and firefighting foam, and they are linked with cancer, low infant birth weights, immune issues and thyroid disruptions.

Specifically, lawmakers said manufacturers should be required to report to the government if they release 100 pounds or more of the chemicals annually into a waterway. But EPA's new regulation would allow them to bypass that requirement, as long as no single PFAS chemical in a mixture released exceeded 1% of the total. EPA is also skipping the usual step of allowing the public to comment before finalizing the rule, arguing that because the rule is needed to comply with an act of Congress, EPA "has no discretion as to the outcome".

Learn more: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/24/epa-pfas-chemical-releases-exemption-us>

The Segway Will Soon Be No More

(Newser) Segway, which boldly claimed its two-wheeled personal transporter would revolutionize the way people get around, is ending production of its namesake vehicle. The Segway PT, popular with tourists and police officers but perhaps better known for its high-profile crashes, will be retired on July 15.

The Segway's original price tag of around \$5,000 was a hurdle for many customers. It also was challenging to ride because the rider had to be balanced at a specific angle for the vehicle to move forward. If the rider's weight shifted too much in any direction, it could easily spin out of control and throw the rider off. They were banned in some cities because users could easily lose control if they were not balanced properly.

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/292672/the-segway-will-soon-be-no-more.html>

China puts final satellite into orbit to try to rival GPS network

(Reuters) - China on Tuesday successfully put into orbit its final Beidou satellite, completing a navigation network years in the making and setting the stage to challenge the U.S.-owned Global Positioning System (GPS). The idea to develop Beidou, or the Big Dipper in Chinese, took shape in the 1990s as China's military sought to reduce its reliance on GPS, which is run by the U.S. Air Force.

Coverage was limited to China when the first Beidou-1 satellites were launched in 2000. Now Beidou-related services such as traffic monitoring have been exported to about 120 countries. The second generation of Beidou-2 satellites went into operation in 2012, covering the Asia-Pacific region.

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-space-exploration-china-satellite/china-puts-final-satellite-into-orbit-to-try-to-rival-gps-network-idUSKBN23U08P>

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