Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation
Emergency Preparedness Update
for July 10, 2020

Gov. Beshear: Face Coverings Protect Our Families, Economy

(From Press Release - July 10) On Friday, Gov. Andy Beshear re-emphasized the importance of wearing face coverings in many situations to protect Kentucky lives and our economy and to preserve the commonwealth's hard-won but fragile progress in the fight against the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). On Thursday, the Governor issued a new executive order and today filed an emergency regulation requiring Kentuckians to wear face coverings under several circumstances for the next 30 days. The order went into effect at 5 p.m. today. Click here to read the executive order's requirements and exemptions, which include children who are 5 or younger and anyone with a disability or a physical or mental impairment that prevents them from safely wearing a face covering.

Case Information: As of 4 p.m. July 10, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 18,670 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 426 of which were newly reported Friday. Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported eight new deaths Friday, raising the total to 620 Kentuckians lost to the virus. For additional information, including up-to-date lists of positive cases and deaths, as well as breakdowns of coronavirus infections by county, race and ethnicity, click here.

Long-Term Care Update: Today, Gov. Beshear shared that Kentucky has had 72.9 long-term care resident COVID-19 cases per 1,000 residents and 19.2 COVID-19 deaths per 1,000 residents. While the commonwealth's long-term care facilities, fortunately, have fared far better than those in many other states, Gov. Beshear said he was committed to protecting even more residents from contracting this disease. Two hundred and eighty-three of 284 facilities have been fully tested. There have been 60,703 total molecular diagnostic COVID-19 tests performed in the state's long-term care facilities.

Executive Order on Prescription Refills: On March 10, Gov. Beshear signed an executive order that allows pharmacists to dispense emergency 30-day refills on prescriptions. Today, the Governor announced that on July 7, he renewed this order again. The current order will expire on Aug. 6, but is subject to renewal.

KY Public Health Gravity Lab Contract Extended

(Frankfort) Public Health Commissioner, Dr. Steven Stack**,** has informed KHA that the state will extend the Gravity Diagnostics testing program, where tests are paid for by the state, through August 31. The hospitals currently participating in the program can plan to continue using it with confidence through that time. However, Dr. Stack continues to request that hospitals take action to expand their own testing capacity through commercial sources as well as encourage local businesses to make community access to testing as widespread as possible.

KHA is aware that test turnaround times for reference labs are increasing, as has also been reported nationally. This comes at a time when there is pressure for more testing in hotspots and as cases climb in Kentucky and other states. Hospitals are reminded that KHA has partnered with Mako Medical Lab, a full-service reference lab, for COVID-19 testing. Mako has allocated a capacity of 5,000 tests per day which can grow, with a guaranteed turnaround time of 24-36 hours. Since Mako does not ask hospitals to sign an exclusive contract, KHA suggests that hospitals strongly consider contracting with MAKO to have another resource available to obtain timely COVID-19 test results.

In addition, yesterday the Cabinet for Health and Family Services issued new blanket testing order to remove some impediments to the expansion of COVID-19 testing. The notice indicates that a licensed clinician's order is no longer required for a lab provider to perform and bill for a COVID-19 FDA approved molecular diagnostic test. Health insurers cannot require a clinician's order to cover the cost of the testing and are reminded of the requirement to cover such tests without patient cost sharing or prior authorization. Dr. Stack has also clarified that the laboratory performing the test is responsible for notifying the patient of their test results as well as reporting the results to the state so public health would get results directly from the lab as it already does.

As COVID-19 keeps surging, governors ponder next steps

(CIDRAP) The COVID-19 pandemic continues to surge in at least 30 states, with 6 states (Alabama, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Oregon, and Texas) hitting single-day case records yesterday, according to a database maintained by the *New York Times.*

The *Times* also reports that daily death tolls are trending upward. While still only a fraction of what was seen in late April, when more than 2,000 deaths were reported each day as the virus swept through New York and the surrounding tristate area, the 7-day average is now 608, up from 471 at the beginning of the month.

Arizona's COVID-19 death toll topped 2,000 yesterday, a new high for the state, Arizona Public Media reports. Arizona has recorded the highest rate of percent positive coronavirus tests in the country in recent days, with around 1 in 4 tests coming back positive.

According to the COVID-19 tracker maintained by Johns Hopkins University, the United States has 3,156,234 COVID-19 cases, including 133,746 deaths.

Read the full story here: https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/07/covid-19-keeps-surging-governors-ponder-next-steps

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Kentucky farmers planting crop that may help treat COVID-19
Learn more: https://www.kentucky.com/news/coronavirus/article244030112.html

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**HHS Announces Expanded Distribution of Funds to
Rural Hospitals and Hospitals Serving High Numbers
of Medicaid and Uninsured Patients**

(From AHA) The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced that it will distribute over $4 billion in additional funds from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund to rural hospitals and hospitals that serve a high number of Medicaid patients and provide large amounts of uncompensated care.
For more details on the announcement, see the HHS press release.

CDC Coronavirus What's New?

- COVIDView Weekly Summary Friday, July 10, 2020
- Cases & Deaths by County Friday, July 10, 2020
- Cases in the U.S. Friday, July 10, 2020
- Cleaning and Disinfection for Households Friday, July 10, 2020
- General Business Frequently Asked Questions Friday, July 10, 2020
- COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country Friday, July 10, 2020
- Data on COVID-19 during Pregnancy Thursday, July 9, 2020
- eCR Now: COVID-19 Electronic Case Reporting for Healthcare Providers Thursday, July 9, 2020
- Hospitalization Forecasts Thursday, July 9, 2020
- Cruise Ship Crew Member Disembarkations Thursday, July 9, 2020
- Staffing Resources Thursday, July 9, 2020
- Forecasts of Total Deaths Thursday, July 9, 2020
- Testing Data in the U.S. Thursday, July 9, 2020
- Meat and Poultry Processing Workers and Employers Thursday, July 9, 2020
- Previous Forecasts of Total Deaths Thursday, July 9, 2020
- Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic Thursday, July 9, 2020
- Responder Stories Thursday, July 9, 2020
- Previous Hospitalization Forecasts Thursday, July 9, 2020
- Meat and Poultry Processing Facility Assessment Toolkit Thursday, July 9, 2020
- Infographic: Tracking MIS-C: Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in U.S. Children Thursday, July 9, 2020
- COVID-19 By the Numbers Thursday, July 9, 2020
- Getting the word out to protect meat and poultry plant workers Thursday, July 9, 2020
- Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens for COVID-19 Wednesday, July 8, 2020
- Recommendations for Tribal Ceremonies and Gatherings During the COVID-19 Outbreak Wednesday, July 8, 2020
- Operational Considerations for Infection Prevention and Control in Outpatient Facilities: non-U.S. Healthcare Settings Wednesday, July 8, 2020
- Operational Considerations for Containing COVID-19 in non-US Healthcare Settings Wednesday, July 8, 2020
- Correctional and Detention Facilities Wednesday, July 8, 2020
- COVID-19 Overview and Infection Prevention and Control Priorities in Non-US Healthcare Settings Wednesday, July 8, 2020
- What COVID-19 Seroprevalence Surveys Can Tell Us Wednesday, July 8, 2020
- Data Visualization Wednesday, July 8, 2020
- Interim Operational Considerations for Public Health Management of Healthcare Workers Exposed to or Infected with COVID-19: non-US Healthcare Settings Wednesday, July 8, 2020