



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 17, 2020

Georgia Hospital Worker Sounds Alarm: 'I Have Never Ever Seen Anything Like This' *Some facilities looking north to KY & TN for beds*

(NPR) Georgia has seen coronavirus cases skyrocket as residents have gone about business as usual in recent weeks. Cases have topped 127,000, and more than 3,000 lives have been taken. Just three weeks ago, the overall cases stood at 69,000. The Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency reported nearly 2,800 hospitalizations, with 84% of critical care beds occupied. Nearly 1,100 patients were on ventilators, the agency said. This week, there was no room. Desperate, the health care worker said, administrators began checking available hospitals in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. The distance stretched more than 850 miles north to south, from Louisville, Ky., down to Orlando, Fla.

Read full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/07/16/891997539/georgia-hospital-worker-sounds-alarm-i-have-never-ever-seen-anything-like-this>

KY Gov. Beshear announces 413 new COVID-19 cases, 5 deaths on Thursday

(WKYT) On Thursday, the governor announced 413 new cases in the state, bringing the state total to 21,083. He also announced 5 new deaths in Kentucky, raising the total number of deaths in Kentucky to 650. Beshear says today's new cases include 13 kids under five - including two two-month-olds. There was a total of 507,197 total tests. Currently 418 are hospitalized, with 92 in ICSs. The seven-day positivity rate is 4.38%.

Daily report: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/COVID19DailyReport.pdf>

Press Release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=268>

Related story - [Attorney general asks court to block all of governor's covid-19 pandemic orders, calling them arbitrary and unconstitutional](#)

Lexington pediatricians say kids they've seen test positive for COVID-19 have had only mild symptoms so far

(WKYT) The growing number of positive COVID-19 cases in children is catching the attention of parents and pediatricians. "Parents are hearing, just like you are and I am, all of those numbers," Dr. Carol Steltenkamp, External Chief Medical Officer for UK Healthcare said. Fortunately, the kids they have had test positive have all had pretty mild symptoms.

Story link: <https://www.wkyt.com/2020/07/17/lexington-pediatricians-say-kids-theyve-seen-test-positive-for-covid-19-have-had-only-mild-symptoms-so-far/>

U of L conducting Aviptadil drug trial to treat COVID-19 patients in respiratory failure

Story link: https://www.wdrb.com/news/u-of-l-conducting-drug-trial-to-treat-covid-19-patients-in-respiratory-failure/article_ae813866-c778-11ea-b48c-830e5f2a8b35.html

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines - Extracts from [July 17, 2020](#)

[Factors Associated With Death in Critically Ill Patients With Coronavirus Disease 2019 in the US](#) (*JAMA Internal Medicine*) In a cohort of 2215 adults with COVID-19 who were admitted to intensive care units at 65 sites, 784 (35.4%) died within 28 days, with wide variation among hospitals. Factors associated with death included older age, male sex, obesity, coronary artery disease, cancer, acute organ dysfunction, and admission to a hospital with fewer intensive care unit beds.

[Addressing Decontaminated Respirators: Some Methods Appear to Damage Mask Integrity and Protective Function](#) (*Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*) Decontamination of N95 respirators is being used by clinicians in the face of a global shortage of these devices. Some treatments for decontamination, such as some vaporized hydrogen peroxide methods or ultraviolet methods, had no impact on respiratory performance, while other treatments resulted in substantial damage to masks.

[Mask Rules Expand Across U.S. as Clashes Over the Mandates Intensify](#) (*New York Times*) tidal wave of new mask requirements has been issued in the last few days, amid surging cases in many regions, including more than 75,000 new coronavirus cases across the country on Thursday, the most in a single day. Face coverings will be required at stores like Walmart, Target and CVS, and in a growing number of Republican-led states where governors once resisted such mandates.

'Meaningless' FDA Certificates Are Used To Tout Dubious Face Masks

(NPR) When the COVID-19 pandemic left facilities scrambling for surgical masks, new manufacturers stepped up to meet demand and turn a profit. But the mix of first-time manufacturers and first-time buyers has led to confusion and concerns about quality. Many sellers are touting FDA certificates of registration as evidence their masks can be trusted, said people who work in the health care supply chain. They usually include an FDA logo and, often, a cartoon eagle. The certificates are particularly popular with companies in China. But the certificates are meaningless. While the FDA requires makers of medical products to register their facilities with the agency so it can keep track of them, it doesn't issue such certificates.

Surgical masks typically need to go through FDA [premarket clearance](#), which involves making sure they meet certain standards. However, the FDA is waiving this requirement for surgical mask manufacturers amid the current pandemic. But with so many newcomers buying and selling surgical masks, what a certificate means — and what it doesn't — often gets lost in the shuffle.

[Vizient Inc.](#), a company that helps hospitals negotiate contracts for supplies, has been helping hospitals review mask offers, including those for N95 respirators, which offer a higher level of protection than surgical masks and are more strictly regulated. Of the nearly 1,700 offers the company had reviewed by the end of May, more than two-thirds were not even "potentially appropriate for use in a health care setting," said [Cathy Denning](#), a senior vice president involved in supply sourcing for Vizient. Sixty-five of those offers were specifically for surgical masks, but only 39 offers included potentially acceptable products.

Podcast or read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/07/16/890776466/meaningless-fda-certificates-are-used-to-tout-dubious-face-masks>

Related ASPR TRACIE story - Respirators for Healthcare during COVID-19: Authorized Use & Avoiding Fraudulent Products

Learn more: <https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/fact-sheet-fraudulent-respirators-8-july-2020.pdf>

CDC: Protect Yourself From the Dangers of Extreme Heat

The effects of rising temperatures and extreme heat result in numerous illnesses and deaths each year. CDC urges everyone to learn about danger of extreme heat, know the potential risks to health, and discover ways stay healthy and safe. [Learn more about the effects of extreme heat.](#)

CDC feature link & posters: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/toolkits/extremeheat/default.html>

CDC Heat Related Illness Prevention: https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/extreme/heat_illness_training.htm

DRC Ebola cases reach 56, exceed 2018 Equateur province outbreak

([CIDRAP News](#)) Officials have confirmed 4 more Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Equateur province Ebola outbreak, raising the number to 56 and passing the total of an outbreak that occurred in the same province in 2018. **Jul 16 WHO [statement](#)**

Mumps outbreak in Chicago disproportionately affected gay men, people with HIV

In 2018, men who have sex with men (MSM) and people living with HIV made up a large proportion of the 116 cases of mumps in adults in Chicago, which surpassed the number seen during the previous 5 years combined, according to a report released today in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*.

Nineteen of the 116 mumps infections (17%) occurred in people living with HIV. Twenty-nine (31%) of 93 respondents to a supplementary questionnaire sent to adults diagnosed as having mumps in 2018 were women who have sex with men, 27 (29%) were men who have sex only with women, and 37 (34%) identified as MSM.

Jul 17 MMWR [study](#)

2020 Kentucky Harm Reduction Summit

August 19 & 20, 2020 - 10 AM to 2 PM ET

Register: <https://www.cecentral.com/live/18867>

The summit will be conducted virtually via Zoom with key note speakers, multiple breakout sessions, and two panel discussions. Continuing education information can be found at <https://www.cecentral.com/live/18867/accreditation>

Please call Kyndall Raburn, Public Health Associate, at 502-892-8022 kyndall.raburn@ky.gov or Jim House (502-330-5950) at JamesR.House@ky.gov with any questions.

Related story: July 1/Washington Post:

'Cries for help': Drug overdoses are soaring during the coronavirus pandemic
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/07/01/coronavirus-drug-overdose/>

QIOs uncertain how newly announced CMS plans will help many nursing homes

(McKnight) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services made [big headlines](#) Friday when it announced that the agency would be sending assistance around the country to help nursing homes either in trouble with or having increased risk of problems with COVID-19.

Among the most surprised were the groups supposed to deliver that assistance — Quality Improvement Organizations — the leader of their umbrella organization told *McKnight's* on Tuesday.

While QIOs and other stakeholders were generally informed something was afoot in the week leading up to CMS's announcement, both they and the major provider organizations were caught off-guard by the [agency's declaration](#) that expansive help would be provided, said Alison Teitelbaum, executive director of The American Health Quality Association, which represents QIOs.

The release also noted that an enhanced survey process would focus on infection control practices at facilities in hotspot areas so that authorities at all levels could leverage “all available resources” to these facilities. A CMS spokeswoman told *McKnight's* on Tuesday that on-site technical assistance will be available to nursing homes that “have well-known infection control challenges” that are revealed by COVID-19 related data submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Full story: <https://www.mcknights.com/news/qios-uncertain-how-newly-announced-cms-plans-will-help-many-nursing-homes/>

Who took down the CDC's coronavirus data? *The agency itself.*

(Politico) After the Trump administration ordered hospitals to change how they report coronavirus data to the government, effectively bypassing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, officials at the CDC made a decision of their own: Take our data and go home.

The sudden disappearance of the CDC's coronavirus dashboards on Wednesday — which drew [considerable scrutiny](#) before the agency restored them on Thursday afternoon — has become the latest flashpoint in the extraordinary breakdown between the Washington, D.C.-based federal health department and the nation's premier public health agency, located in Atlanta.

Full story: <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/07/16/who-took-down-the-cdcs-coronavirus-data-the-agency-itself-367018>

[CDC Director Dr. Robert R. Redfield and HHS Chief Information Officer Jose Arrieta](#) [Remarks on HHS Protect](#) Thursday, July 16, 2020

FEMA releases updated public assistance guidance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released the fact sheet [Coordinating Public Assistance and Other Sources of Federal Funding](#) to provide clear guidance on how FEMA will treat the multiple sources of funding as they relate to the public assistance program and its cost share requirements. To respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Congress authorized more than \$3 trillion to multiple federal agencies to provide assistance to state, local, tribal and territorial governments. Several agencies are offering aid and in some cases it overlaps with FEMA authority. Generally, funding from other federal agencies cannot be used to meet the FEMA public assistance non-federal cost share requirement. For COVID-19, however, there are two exceptions: Department of Treasury's Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Relief Fund and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Disaster Block Grant (CDBG-CV). While cost share requirements vary from agency-to-agency and program-to-program, many programs funded by the CARES Act and the other supplemental appropriations do not require a non-federal share. (Source: [FEMA](#))

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

- [Toolkit for Businesses and Workplaces](#) Friday, July 17, 2020
- [Data on COVID-19 during Pregnancy](#) Thursday, July 16, 2020
- [Quarantine If You Might Be Sick](#) Thursday, July 16, 2020
- [When to wear gloves](#) Thursday, July 16, 2020
- [Considerations for Wearing Cloth Face Coverings](#) Thursday, July 16, 2020
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) for Laboratories](#) Thursday, July 16, 2020
- [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE](#) Thursday, July 16, 2020
- [Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19](#) Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Amid De-Funding Push, Some Large US Cities Boosting Police Funding

([IACP News](#)) The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/16, Ansari, Calfas, Subscription Publication) reports that while some groups are pushing to cut police budgets, some of the largest US cities are actually increasing funding for police. According to the Journal, Houston, Phoenix and San Diego – the fourth-, fifth- and seventh-biggest cities in the US by population – have all increased their police forces' funding by as much as 5% in budgets passed in the past month.

Related story - US Police Departments Ban Neck Holds

The [Washington Post](#) (7/16, Mellnik, Schaul, Kindy) reports that “at least 26 of the nation’s 65 largest police departments have banned or strengthened restrictions on the use of neck restraints since the Memorial Day death of George Floyd,” a Washington Post analysis shows. A Post survey “of the 65 largest U.S. police departments found 40 prohibit chokeholds in their use-of-force policies, while 38 prohibit carotid holds in those policies.”

New - HHS Telemedicine Hack Series

"Telemedicine: Where Do I Start?"

Project ECHO is announcing a NEW 10-week series starting on July 22 (12:00-1:00 PM ET) to help accelerate telemedicine implementation for ambulatory providers. [Flyer](#) & [Registration](#)

KY Hospital Association TOWN HALL meetings

July 28, 4 PM ET

KY Attorney General's Office on Medicaid Fraud & Abuse

<https://join.onstreammedia.com/go/41054140/townhall>

Dial In: 1-877-594-8353 - Passcode: 56350822#

Save the Date: August 4, 3 PM ET

Feedback from the front-line in Texas and Florida hospitals

[Representatives from hospitals in both states on their experiences, lessons learned and recommendations.]

<https://join.onstreammedia.com/go/41054140/townhall>

Dial In: 1-877-594-8353 - Passcode: 56350822#

FDA: Respirators for Health Care Personnel Use during COVID-19 Pandemic

Tuesday, July 21, at 12:00 pm ET - [Click here for connection information](#)

The FDA, along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), will host the second webinar in the webinar series on the topic of Importing Respirators for Health Care Personnel Use during COVID-19 Pandemic.

EarthEx Webinar: Incident Management for Non-emergency Managers

July 22, 2 PM ET - [Registration](#)

AHA Hospitals Against Violence Webinar:

The Physician's Role in Confronting the Burden of Firearm Injury

July 22, 4:30 p.m. (ET) - [Registration](#)

FDA: Immediately in Effect Guidance on Coronavirus (COVID-19) Diagnostic Tests

Wednesday, July 22, at 12:15 pm ET - [Click here for connection information](#)

The FDA will host a virtual Town Hall for clinical laboratories and commercial manufacturers that are developing or have developed diagnostic tests for SARS-CoV-2. The purpose of this Town Hall is to help answer technical questions about the development and validation of tests for SARS-CoV-2.

CMS Nurses COVID-19 Call

July 23, 3 PM ET - Dial-In: 833-614-0820 - Access Passcode: 7971869

[Audio Webcast Link](#)

InfraGard National Webinar

Cybersecurity in the Age of COVID-19

Wednesday, 7/29/2020, at 11:00 AM EDT/10 AM CDT)

REGISTER HERE: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7894556567851625483>

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.