



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 27, 2020

### Gov. Andy Beshear to announce further steps to slow the spread of COVID-19 New measures anticipated today

(WDRB) As the number of positive COVID-19 cases in Kentucky continue to rise, Gov. Andy Beshear said he will announce further steps to slow the spread of the respiratory disease on Monday. Speaking from the garden at the Old Governor's Mansion in Frankfort, Kentucky, on Sunday, Beshear said the announcement shouldn't come as a surprise. The governor said Monday's announcement (4 PM) will include steps he has said would need to be taken if case numbers didn't start going down.

The state on Sunday reported 316 new positive cases of COVID-19, bringing its total number of cases to 27,079, according to a release from Beshear's office. Eight of those cases were from children ages 5 and under. Four additional virus-related deaths were also reported Sunday.

Beshear made the comments after a meeting with Dr. Deborah Birx, response coordinator for the White House Coronavirus Task Force, who paid a visit to Kentucky on Sunday to meet with Beshear, public health commissioner Dr. Steven Stack and other state health and business leaders.

The group met to discuss best practices to slow the spread of the virus and compare what they're seeing in the state as part of a check-in with states across the nation that have been seeing a rise cases in an effort to help "change the current trajectory."

Story and video link: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/gov-andy-beshear-to-announce-further-steps-to-slow-the-spread-of-covid-19-in/article\\_476ab718-cf63-11ea-9434-5b6d8d474229.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/gov-andy-beshear-to-announce-further-steps-to-slow-the-spread-of-covid-19-in/article_476ab718-cf63-11ea-9434-5b6d8d474229.html)

**Related - 3 in 4 Americans Favor Face Coverings: Survey**  
<https://news360.com/article/533805552>

### Medical experts urge American leaders: 'Shut it down. Do it Right'

(WLEX) More than 150 medical experts, scientists, teachers, nurses and others have signed on to an open letter calling on U.S. leaders to "shut it down, start over, do it right," asking for the country to be locked down again to control the spread of the coronavirus.

The [letter appears on the](#) U.S. Public Interest Research Groups website and is addressed to "decision makers" and recognizes how the country shutdown in March to stop the spread. There were early signs of decreasing infection rates.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Covid-19 "will end up as a Top 10 leading cause of death" this year, statisticians [predicted in an email to CNN](#).

Heart disease and cancer are the two leading causes of death in the US, accounting for more than half of all US deaths each year, and the statisticians don't expect that to change.

Full story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/medical-experts-urge-american-leaders-shut-it-down-do-it-right>

### Coronavirus is back with a vengeance in places where it had all but vanished

(WSJ) Australia reported only a handful of new coronavirus cases in early June, while Hong Kong went three weeks without a single locally transmitted infection that month. Japan had already [lifted a state of emergency](#) in May after the number of new cases dropped to a few dozen nationwide.

All three reported new high-water marks in daily infection numbers in the past week, showing how difficult it can be to keep the virus at bay, even in places [lauded for taking early and decisive action](#).

The number of infections in all three places are still small in comparison to the world's hardest hit countries, but the fresh waves demonstrate the tricky balancing act authorities face as they attempt to reopen their economies.

Full story (may require a subscription): <https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus-is-back-with-a-vengeance-in-places-where-it-had-all-but-vanished-11595842202>

**Young, healthy adults with mild COVID-19 also take weeks to recover: CDC**  
<https://news360.com/article/533782025>

### COVID-19 Jitters Shouldn't Keep You from the Emergency Room

(Medicine Net) Fear of [COVID-19](#) is keeping keep some people from getting medical help for critical conditions like [stroke](#) and [heart attack](#), experts say.

In the first months of the pandemic, doctors at the Penn State Health Hershey Medical Center saw a 50% drop in the number of patients going to the emergency room for serious illnesses.

Although these numbers are starting to trend upward, patients need to understand that hospitals provide safe care and quick treatment is essential to prevent death and disability, doctors say.

"There is a lot of concern about [COVID-19](#) -- and you should be concerned as it is very serious -- but you are 10 times more likely to die from an untreated [heart](#) attack than you are from [COVID-19](#)," said Dr. Chad Zack, an interventional cardiologist at Penn State [Heart](#) and Vascular Institute.

See more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=240786>

**KHA PSA - Your Health Can't Wait!**: <https://youtu.be/YoelHCA96BE>

**KHA PSA on Kentucky Heroes**: <https://youtu.be/rUSxPUXdMGQ>

### ----- **The PPE supply chain is a black box—that needs to change**

(Fortune) The shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the U.S.—which has exacerbated the COVID-19 crisis across the country—is likely to continue in a second wave of the pandemic. It has also exposed supply chain vulnerabilities in the process, namely, the reliance on foreign countries to produce the overwhelming majority of specialized PPE, such as N95 masks.

While imported PPE can make sense for cost minimization in normal times, the penny-wise dependence on imports during a prolonged pandemic has proved pound foolish and has caused incalculable human and economic losses. But even as domestic manufacturers ramp up production of PPE, the U.S. will face significant public health and national security risks because the extent of manufacturers' supply chain reliance on foreign countries is unknown.

In a new study published in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, we found that the three largest PPE manufacturers in the U.S.—3M, [Honeywell](#) International, and MSA Safety—[have not disclosed any basic supply chain information](#), not even in their annual sustainability and corporate citizenship reports. The companies' disclosures to the Food and Drug Administration have included only the locations of their manufacturing facilities, without data on the production quantity in each facility or the magnitude of their supply chains' dependence on foreign countries.

Read full story: <https://fortune.com/2020/07/25/ppe-supply-chain-national-security/>

### ----- **Pandemic Has Half of U.S. Hospitals Operating at a Loss: Report**

(HealthDay News) The [COVID-19](#) pandemic has America's hospitals on the fiscal ropes, with many facing financial ruin without continued aid from the federal government, a new report predicts.

Average hospital margins across the nation could sink to -7% in the second half of 2020 without further help, with half of all hospitals potentially operating in the red, the American Hospital Association's new analysis estimates.

U.S. hospitals have had to spend more on personal protective equipment to keep their employees safe from [COVID-19](#), even as revenues have dropped due to state-level lockdowns that canceled all but the most desperately needed services and surgeries.

The analysis, prepared by the financial advisory firm Kaufman, Hall & Associates, considered two potential scenarios -- an optimistic slow but steady decrease in [COVID-19](#) cases, and a pessimistic outlook based on periodic surges in infections that would place additional [stress](#) on hospital operations. U.S. hospitals typically operate at an average 3.5% annual profit,

Full story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=240764>

### ----- **Physician Practices Are In Critical Condition Due To Coronavirus**

(Forbes) Per the results of a recent McKinsey & Company study, "Almost half of all independent physician practices said they had less than four weeks of cash on hand.

Learn more: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/saibala/2020/07/26/physician-practices-are-in-critical-condition-due-to-coronavirus/#3e9d62e66a77>

### **More military bases increase health protections due to virus**

(AP) — The U.S. military has increased health protection requirements in at least 21 bases in recent weeks, particularly across Texas and Florida, as the COVID-19 rate continues to spike among service members, more than doubling in the last month.

The escalating numbers mirror the increase in coronavirus cases in the general public across the country, where more than 4 million people have contracted the virus, and more than 144,000 have died. The military, however, still has a dramatically low death rate, losing three service members — including just one active-duty — out of nearly 23,000 virus cases so far. More: <https://apnews.com/e6be6854547fd32fbb43633e7f37d970>

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**Portable Device that Can Test COVID-19 For Rs 400 Developed**

<https://news360.com/article/533855560>  
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**CDC Coronavirus [What's New?](#)**

- [Isolate If You Are Sick](#) Sunday, July 26, 2020
- [Clinical Questions about COVID-19: Questions and Answers](#) Sunday, July 26, 2020
- [Cases in the U.S.](#) Sunday, July 26, 2020
- [Testing Data in the U.S.](#) Sunday, July 26, 2020
- [Funeral Guidance for Individuals and Families](#) Saturday, July 25, 2020

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**Doctors and dentists still flooding U.S. with opioid prescriptions**

<https://news360.com/article/533786519>  
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**Lego-inspired 3D Printed Bricks can Heal Damaged Bones**

<https://news360.com/article/533814157>  
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**CDC: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Diabetes:  
The Importance of Prevention, Management, and Support  
Tuesday, July 28, at 2:00 pm ET [Click here for connection information](#)**

During this Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) Call, presenters will focus on current information about the impact and increased risk for COVID-19 complications in people with diabetes and the importance of diabetes prevention, management, and support.

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**ASPR: Use of Telemedicine in Alternate Care Sites  
Tuesday, July 28, 2:00 p.m. ET, [Click here for registration](#)**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated community mitigation efforts enacted have altered the delivery of and access to healthcare across the U.S. Healthcare providers are looking for new and innovative ways to deliver patient care to accommodate social distancing and community mitigation measures. The use of telemedicine has grown significantly in recent months. In addition to being used by outpatient providers, telemedicine plays an integral role in Alternate Care Sites (ACS). ACS are one of many alternate care strategies intended to provide additional hospital surge capacity and capability. HHS ASPR and ASPR TRACIE are hosting this webinar where speakers will discuss operations, management, and lessons learned from using telemedicine in these settings.

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**[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#  
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**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#  
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**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>

**InfraGard: [DOJ's Role in the Investigation and Prosecution of Cyber Crime](#)  
Wednesday, July 29, 2 PM ET**

The webinar is open to members and non-members. Considering the topic of the webinar, members are strongly encouraged to invite members of the legal departments of their respective organizations to attend the session. To register for the webinar, please use the following link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5431222811770518031>

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency released its [COVID-19 Recovery CISA Tabletop Exercise Package](#), assisting stakeholders in assessing recovery and business continuity plans related to organizational recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

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**Final Facilitator Training Session "How to Play Earth Ex" on August 20th at 2 PM EDT.**

This session will present the new Battle Rhythm Manager interface, outline each Phase of the 2020 exercise, and explore the new Monte Carlo inject engine. Participants will leave with a full understanding of how to implement the EARTH EX 2020 exercise to maximize its potential for their organization. Register> [How to Play EARTH EX](#)

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**EarthEX 2020** - Registration is open

The fourth annual Emergency All-sector Response Transnational Hazard Exercise will be available for play from September 1 to October 31, 2020 - worldwide. Individuals, families, business continuity planners, emergency managers, community and program coordinators. **Everyone is invited to register and participate. Learn how to be better prepared!**

**To register:** <https://battlerhythm.net/Registration/register.html>

Address questions to: [EarthEx@eiscouncil.org](mailto:EarthEx@eiscouncil.org)

**Other related webinars of potential interest...**

**Global Supply Chain Threats – 29 July – 2 pm EDT**

This EARTH EX 2020 training series webinar is an awareness primer for anyone wanting a better understanding of the current global supply chain threats, their causes, and actions that can be planned or taken to increase operational resilience. Register here>> [Global Supply Chain](#)

**Global Continuity Issues and Requirements – 12 August – 2 pm EDT**

This EARTH EX 2020 training series webinar will address the significant issues that are driving the need for a comprehensive framework for reaching global continuity and resilience requirements. Register here>> [Global Continuity Issues](#)

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.