



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 3, 2020

## KY Hospital Association TOWN HALL meetings

**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#

## Kentucky COVID Update for August 3

([From Press Release](#)) Gov. Andy Beshear on Monday updated Kentuckians on the state's continuing efforts to fight the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in the commonwealth. "The numbers are telling us that facial coverings and masks are working," he said. "We were facing what looked like exponential growth. In order to see our cases go down, we had to slow the increase. That's why the mask mandate was necessary. If we had done nothing, by now, we would have been seeing 1,000 new cases every day, but instead we are seeing the increase drop off."

To reinforce the effectiveness of wearing a face covering, the Governor unveiled MaskUpKY, a new statewide public service campaign aimed at encouraging the use of masks by everyone in the commonwealth, along with a new hashtag – #MaskUpKY – to promote facial coverings on social media.

As of 4 p.m. Aug. 3, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 31,508 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 323 of which were newly reported Monday. Twelve of the newly reported cases were from children ages 5 and younger, including two 3-month-olds from Jefferson County. Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported two new deaths Monday, raising the total to 744 Kentuckians lost to the virus.

As of Monday, there have been at least 642,577 coronavirus tests performed in Kentucky. The positivity rate currently stands at 5.18%. At least 8,335 Kentuckians have recovered from the virus. To see all recent daily reports, [click here](#). Visit the Governor's [Facebook](#) page to watch today's news conference

## COVID-19 surges in new states as Birx warns of rural spread

(CIDRAP) Over the weekend, [Alaska, Hawaii, Missouri, Montana, and Oklahoma](#) saw the biggest increases in positive COVID-19 tests, according to the *Washington Post*, a harbinger that the current phase of the pandemic seems to be moving up and out from the Sun Belt.

The pandemic, according to Deborah Birx, MD, lead adviser to the White House's coronavirus task force, has entered a new phase. No longer are hot spots or outbreaks contained to densely populated metro areas like New York City; instead, urban and rural areas are seeing similar rates of spread.

Birx emphasized the need for Americans across the country to stop attending 'super-spreading events' and continued to recommend the closures of bars and social events where people gathered, unmasked, in large groups. She also said some communities with high case counts will have to use distance learning at the start of the school year.

As of today, the United States has 4,698,244 cases and 155,101 deaths, per the Johns Hopkins University [COVID-19 tracker](#). Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/08/covid-19-surges-new-states-birx-warns-rural-spread>

## NIH awards contracts to develop new testing technologies

([From AHA Today](#)) The National Institutes of Health's Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics initiative Friday [awarded \\$248.7 million in contracts](#) to produce four new laboratory tests and three new point-of-care tests to detect SARS-CoV-2. The recipients have received or applied for emergency use authorizations from the Food and Drug Administration for the tests, which use new technologies such as next generation sequencing, CRISPR and integrated microfluidic chips that could increase testing capacity and speed results.

"RADx moved incredibly quickly to select promising technologies through its 'shark tank' approach, investing in technologies that could boost America's best-in-the-world COVID-19 testing capacity by millions more tests per day," said Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar. "These technologies will help deliver faster results from labs and more and more test results within minutes at the point of care, which is especially important for settings like schools and nursing homes."

## **Families File First Wave of COVID-19 Lawsuits Against Companies over Worker Deaths**

(WSJ) Employers across the country are being sued by the families of workers who contend their loved ones contracted lethal cases of Covid-19 on the job, a new legal front that shows the [risks of reopening workplaces](#). [Walmart](#) Inc., Safeway Inc., [Tyson Foods](#) Inc. and some health-care facilities have been sued for gross negligence or wrongful death since the coronavirus pandemic began unfolding in March. Employees' loved ones contend the companies failed to [protect workers from the deadly virus](#) and should compensate their family members as a result. Workers who survived the virus also are suing to have medical bills, future earnings and other damages paid out.

In responding to the lawsuits, employers have said they took steps to combat the virus, including screening workers for signs of illness, requiring they wear masks, sanitizing workspaces and limiting the number of customers inside stores. Some point out that it is impossible to know where or how their workers contracted Covid-19, particularly as it spreads more widely across the country.

The [coronavirus relief bill that Senate Republicans](#) unveiled this week would make it harder for workers to sue their employer if they get sick on the job. The proposed legislation protects companies, schools and churches from being held liable for coronavirus infections beginning in December 2019, unless they acted with willful misconduct or engaged in grossly negligent behavior.

The bill would cap punitive damages, set a clear-and-convincing-evidence burden of proof and raise requirements for personal-injury lawsuits. It would also push such lawsuits to federal courts, which potentially are more favorable to defendants.

Full story: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/families-file-first-wave-of-covid-19-lawsuits-against-companies-over-worker-deaths-11596137454>

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

- [Cases & Deaths by County](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [Toolkit for K-12 Schools](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [Returning to Work](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [Clinical Questions about COVID-19: Questions and Answers](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [Considerations for Travelers—Coronavirus in the US](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Shared or Congregate Housing](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [Operational Considerations for Containing COVID-19 in non-US Healthcare Settings](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [Additional Tools and Resources](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [Cases in the U.S.](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [Recommendations for Disaster Sheltering of Household Pets, Service Animals, and Support Animals during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [Data Visualization](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [Evaluation and Management Considerations for Neonates At Risk for COVID-19](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [Running Essential Errands](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [Stopping an outbreak behind bars](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [Protect Yourself When Using Transportation](#) Monday, August 3, 2020
- [CDC's Diagnostic Multiplex Assay for Flu and COVID-19 and Supplies](#) Sunday, August 2, 2020
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) for Laboratories](#) Sunday, August 2, 2020

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### **U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers seize meth embedded at candles, dishes in Erlanger facility**

(KY Forward News) U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers based in Northern Kentucky intercepted two shipments containing a total of 11 pounds of smuggled methamphetamine at a local express consignment facility.

One shipment, labeled as "candles and crafts," was being imported from San Luis Potosi, Mexico to an individual in Dallas, Texas. The package contained two large candles and other personal items.

Officers noticed inconsistencies in the density of the candle and drilled through the center to find plastic and embedded in the wax was white substance, which tested positive for methamphetamine.

Another shipment, labeled as “melamine dishes and Mexican crafts,” was being sent from Mexico City, Mexico, to a residence in Rhodes, Australia. It contained dinner plates in a homemade decorative box made of thick, covered cardboard. Noting inconsistencies with the sides of the box, officers cut into the cardboard and discovered a white powder that again, tested positive for meth.

CBP conducts operations at ports of entry throughout the United States and regularly screens arriving international passengers and cargo for narcotics, weapons, and other restricted or prohibited products

Full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/u-s-customs-and-border-protection-officers-seize-meth-embedded-at-candles-dishes-in-erlanger-facility/>

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**Almost half of counties still lack syringe exchanges,  
including 20 of those most vulnerable to drug-related disease outbreaks**

(KY Health News) Most Kentucky counties now have harm-reduction programs to fight drug abuse, but the coronavirus pandemic has slowed their expansion and complicated the work of their syringe exchanges. Still, they've all continued to offer some level of service during the pandemic. Sixty-three counties have harm-reduction programs, and one more is in the works, but that will still leave 56 of the 120 counties without one.

Harm-reduction programs are designed to prevent outbreaks of HIV and hepatitis C, which are commonly spread by the needle sharing among intravenous drug users. They also provide health screenings and vaccines, and connect drug users to treatment. They were approved in Kentucky under a 2015 law that requires approval by the county health board, the fiscal court and the city where the exchange is to be located.

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**Burn and Soft Tissue Injury ECHO  
“The Great Outdoors!": ATV injuries”  
August 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-1:00pm MT (2 PM ET/1 PM CT)**

Register and log-in to the [Crisis Standards of Care \(CSC\)](#) website, then navigate to the “Project ECHO” tab to join the live session. They offer AMA PRA Category 1.0 credit(s)<sup>TM</sup>, Nursing Contact Hours, and EMS CME credit at no cost. Visit the [Utah CSC Website](#) and navigate to the “Project ECHO” tab for instructions on how to claim CME and CEU credit(s). Address questions to: [Annette.Matherly@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:Annette.Matherly@hsc.utah.edu).

[FYI - The next program in this series will be October 14th on "Treatment of Complicated Skin Rashes".]

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**HHS Telemedicine Hack  
Workflows and Documentation  
Wednesday, August 5, at 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET [Click here for registration](#)**

Telemedicine use has grown exponentially during the COVID-19 pandemic to support the wide adoption of telemedicine, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) is partnering with the ECHO Institute at the University of New Mexico and the Public Health Foundation's TRAIN Learning Network to deliver a 10-week, virtual peer-to-peer learning community called Telemedicine Hack. This learning collaborative will be an opportunity for healthcare delivers to gain the knowledge and skills needed to implement video-based telemedicine into their practices. [Learn more here.](#)

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**NETEC WEBINARS**

Next week's webinars will be divided into a two-part event (Wednesday, **August 5 and Friday, August 7**) focusing on [Supply Management and Inventory Control during COVID-19](#).

Both webinars will be at Noon CT / 1:00 PM ET / 10:00 AM PT. [Register Now](#)

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**CMS: Lessons from the Front Lines: COVID-19  
Friday, August 7, 12:30 p.m. ET, [Click here to join](#)**

Join CMS Lessons from the Front Lines to learn about CMS flexibilities, best practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, updates from the federal response, and to hear perspectives from care providers.

To listen to the audio files and read the transcripts from CMS COVID-19 Stakeholder calls, visit the [CMS Podcast and Transcripts page](#).

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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](#)**

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.