



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 13, 2020

KY COVID-19 Cases are UP!

(From [Press Release](#)) As of 4 p.m. Aug. 13, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 37,686 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 785 of which were newly reported Thursday. Twenty-five of the newly reported cases were from children ages 5 and younger.

Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear reported six new deaths Thursday, raising the total to 796 Kentuckians lost to the virus. As of Thursday, there have been at least 730,362 coronavirus tests performed in Kentucky. The positivity rate currently stands at 5.67%. At least 8,965 Kentuckians have recovered from the virus. To see all recent daily reports, [click here](#).

US sees highest COVID-19 daily death toll since May

Learn more: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/08/us-sees-highest-covid-19-daily-death-toll-may>

Change in COVID-19 tests this past month

Percent change in the 7-day average of select states and the U.S. total from July 12 to Aug. 12, 2020



We're doing a lot less coronavirus testing

(Axios) The U.S. is cutting back on coronavirus testing. Nationally, the number of tests performed each day is about 17% lower than it was at the end of July, and testing is also declining in hard-hit states. This big reduction in testing has helped clear away delays that undermined the response to the pandemic. But doing fewer tests can also undermine the response to the pandemic.

Even as states with particularly bad outbreaks pull back on their testing, the proportion of tests coming back positive is still high — which would normally be an indication that they need to be doing *more* tests. In

Texas, where they have seen a 45% reduction in testing, 19% of tests are coming back positive, according to Nephron Research. In Florida (-27% in testing) has an 18% rate of positive tests. Nevada (-9% in testing), has a positive rate of 17%.

Read the full story here: <https://www.axios.com/were-doing-a-lot-less-coronavirus-testing-df191643-91ed-40a4-83f6-0586a7ef9930.html>

Covid-19 Data Reporting System Gets Off to Rocky Start

New data system run by Health and Human Services faces delays, quality-control issues

WSJ link: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/covid-19-data-reporting-system-gets-off-to-rocky-start-11597178974>

Related - Good News for Kentucky Hospital Data Reporting

(KHA) The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Region IV Administrator [sent a letter certifying](#) that the Kentucky is reporting all of the required fields on behalf of all of its required hospitals. In a follow up email from **Dr. Steven Stack**, Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) Commissioner, KHA staff learned that **Kentucky is the first state in FEMA Region IV to receive this certification**. Dr. Stack commended the hospitals and complimented the strong relationship between KHA, Kentucky's hospitals and KDPH during this emergency response.

Hospitals are all reminded that reporting is still required every day of the week including weekends.

During the week, participation is outstanding, with 100% of facilities reporting. Weekends have a lower rate with an 85.5% average this past weekend.

If your staff has questions about reporting, please see the [Hospital Capacity Reporting Dictionary](#), or reach out to **Kenneth S. Kik** at KDPH (kenneth.kik@ky.gov) or **Jon Croley** with Kentucky Emergency Management (jon.croley@ky-em.org).

Update - Puzzling New Zealand virus outbreak grows to 17 cases

(AP) A puzzling new outbreak of the coronavirus in New Zealand's largest city grew to 17 cases on Thursday, with officials saying the number will likely increase further. The only cases for months had been a handful of returning travelers who have been quarantined at the border. But then earlier this week, health workers discovered four infections in one Auckland household. Director-General of Health Ashley Bloomfield said

genome testing has not yet matched the new cluster with any infections that have been caught at the border, although the testing has indicated the strain of the virus may have come from Australia or Britain.

Full story: <https://apnews.com/e21e3d0b577648dccb59edf1d670fe62>

***Related? - Chinese officials say imported frozen chicken wings from Brazil tested positive for Covid-19
News of the contaminated chicken wings comes a day after coronavirus was found on the packaging of
shrimps imported from Ecuador***

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/13/asia/china-coronavirus-chicken-wings-intl-hnk/index.html>

FDA Announces New Deadly Toxin (1-propanol) Found in Hand Sanitizers FDA Do-Not-Use list expanded

(Newsweek) The FDA on Wednesday announced another toxin that can be as deadly as methanol. That toxin is called 1-propanol, which can depress the central nervous system. The FDA stated some products are labeled to contain ethanol or isopropyl alcohol, but have tested positive for 1-propanol contamination.

Story link: <https://www.newsweek.com/fda-announces-new-deadly-toxin-found-hand-sanitizers-adding-recalls-1524759>

FDA Update on hand sanitizers: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-consumers-should-not-use>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from August 13, 2020

On Native American Land, Contact Tracing is Saving Lives (*New York Times*) Spread across a large reservation in eastern Arizona, the Apaches have been infected at more than 10 times the rate of people in the state as a whole. Yet their death rate from Covid-19 is far lower, just 1.3 percent, as compared with 2.1 percent in Arizona. Epidemiologists have a hopeful theory about what led to this startling result: Intensive contact tracing on the reservation likely enabled teams that included doctors to find and treat gravely ill people before it was too late to save them.

Face Masks with Valves or Vents Do Not Prevent Spread of the Coronavirus, CDC Says (*Washington Post*) In guidance updated late last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned against wearing masks with exhalation valves or vents, a type of face covering made for hot and dusty construction work that has become a popular pandemic accessory because of its seemingly high-tech design. "The purpose of masks is to keep respiratory droplets from reaching others to aid with source control," the agency's guidance reads. "However, masks with one-way valves or vents allow air to be exhaled through a hole in the material, which can result in expelled respiratory droplets that can reach others. This type of mask does not prevent the person wearing the mask from transmitting COVID-19 to others."

How to Stop COVID-19 Fueling a Resurgence of AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis (*Nature*) A focus on the coronavirus has disrupted detection and treatment of other infectious diseases. AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis (TB), three of the deadliest infectious diseases, together kill 2.4 million people every year, with TB alone responsible for 1.5 million deaths. And deaths from these diseases could almost double over the next year, according to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, a consortium of donors that funds treatments. The reason: coronavirus. It's a horrifying prospect, and calls for an urgent action plan. Governments and funders can do four things to avert a catastrophe.

HHS Posts States' COVID-19 Testing Plans for Second Half of Year (*Homeland Preparedness News*) The US Department of Health and Human Services posted the COVID-19 Testing Plans from all states and localities for July through December on its website. The State Testing Plans were developed in partnership with the federal government for each jurisdiction. The plans include details on responding to surges in cases and reaching vulnerable populations, including minorities, immunocompromised individuals, and older adults.

Is it safe to drink from a fountain during the pandemic?

(ABC) Is it safe to drink from a water fountain during the pandemic? There's no evidence you can get COVID-19 from the water itself. But since the virus may linger on surfaces, experts say to avoid fountains if you can or to limit any direct contact when using them.

Filling a water bottle is also better than drinking directly from the fountain, says Angela Rasmussen, a virus researcher at Columbia University. That helps ensure you don't leave saliva on the fountain, making it safer for others.

Full story: <https://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/wireStory/safe-drink-fountain-pandemic-72344814>

Crisis Standards of Care - The Toughest Triage Allocating Ventilators in a Pandemic

([New England Journal of Medicine](#)) The Covid-19 pandemic has led to severe shortages of many essential goods and services, from hand sanitizers and N95 masks to ICU beds and ventilators. Although rationing is not

unprecedented, never before has the American public been faced with the prospect of having to ration medical goods and services on this scale. Of all the medical care that will have to be rationed, the most problematic will be mechanical ventilation.

Although shortages of other goods and services may lead to deaths, in most cases it will be the combined effects of a variety of shortages that will result in worse outcomes. Mechanical ventilation is different. When patients' breathing deteriorates to the point that they need a ventilator, there is typically only a limited window during which they can be saved. And when the machine is withdrawn from patients who are fully ventilator-dependent, they will usually die within minutes. Unlike decisions regarding other forms of life-sustaining treatment, the decision about initiating or terminating mechanical ventilation is often truly a life-or-death choice.

Many states have developed strategies for rationing during pandemics. Typically, rationing is performed by a triage officer or a triage committee composed of people who have no clinical responsibilities for the care of the patient. Triage proceeds in three steps: application of exclusion criteria, such as irreversible shock; assessment of mortality risk using the Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score, to determine priority for initiating ventilation; and repeat assessments over time, such that patients whose condition is not improving are removed from the ventilator to make it available for another patient.

The angst that clinicians may experience when asked to withdraw ventilators for reasons not related to the welfare of their patients should not be underestimated — it may lead to debilitating and disabling distress for some clinicians. One strategy for avoiding this tragic outcome is to use a triage committee to buffer clinicians from this potential harm. We believe that such a committee should be composed of volunteers who are respected clinicians and leaders among their peers and the medical community.

Advantages of this approach are that it allows the physicians and nurses caring for the patients to maintain their traditional roles as fiduciary advocates, including the opportunity to appeal the initial decision of the committee when appropriate. While working together to ensure consistent and unbiased decisions across patient groups, the committee also has the flexibility to consider factors that may be unique to a given situation.

Learn more: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejmp2005689>

Learn more about the SOFA score: <https://ccforum.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13054-019-2663-7>

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 (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.