Gov. Beshear, State Leaders Provide Update on Kentucky's Fight Ag

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FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 15, 2020) – Gov. Beshear announced Wednesday that his administration is deepening ties with neighboring Indiana and Ohio in the fight against the r

The Governor said he, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb and Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine have agreed to continue close discussions on responding to the coronavirus pandemic, with an

"Regionally, it is so critical," Gov. Beshear said. "If you live in Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati is right across the river, we have to work together to make sure that one area isı

The Governor will continue regular calls and planning sessions with neighboring governors and other leaders over the coming weeks. As action is taken, the governors will prov

"These two governors and I have been on a call at least once a week, and let me tell you, they care about their people," Gov. Beshear said. "There hasn't been one political mo

He said that the collaboration is essential but that each leader ultimately would make his own decisions.

"In the end each state will have to sign off on any of their plans. None of us are going to relinquish our obligation to serve our people," the Governor said. "But we believe that th effective eventual opening of different parts of our economy."

Comprehensive testing

Gov. Beshear also announced the first stage of a unique testing regime, starting with frontline health care workers, that is designed to save lives and get people back to work.

The Co-Immunity Project is a collaboration among the State of Kentucky, Louisville Metro Government, the Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute and several major health ca

The project will focus on comprehensive testing, centered on antibodies and developing donor plasma resources.

"It will test for antibodies for those who have been infected in the past and may have developed immunity," the Governor said.

Gov. Beshear said we are unleashing the capabilities of a special asset we have in our state, the Louisville Center for Predictive Medicine, which has state-of-the-art facilities fo

The Co-Immunity Project is a collaboration – not only between public and private institutions, but also among private health care companies that normally compete against eac to work.

"This is a unique opportunity for us to leverage all of the research capabilities of the University of Louisville," said University of Louisville President Neeli Bendapudi. "We are ve extend it to enhancing the health of the entire commonwealth."

Team Kentucky Fund

Gov. Beshear announced new fundraising numbers and an oversight panel for the Team Kentucky Fund.

Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman appeared Wednesday remotely via video to announce the five co-chairs.

"I have some great news to share with the state about the Team Kentucky Fund," Lt. Gov. Coleman said. "First of all, I have recruited five co-chairs to serve as the team that lea

Jerry Abramson, Steve Henry, Crit Luallen, Daniel Mongiardo and Steve Pence will co-chair the Team Kentucky Fund to help Kentuckians whose employment has been affecte

Beshear, along with the Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet, took executive action (https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__lnks.gd_l_eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDAzMzAuMTk1MTQ4MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJod 5F-5FFekMGpkxmkkoLV9towLYHE-2Deo_br_76820203347-2Dl&d=DwMFAA&c=jvUANN7rYqzaQJvTqI-69lgi41yDEZ3CXTgIEaHlx7c&r=aSLZej5osVaMEy6_WW3a0eNSm9C Fund, an online platform to provide help to Kentuckians affected financially during the COVID-19 emergency.

This fund will complement other efforts from the state's unemployment payments to federal stimulus, said Lt. Gov. Coleman, who is also secretary of the Education and Workfo

"We are going to be partnering with Community Action of Kentucky. We are going to be partnering with this group because they have a long history of impactful work. This orga

Gov. Beshear said that right now there is more than $1.8 million raised or pledged to the Team Kentucky Fund.

"More than 7,000 people have donated. Most of the donations were less than $100," the Governor said. "We've also had some businesses and private donors step up with gifts

In addition to the Kentucky Colonels' unprecedented donation, Gov. Beshear highlighted some of the major gifts, including $125,000 from an anonymous business donor, $100 with 100% of proceeds going to the Team Kentucky Fund.)

"I want to thank everyone for their generosity in this," the Governor said. "Nobody's personal finances are in a positive place as we go through this. Thinking about the fact that

University of Kentucky Football Coach Mark Stoops sent a video promoting the Team Kentucky Fund.

"Any coach will tell you, in order to have success, you have to have to execute a game plan. Our game plan is this: stay healthy and stay home. And keep a safe distance from

"But much like a team, you also need a strong supporting cast. That is why the Governor and the Team Kentucky Fund has put together an initiative and a fundraiser," Coach S

Donate to the Team Kentucky Fund at www.donate.ky.gov (http://www.donate.ky.gov).

Drive-through testing update

Gov. Beshear provided updates and clarification about the state's partnership with Kroger to provide drive-through testing for the coronavirus in the commonwealth.

A main point of emphasis is that Kroger stores and pharmacies are *not* testing sites. Please do not call the stores or pharmacies seeking to register for the tests.

For those seeking to register for a test, a new website has been established. For location details or to register for a test, visit KROGERHEALTH.COM/COVIDTESTING (KROG

Those eligible for the tests include people exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, shortness of breath and cough; health care workers and first responders who may

The testing is done free of charge. The overall goal of the partnership is to conduct 20,000 tests over the next five weeks. Test results are expected within approximately 48 hou

Census update

Gov. Beshear is continuing to encourage Kentuckians to do their Constitutional duty and fill out the 2020 U.S. Census.

"The Census provides significant dollars," the Governor said. "When we talk about needing to rebuild our economy, we are leaving dollars on the table unless every Kentucky fa

Newly released numbers show that Kentucky is outpacing the national average 51% to 49.1% in self-response to the Census. However, a regional look at the commonwealth s

"This is really important for the months ahead when we can look to not just restarting but reviving our economy," the Governor said.

Field hospital update

Kentucky National Guard Adj. Gen. Hal Lamberton provided an update on the field hospital (https://youtu.be/8FBWL7tldCU) at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

"At this moment, it is operational. We currently have 250 beds there. We have the potential of expanding that should the need arise," Gen. Lamberton said. "The intent of this a can't wait till that need is already there, we've got to have this prepared in advance of the need, thus the operational date now, well ahead."

He said the collaborative effort includes the Kentucky National Guard, Kentucky Emergency Management, the Kentucky Department for Public Health, Kentucky Homeland Sec

Case information

As of 5 p.m. April 15, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 2,291 coronavirus cases (https://governor.ky.gov/attachments/20200415_COVID19_Case-Information.pdf) in Kentu

Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear also reported seven new deaths Tuesday, raising the state's toll to 122 deaths related to the virus.

"These seven people are a loss to all of us so let's make sure we light our houses up tonight, and our places of business," the Governor said.

The newly reported deaths include four women from Jefferson County, ages 88, 89 and two 93-year-olds; a 94-year-old woman from Hopkins County; a 48-year-old man from S

At least 862 people have recovered from COVID-19 in Kentucky.

To date, at least 28,324 people have been tested. At least 807 people have ever been hospitalized with 412 currently hospitalized. At least 367 have ever been in the ICU with

Gov. Beshear also offered an update on the racial breakdown of COVID-19 patients, which has been the subject of news stories across the country because of the disparity.

The Governor said with about 73% of the known cases accounted for, 80.62% of Kentuckians who tested positive were Caucasian, 11.63% were African-American, 4.93% were

On fatalities attributed to the coronavirus, with about 82% of the known cases accounted for, Kentucky deaths are about 77% Caucasian, 22% African-American and 1% Asian

"Again, those are concerning numbers," the Governor said.

More information

The Governor is asking all Kentuckians to continue to fight the spread of the virus by following his 10-step guidance (https://www.facebook.com/GovAndyBeshear/photos/rpp.1 the lives of as many as 11,000 Kentuckians.

Read about other key updates, actions and information from Gov. Beshear and his administration at governor.ky.gov (https://governor.ky.gov/news), kycovid19.ky.gov (https://g and YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/c/GovAndyBeshear). Watch the Governor's social media accounts at 5 p.m. ET each day for his regular briefing.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages people to follow these steps to prevent illness (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prev hotline at 800-722-5725 or call their local health care provider.

Team Kentucky hashtags for social media

#TeamKentucky, #TogetherKY, #Patriot and #HealthyAtHome.

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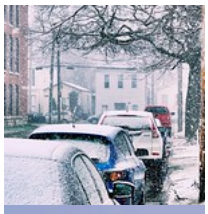
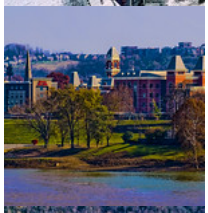
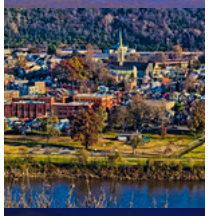
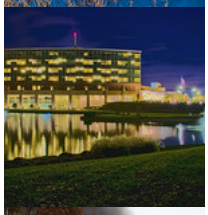
-  (https://www.flickr.com/photos/7372926@N06/47218320672/in/pool-773339@N20)
-  (https://www.flickr.com/photos/miamiboy/47184596121/in/pool-773339@N20)
-  (https://www.flickr.com/photos/miamiboy/47184413071/in/pool-773339@N20)
-  (https://www.flickr.com/photos/miamiboy/32275086277/in/pool-773339@N20)
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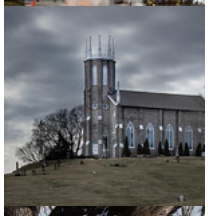
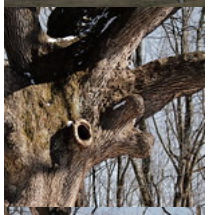
-  (https://www.flickr.com/photos/127721144@N05/46918072332/in/pool-773339@N20)
-  (https://www.flickr.com/photos/mcconnell_springs_photo_journal/46864760851/in/pool-773339@N20)
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