



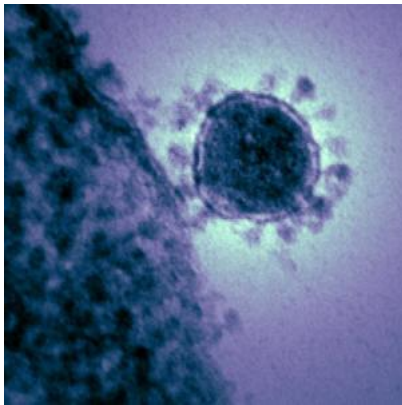
Health Watch USAsm

Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org April 1, 2020

Member of the National Quality Forum and a designated "Community Leader" for Value-Driven Healthcare by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

Over the last month Health Watch USA written 9 articles and has been on 15 radio shows concerning the COVID-19 virus. These plus additional resources can be accessed from: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/COVID19.htm>



The United States has squandered resources it needs to fight coronavirus

The United States is on the verge of being ravaged by an invader which we have far too little resources to confront. New estimates from the United Kingdom are predicting 2.2 million deaths in the United States from an unmitigated coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic. Many believe that this epidemic will only affect the elderly.

However, the young can become very sick, with 5 percent requiring ICU care. If our healthcare system is overrun, this care will not be available to all. In Italy, there are reports of those over 80 not being placed on ventilators. In addition, critical care survivors, including the young, may well develop pulmonary fibrosis, a disabling chronic lung disease. And if you smoke you are probably at an even higher risk.

<https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article241422756.html>

The U.S. was beset by denial and dysfunction as the coronavirus raged.

"From the Oval Office to the CDC, political and institutional failures cascaded through the system and opportunities to mitigate the pandemic were lost."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2020/04/04/coronavirus-government-dysfunction/>

How a shortage of face masks at KY hospitals makes some nurses feel like 'collateral' damage.

Some reportedly can only wear N-95 masks for COVID-19 test positive patients. Lexington Herald Leader: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/coronavirus/article241684456.html>

The New York Times Nursing Homes Becoming Islands of Isolation Amid 'Shocking' Mortality Rate

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, an expert in infection control who has been critical of lax practices at nursing homes, lauded the new guidance that restricts social visits. This extreme level of quarantine is sometimes known as "reverse isolation" and was used to effect during the Spanish Flu epidemic, Dr. Kavanagh said.

"As evidenced by the Life Care Center in Kirkland, once the virus starts to spread in the facility it ravages its residents," he said. He said that "the importance is in delay." <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/10/us/coronavirus-nursing-homes-washington-seattle.html>



Are Churches & Singing a Major Risk Factor for Spread?

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USA(sm) discusses asymptomatic spread and the unacceptable risks in-church services and singing pose on the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Jack Pattie Radio Show

WVLK AM April 3, 2020. <https://youtu.be/z9xpRku7kaE>

Infection Control Today Article Regarding COVID-19 and Churches.

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/covid-19/churches-could-be-deadliest-places-covid-19-pandemic>

Discussion regarding asymptomatic spread, social distancing and the lack of hospital beds, masks, and test reagents. Also, the need for N95 masks for the public. Jack Pattie Show March 19, 2020.

<https://youtu.be/li04bjncrTM>

A short coronavirus (COVID-19) update on the Jack Pattie show. Social distancing is discussed along with how using only a mask may not give adequate protection.

Jack Pattie Show March 13, 2020. <https://youtu.be/d04T9UOQ828>

Updated information on transmission, fatality rates and the utility of masks is discussed. In addition, strategies to prevent transmission to individuals are presented. Emphasis is also placed on changes which need to be made by employers and our healthcare system. Jack Pattie Show WVLK AM March. 3, 2020. YouTube Video: https://youtu.be/lrzNgwzl_44

Download Show Notes on COVID-19: http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Meeting/PDF-Download/20200303-HWUSA_COVIR-19_Notes.pdf

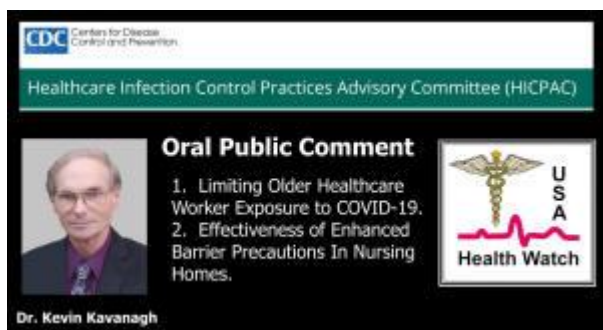


Coronavirus (COVID-19) is discussed on the Jeff Santos Show

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh discusses the Importance of the public wearing DIY masks & federal coordination. Jeff Santos Show. April 2, 2020. (18:36) <https://youtu.be/jyZD4qEvOdM>

The COVID-19 epidemic and the lack of resources, including hospital beds, along with inconsistent messaging and the importance of social distancing. Jeff Santos Show. March 16, 2020. <https://youtu.be/cFYhub2m7FU>

Discussion regarding the COVID-19 virus, how to prevent infections and the shortcomings and strengths of the United States' Response. (Edited Version containing Dr. Kavanagh's comments.) Jeff Santos Show March 12, 2020. <https://youtu.be/xoUfs04zxdQ>



Two Comments: Age of Healthcare Worker and COVID-19 - Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Nursing Homes

Kevin Kavanagh, MD, MS public comment to CDC's HICPAC meeting March 5, 2020 regarding: 1. Limiting Older Healthcare Worker Exposure to COVID-19. 2. Concerns Regarding Effectiveness of Enhanced Barrier Precautions In Nursing Homes.

Youtube Presentation: <https://youtu.be/dFuSVICEhG8>

As COVID-19 Knocks on Nursing Homes' Doors, Full-Time Infection Preventionists Needed More Than Ever. <https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/covid-19/covid-19-knocks-nursing-homes-doors-full-time-infection-preventionists-needed-more-ever>

Viewpoint: US Woefully Unprepared for COVID-19 Pandemic

A news commentator made the alarmist statement that we may get to the point where the national guard is escorting patients to a high school gym for placement on ventilators. This is of course a ridiculously misinformed statement since we do not have enough ventilators. <https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/covid-19/viewpoint-us-woefully-unprepared-covid-19-pandemic>

COVID-19: IPs, Other Healthcare Workers at Greater Jeopardy Than Thought

Just a few days ago, an important study was released by Japanese researchers regarding COVID-19 testing on the passengers of the Diamond Princess cruise ship. There were 634 positive tests from 3711 passengers. Of extreme concern, 17.9% of these passengers were asymptomatic and presumably could spread the virus. The risks of asymptomatic carriage was heightened by Dutch researchers who estimated that "The proportion of pre-symptomatic transmission was 48% (95%CI 32-67%) for Singapore and 62% (95%CI 50-76%) for Tianjin, China." This should create concerns regarding protocols which enable exposed healthcare workers to continue to see patients and the reuse of PPE.

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/covid-19/covid-19-ips-other-healthcare-workers-greater-jeopardy-thought>

Viewpoint: We're Losing the Fight Against COVID-19 So Far

Our response to COVID-19 is by far too little too late. We seem to be at risk of entering into a blame game and "politicizing" the problems. Our response to this contagion shows severe flaws in our healthcare delivery system. As one government official stated, "We have for whatever reason and there are many good ones, designed a system based on very lean staffing practices based on just-in-time supply chains and purchasing."

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/coronavirus/viewpoint-were-losing-fight-against-covid-19-so-far>

We'll Know We've Won the War Against COVID-19 When...

Judging when we have won the war against the coronavirus is not as simple as setting a benchmark of having no positive tests for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus which causes COVID-19) in the United States for two or four consecutive weeks. Because SARS-CoV-2 is an RNA virus, genetic drift may well occur which changes its viral capsule.

The good news is that we have the technology and know-how to confront and substantially mitigate these epidemics. What we have lacked is the willpower to implement this knowledge. We will have won when the following takes place: (See Infection Control Today View Point) When the healthcare system meets all of these goals then I would consider it has won. If we are unable to rapidly transform our system and correct these flagrant deficiencies, then the worse projections from the Imperial College projections of 2.2 million United States citizen fatalities may come to pass

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/covid-19/well-know-weve-won-war-against-covid-19-when>

Health Care Quality

Measurement of the Incidence of Hospital Pressure Ulcers, an Unfulfilled Need of Paramount Importance.

"The decade long struggle to have the second most common adverse event publicly reportable and to have a meaningful impact in value-based purchasing programs may well be a testament to the observation that public health is at the intersection of politics and medicine. The healthcare industry needs to place patients first and implement a publicly reported pressure injury metric which has a weighting in value-based purchasing initiatives commensurate to the impact this event has on patients."

CDDEP

The Untimely Reporting of Drug-Resistant Outbreaks in the United States.

"Over the course of the last few decades, the United States has fallen into the dark abyss of secrecy: if truth is inconvenient, just cover it up and don't disclose it. The United States needs to implement mandatory real-time public reporting of the CDC's dangerous biological threats." Kavanagh KT. CDDEP Blog Posting. Mar. 2, 2020.

<https://cddep.org/blog/posts/the-untimely-reporting-of-drug-resistant-outbreaks/>

Op-Ed: Without universal healthcare, coronavirus puts us all at risk

Commonwealth Fund: "In dealing with a public health crisis, we can't separate individual interests from those of the community. Likewise, health insurance coverage has to cover everyone if we want a system that works effectively and efficiently. The coronavirus, whether it becomes a full-blown epidemic or not, demonstrates that the health system cannot leave anyone out."

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2020-03-05/op-ed-time-to-ramp-up-medicaid-to-pay-for-universal-coronavirus-care>



Armando Nahum Discusses Patient Engagement and The Importance of Partnership for Patients

Armando Nahum, a nationally renowned patient advocate tells his personal story of how he lost his son to a healthcare acquired infection. He also discusses hospital performance improvement under CMS's partnership for patient program and the importance of patient engagement. Health Watch USA meeting March 18,

2020. https://youtu.be/6bxX_Dy0Stw

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