



# Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup>

## Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) May 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>*



### Healthcare system's basic infrastructure left it unprepared for COVID-19

"Hospitals are receiving massive bailouts based upon their Medicare billings. However, this will primarily shunt money to large healthcare systems as opposed to frontline hospitals. Similar, to everyday citizens' stimulus checks, hospital bailouts should be based upon need. Non-profits with high net assets should not receive as much funds as frontline hospitals with negative assets. If for-profit facilities or private equity firms receive a bailout, it should be paid back with interest or the Government should acquire an equity position in the company. And all of this should be predicated on not furloughing workers." Lexington Herald Leader. April 28, 2020. <https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article242268966.html>



### There's No Excuse for Lean Healthcare Systems — Especially during COVID-19

"There is no excuse for running a system which is lean on hospital rooms, supplies and staff. Net-profits and assets are desirable, but not at the expense of public safety. Hospital staff are being asked to see patients under draconian conditions and at the same time they do not have an adequate economic and healthcare safety net. Healthcare workers do not need paid sick leave, they need adequate PPE and worker's compensation benefits, if they become infected. IPs are placing both themselves and their families' lives at grave risk under the crisis management CDC infectious disease recommendations. That is the very

least we can do for them." Med Page Today (non-redacted version). April 20, 2020:

<https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/86061>



## **Viewpoint: CDC's Changing Guidance Underscores How COVID-19 Keeps Winning**

"Needless to say, additional PPE is desperately needed, hopefully both increased manufacturing and sterilization techniques will relieve the shortage. In addition, the strategy adopted by New York State to designate some facilities to exclusively treat COVID-19 patients and others for non-COVID-19 patients to help improve patient safety should be adopted in other areas of the nation. We must make protecting our frontline healthcare workers and patients a priority. Rapid testing will go a long way in assuring the safety of patients by identifying asymptomatic carriers in healthcare workers and staff. Infection Control Today." April 15, 2020. <https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/covid-19/viewpoint-cdcs-changing-guidance-underscores-how-covid-19-keeps-winning> (More Infection Control Today)

## **Viewpoint: Have You Heard About the Herd? It's a COVID-19 Fallacy**

"Strategies of social distancing, not gathering in large crowds, wearing masks and protecting those at increased risk are required to manage this epidemic. Returning to life as usual with the dependence on herd immunity in a non-vaccinated population to control spread is almost certainly a false narrative."

<https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/covid-19/viewpoint-have-you-heard-about-herd-its-covid-19-fallacy>

## **Churches Could be the Deadliest Places in the COVID-19 Pandemic.**

**One may ask: Why am I calling out churches?** The answer is asymptomatic spread and aerosolization of the virus from singing. Infection Control Today. April 3, 2020.

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

## **Other HW USA Articles on Infection Control**

**Today:** [http://www.healthwatchusa.org/COVID19-ICT-Radio.htm#Infection\\_Control\\_Today\\_Articles](http://www.healthwatchusa.org/COVID19-ICT-Radio.htm#Infection_Control_Today_Articles)

## News Articles

### 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.” New York Times. March 10, 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/10/us/coronavirus-nursing-homes-washington-seattle.html>

### The New York Times

#### **Blood-pressure drugs are in the crosshairs of COVID-19 research. Reuters News Service.**

Nelson D. New York Times April 23, 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2020/04/23/us/23reuters-health-conoravirus-blood-pressure-insight.html> <https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-conoravirus-blood-pressure-ins-idUKKCN2251GQ>

"Dr Kevin Kavanagh, founder of Health Watch USA, a patient advocacy organization, questioned whether scientists who are funded by the drug industry should be advising clinicians, given the high stakes. "You need to consider stepping back, and let others without a conflict of interest try to make a call," Kavanagh said." His organization recommends that doctors temporarily avoid putting new patients on the drugs and warn those currently on them to take extreme precautions to avoid virus exposure.

### The New York Times

#### **How Prepared Is the U.S. for a Coronavirus Outbreak?**

Jacobus A. Fink S. New York Times. Feb. 29, 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/29/health/coronavirus-preparation-united-states.html>

"Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, who has studied infection control practices in health care settings, said such facilities might eventually have to limit visitors, or even keep residents under quarantine as a preventive measure. "Nursing homes will be extremely vulnerable to this

epidemic, and it will be difficult to implement hygiene practices to prevent the spread," he said."



### **Louisville area preacher defies ban on mass gatherings, plans to hold Sunday service.**

Sullivan T. Courier Journal. April 4, 2020. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/2020/04/04/preaching-gospel-defying-government/2943503001/>

"Dr. Kevin Kavanaugh, the Somerset-based founder of Health Watch USA, argues that church services pose specific and inordinate dangers during a pandemic. "One of the cruelest characteristics of the coronavirus epidemic is that it strikes fear in the hearts and minds of many causing them to ask for comfort and protection from the God they believe in," Kavanaugh wrote in an essay published Friday in Infection Control Today." And at the same time this virus has made a church service one of the most deadliest places to be in. The combination of singing in close quarters and decreased ventilation is nothing short of a petri dish (or cell plate) for viral growth.""



### **Patient advocate: State needs more aggressive action to confront COVID-19 deaths.**

Morgan-Besecker T. The Citizens' Voice. April 22, 2020. <https://www.citizensvoice.com/news/patient-advocate-state-needs-more-aggressive-action-to-confront-covid-19-deaths-1.2620809>

"Kevin Kavanaugh, director of Health Watch USA, a patient advocacy group, said efforts to halt the virus from entering facilities fell short with catastrophic outcomes. "You try to wall off the home from the outside. Once COVID-19 gets into the nursing home environment ... it tends to ravage residents and it does not stop," Kavanaugh said. Many homes tried to halt the spread by isolating residents to a specific floor. Kavanaugh said the government must consider taking it a step further and designate one facility to house infected patients."

## **Radio / Podcasts**

### ***Open or Not Open Our Economy - Is COVID-19 Herd Immunity a False Narrative ?***

Kevin Kavanaugh, MD, from Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup>, discusses the COVID-19 experience in Sweden vs. Finland and if the United States should open their economy, stressing the

importance of worker safety and patrons wearing masks. Problems with herd immunity are also discussed along with the fast tracking of vaccines. Jack Pattie Show. May 1, 2020. (15:31) [https://youtu.be/l\\_VsLXZ-XM](https://youtu.be/l_VsLXZ-XM)

### ***False COVID-19 Narratives from Elected Official's?***

Kevin Kavanagh, MD from Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> responds to the false narratives of elected officials. Issues of piecemeal opening in states, infection rates and dangers of COVID-19 along with the use of mask by both employees and employers in retail establishments. The importance of officials wearing viral filtering masks in hospitals was also emphasized. Jack Pattie Show. (9:43) April 29, 2020. <https://youtu.be/IFXjVkpFwA>

***COVID-19 Governor's Coalition & Universal Healthcare.*** Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> discusses the importance of a national strategy, the regional coalitions formed by our nation's governors; and not running a lean healthcare system with small stockpiles of PPE and lack of redundancy of healthcare workers. In addition, comparisons of the performance of different countries in controlling COVID-19 is discussed in its relationship to universal healthcare. Jeff Santos Show. April 16, 2020. <https://youtu.be/c88fKXUDvPo>

### ***Sixteen Additional Radio / Podcast Segments for April 2020.***

[http://www.healthwatchusa.org/COVID19-ICT-Radio.htm#Infection Control Today Articles](http://www.healthwatchusa.org/COVID19-ICT-Radio.htm#Infection%20Control%20Today%20Articles)

## **COVID-19 Articles of Interest**

***Excess U.S. deaths hit estimated 37,100 in pandemic's early days, far more than previously known*** <https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/2020/05/02/excess-deaths-during-covid-19/>

***Hydroxychloroquine is associated with slower viral clearance in clinical COVID-19 patients with mild to moderate disease: A retrospective study*** <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.27.20082180v1>

COVID-19: NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist Poll National Tables April 21st through April 26th, 2020

Do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea to do each of the following without further testing for the coronavirus?

	Good idea	Bad idea	Unsure
	How %	How %	How %
Have people return to work	32%	65%	3%
Open restaurants for people to eat in them	15%	80%	5%
Have students return to school	14%	83%	3%
Allow large groups of people to attend sporting events	8%	81%	1%

NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist Poll National Tables

***4/29: NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist Poll Results & Analysis (Click on Picture to Enlarge)***  
<http://maristpoll.marist.edu/4-29-npr-pbs-newshour-marist-poll-results-analysis/#sthash.n2bzD9Ff.cJTIUCL2.dpbs>

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