



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org June 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

In the Month of June, Health Watch USAsm has written 2 articles, one video podcast and has been on 16 radio shows concerning the COVID-19 virus. These plus additional resources can be accessed from: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/COVID19.htm>



Why the Public Should Wear Masks During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Initially, the public was advised not to wear masks. However, this was before the importance of asymptomatic transmission was known. Recent studies have also underscored the growing importance of person-to-person transmission through the air. Guidance

changed. It is now recommended for the public to wear cotton masks. This guidance is not intended to protect the wearer, but to help prevent the wearer from spreading the virus to others if they are an unknown asymptomatic carrier.

<https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/covid-19/why-public-should-wear-masks-during-covid-19-pandemic>

Reopening After COVID-19 Needs to be Done Carefully

Kevin Kavanagh, MD, the board chairman of the patient advocacy group Health Watch USAsm, talks to Infection Control Today about the perils of reopening too quickly and the value of cloth masks. "What worries me the most about reopening is that people are going to say, 'Oh, it's over with' and not do any sort of protection, whether it's social distancing, wearing masks, not gathering in crowds. I really think that people will think, 'Well, we got this beat.'" <https://youtu.be/-3p23E2qBbo>

Text Version: <https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/covid-19/qa-reopening-after-covid-19-proceed-caution>

What Republican Governors & Leaders Are Saying About the Public Wearing Masks



News Articles



Rich hospitals, poor safety plans leading up to coronavirus: Should rules change for them now?

"As many hospitals cut staff and more than 9,200 health care workers have been diagnosed

with COVID-19, Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, founder of the patient safety group Health Watch USA, said the government shouldn't bail them out after they "put us all at risk." He calls it "a step in the right direction" that rural hospitals and those with the most COVID-19 patients were getting money Friday, but said "non-profit facilities with net assets in the billions should have to first leverage these assets before receiving public funds." " USA Today. May 10, 2020. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/05/10/coronavirus-should-rich-hospitals-bankroll-better-pandemic-plans/3048437001/>

As obesity's link to COVID-19 grows, one family that lost 24-year-old daughter diets together

"Along with making mechanical ventilation harder, being severely overweight can make it harder to breath, reducing the patient's own ventilation, said Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, a Kentucky physician and founder of the patient advocacy group Health Watch USA."

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2020/05/23/obesity-makes-covid-19-risk-larger-hospitals-challenges-much-harder/5221600002/>

Radio / Podcasts

COVID-19: Memorial Day Weekend in Kentucky

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USAsm discusses memorial day opening in Kentucky, tips for eating out and the importance of wearing a mask and social distancing. Jack Pattie Show. May 27, 2020. (7:10) <https://youtu.be/eW5RW9rlcoE>

COVID-19: Kentucky's Mask Controversy.

Dr Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USAsm discusses the need for wearing masks to combat the COVID-19 epidemic along with the controversy which is taking place in Kentucky. The Jack Pattie Show. WVLK AM 590. (8:43) May 18, 2020. <https://youtu.be/iA4Roa82iLA>

COVID-19. The Public Needs Testing Availability As The White House & The False Narrative of Herd Immunity.

Kevin Kavanagh, MD, from Health Watch USAsm discusses herd immunity and how the infectivity and immune response to the virus makes this an unrealistic strategy. This is further complicated by the emergence of a new strain 614G on the East Coast. Jack Pattie Show with Scott Johnson. WVLK 590. (14:40) May 8, 2020. <https://youtu.be/AVpE6onrMTL>

The Missing COVID-19 CDC Guidelines on Reopening the Economy.

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, MD, from Health Watch USAsm discusses roadblocks and what is needed to reopen the economy and the 17 page missing CDC report needs to be released and used as a national template. Jeff Santos Show: May 7, 2020.

<https://youtu.be/gB0f93DmTUA>

COVID-19 Articles of Interest

Wealthiest Hospitals Got Billions in Bailout for Struggling Health Providers

NYT: "Twenty large chains received more than \$5 billion in federal grants even while sitting on more than \$100 billion in cash.

It is the Providence Health System, one of the country's largest and richest hospital chains. It is sitting on nearly \$12 billion in cash, which it invests, Wall Street-style, in a good year generating more than \$1 billion in profits. And this spring, Providence received at least \$509 million in government funds from capsizing during the coronavirus pandemic."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/25/business/coronavirus-hospitals-bailout.html>

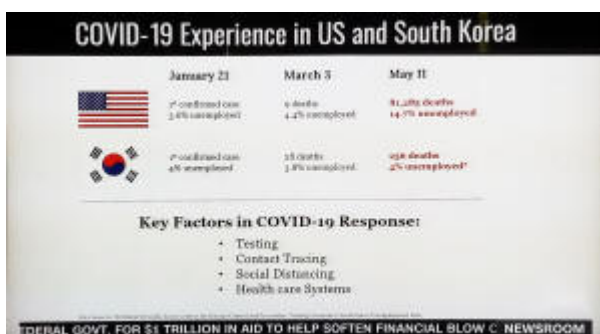
Pandemic's overall death toll in U.S. likely surpassed 100,000 weeks ago

WaPo: "Between March 1 and May 9, the nation recorded an estimated 101,600 excess deaths, or deaths beyond the number that would normally be expected for that time of year, according to an analysis conducted for The Washington Post by a research team led by the Yale School of Public Health. That figure reflects about 26,000 more fatalities than were attributed to covid-19 on death certificates during that period, according to federal data. "

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/investigations/coronavirus-excess-deaths-may/>

Over 66,000 Healthcare Workers Have Contracted COVID-19.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>



Slide Presented at U.S. Senate HELP Committee on May 12,2020.

Compares U.S. to S. Korea on COVID-19 Experience. Sort of says it all. On May 11, 2020, the population of the United States is 328 million of Korea is 51.6 million. The USA has 6.4 times the population of Korea, but has 317.5 times the deaths.

As Florida re-opens, COVID-19 data chief gets sidelined and researchers cry foul

Late last Friday, the architect and manager of Florida's COVID-19 dashboard — praised by White House officials for its accessibility — announced that she had been removed from her post, causing outcry from independent researchers now worried about government censorship. But over the last few weeks it had "crashed" and gone offline; data has gone missing without explanation and access to the underlying data sheets has become increasingly difficult.

<https://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/2020/05/18/censorship-covid-19-data-researcher-removed-florida-moves-re-open-state/5212398002/>

By order of Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp: The day after Thursday is now Sunday

"But as the Atlanta Journal-Constitution noted, it was the third such "error" in as many weeks involving sloppy counting of cases, deaths and other measures tracking covid-19."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/05/18/only-america-is-sunday-day-after-thursday/>

'Confused and scared': Georgians frustrated over shifting virus data

<https://www.ajc.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/confused-and-scared-georgians-frustrated-over-shifting-virus-data/k9oUbZDE3z6iyuWQBF7gJ/>

The airborne lifetime of small speech droplets and their potential importance in SARS-CoV-2 transmission

"Highly sensitive laser light scattering observations have revealed that loud speech can emit thousands of oral fluid droplets per second. In a closed, stagnant air environment, they disappear from the window of view with time constants in the range of 8 to 14 min, which corresponds to droplet nuclei of ca. 4 μm diameter, or 12- to 21- μm droplets prior to dehydration. These observations confirm that there is a substantial probability that normal speaking causes airborne virus transmission in confined environments."

<https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/05/12/2006874117>

Widely Used Surgical Masks Are Putting Health Care Workers At Serious Risk

"With medical supplies in high demand, federal authorities say health workers can wear

surgical masks for protection while treating COVID-19 patients — but growing evidence suggests the practice is putting workers in jeopardy."

<https://khn.org/news/widely-used-surgical-masks-are-putting-health-care-workers-at-serious-risk/>

Cloth masks can stop up to 90% of the droplets which spread the virus.

<https://www.preprints.org/manuscript/202004.0203/v2>

New modeling shows that if over 80% of the public wears a mask, the epidemic will markedly decrease and possibly stop.

<https://mashable.com/article/coronavirus-study-80-percent-of-americans-wear-masks/>

<https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2020/05/masks-covid-19-infections-would-plummet-new-study-says>



**Through the Eyes
of the Frontline:
COVID 19**

*Health Watch USAsm & Massachusetts Nurses Association COVID-19
Worker Safety Conference*

Keynote Speakers:

- Dr. Christina Vandenbroucke-Grauls, C.M.J.E.
Editor Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control
Professor of Medical Microbiology, VU University medical center, Netherlands.
- Dr. Matthias Maiwald Adj Assoc Prof Matthias Maiwald is a Senior Consultant and the Head of Service, Microbiology, at KK Women's and Children's Hospital, and an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Department of Microbiology Service & Senior Consultant

(Microbiology), Singapore.

- Dr. Rodriguez-Baño is the immediate past president of the ESCMID (European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID).) and associated editor of Associate-Editor of Clinical Microbiology and Infection, Spain.

More information at: www.healthconference.org

Preliminary Agenda: http://www.healthconference.org/healthconference.org-files/2020Conference_downloads/Draft-Schedule-July-15th-Conference.pdf

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