



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

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Aug 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 July Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> has:*

- Written 2 articles/opeds regarding COVID-19,
- Participated in 3 COVID-19 video podcasts,
- Has been on 18 radio shows concerning the COVID-19 virus.

Our 2020 COVID-19 Conference Presentations and additional resources can be accessed from: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/COVID19.htm> & [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org)

## **On COVID-19, the U.S. is turning into a dangerous cult of bad information**

Some of us formed into online cliques and developed a Jonestown cult mentality in our approach to American life. Added to the toxic mix, foreign agitation placed us on the precipice of one of the greatest ordeals which our society may endure – COVID-19. A study from Carnegie Mellon University found almost half the tweets regarding the coronavirus are likely bots with a playbook similar to Chinese and Russian disinformation campaigns. Reuters reported similar findings, describing a European Union document which concluded Russia implemented an online misinformation campaign, in multiple languages, which was making the EU's response to the epidemic difficult.

Lexington Herald Leader. July 8, 2020.

Read more here: <https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article244032807.html>

## **Founder of Health Watch USA: Kentucky should consider shutting bars**

"We still have our heads in the sand, thinking 'It won't happen here in Kentucky, we need to go on just living as we always have,'" said Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, the founder and board chairman of Health Watch USA, a non-profit patient advocacy and healthcare policy research organization. "And that's anything but the truth."

Dr. Kavanagh is growing increasingly worried that the pleas for people to wear masks are falling on deaf ears. "I mean, if they're not wearing masks in the grocery store, they're probably not going to wear them in a bar where they're trying to drink at the same time," Dr. Kavanagh said. Citing research that shows daily growth in infections would be significantly reduced if 80% of the population wears masks. Dr. Kavanagh suggested the federal government issue a stronger directive on masks."

"If you have a huge outbreak, you can have governors take the lead in putting out fires," Dr. Kavanagh said. "But to prevent spread between states, the virus knows no geographic boundaries. You need to have a national coherent policy." Lex 18.

<https://www.lex18.com/news/coronavirus/founder-of-healthcare-org-beshear-should-consider-shutting-bars>



## **COVID-19 Experience Suggests Need for National Reporting System for Dangerous Pathogens**

"After decades of reluctance to implement a national reporting system, when COVID-19 came along we witnessed almost overnight the formulation of case definitions and comprehensive national reporting from all healthcare facilities. A dangerous pathogen is a dangerous pathogen; we should not discriminate on our approach to COVID-19. The nursing home reporting policies for COVID-19 need to be adopted systemwide for all dangerous pathogens and our infrastructure permanently enhanced. One may think that enhancement is a forgone conclusion. But we did not learn these lessons from the 1918 Spanish flu or from the Ebola, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) or Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) outbreaks. Six months or 6 years after this epidemic our resolve may wane. IPs need to document their experiences and keep telling their stories so our memories of this horrific ordeal do not fade. Infection Control Today. July 20, 2020." <https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/covid-19-experience-suggests-need-for-national-reporting-system-for-dangerous-pathogens>

## **COVID-19: Experience in Other Countries.**

Infection Control Today: Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> discusses the 2019 COVID-19 International Webinar which was organized with the Massachusetts Nurses Association. Most nations underestimated the lethality and infectivity of SARS-CoV-2. As more knowledge was gained public health guidance in various countries changed and their public changed their behavior. In the United States the changing narrative created mistrust and the public did not follow guidance. COVID-19 Videos from Infectious disease experts from The Netherlands, Singapore and Spain can be viewed at [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org) View ICT Video: <https://youtu.be/XvNsTdV26t0>

## **News Articles**

### **Once seemingly insulated, Kentucky's Appalachian counties scramble to stop COVID-19 outbreak**

"Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, a retired physician and infectious-control advocate in Somerset who

runs a patient-safety group called Health Watch USA, said tracing remains a crucial measure, though it gets less effective as cases grow and lab results in some areas take more than a week. Courier Journal." July 31, 2020. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2020/07/31/covid-19-appalachia-tiny-health-departments-struggle-outbreak/5526869002/>

## **Hospitals must treat infection control as a priority, not a profit center**

"We have gone far too long with not making the proper investments," warned Kevin Kavanagh, the physician founder of Health Watch USA, in a recent commentary in Infection Control Today. "I fear that, as a society, we may well have to pay the price for this neglect." <https://www.statnews.com/2020/07/01/hospitals-must-treat-infection-control-as-a-priority-not-a-profit-center/>

## **Radio / Podcasts**

### **2020, July 31: COVID-19: New Studies Hydroxychloroquine Does Not Work & Infrastructure Needed To Open Schools**

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> discusses the safety of medical care in the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic along with new studies showing the mechanism of action of hydroxychloroquine which explains why it works in the lab but does not work in live humans. In addition, infrastructure changes in restaurants and schools are needed to modify buildings to make them safer during the COVID-19 pandemic. And finally, should we be wearing goggles? Jack Pattie Show. WVLK AM 590. (14:32) <https://youtu.be/EwXI-CIbvKs>

### **2020, July 30: COVID-19: Opening Schools – What needs to be done.**

Governor Michael Dukakis, Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, Melissa Tomlinson, David Palelogous discuss the complexities of opening schools. The need to lower community infection rates and modification of a school's infrastructure are of utmost importance. Concerns exist over the safety of teachers along with that of parents as new research shows risks of infections from children. Jeff Santos Show. Radio Show has two segments.

1) <https://soundcloud.com/ron-crider/73020-hr-3-gov-dukakis-dr-kavanaugh-melissa-tomlinson-david-palelogous>

2) <https://soundcloud.com/ron-crider/73020-hr-3-gov-dukakis-dr-kavanaugh-melissa-tomlinson-david-palelogous-1>

## **COVID-19: Retort to a Coronavirus Denier & Hopes for a Vaccine**

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh From Health Watch USA™ disagrees with a caller who feels herd immunity can be achieved and COVID-19 is no more deadly in the elderly than the flu. In addition, the new Pfizer's vaccine is discussed along with how to keep safer during the Fourth of July. The suggestion of applying pool testing to family cohorts for both nursing homes and schools is discussed. Jack Pattie Show. July 3, 2020. WVLC AM 590. (13:32) <https://youtu.be/hnJld6CIAUY>

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

### **COVID-19 infections leave an impact on the heart, raising concerns about lasting damage**

STAT: "Taken together, the two studies, published Monday in JAMA Cardiology, suggest that in many patients, Covid-19 could presage heart failure, a chronic, progressive condition in which the heart's ability to pump blood throughout the body declines. It is too soon to say if the damage in patients recovering from Covid-19 is transient or permanent, but cardiologists are worried."

<https://www.statnews.com/2020/07/27/covid19-concerns-about-lasting-heart-damage/>

### **COVID-19 Infections Underestimated From Sea to Shining Sea—**

Large serosurvey reinforces two ideas: most infections are asymptomatic, and herd immunity remains a distant goal

"detectable SARS-CoV-2 antibodies ranged from 1.0% in the San Francisco Bay area (collected April 23-27) to 6.9% of persons in New York City (collected March 23-April 1). Six to 24 times more infections were estimated per site with seroprevalence than with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) case report data."

<https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/87671>

### **Nurses' Lawsuit Claims 'Fabricated' COVID-19 Tests at Georgia Hospital**

"A group of nurses at a Georgia hospital have filed a lawsuit accusing their CEO of what they call a "COVID-19 coverup" involving the improper collection of test samples to reduce positive test results for the virus and downplay its spread."

<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/932722>

## Contact Tracing of School Children during Coronavirus Disease Outbreaks, South Korea, 2020 – Can Children Spread COVID-19?

"Contact Tracing during Coronavirus Disease Outbreak, South Korea, 2020 Age 1 to 9 spread the virus half as frequently as adults as those 10 to 19 spread it more than adults." [https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/10/20-1315\\_article](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/10/20-1315_article)

## ‘Only those with plastic visors were infected’: Swiss government warns against face shields

"After a coronavirus outbreak where only those wearing plastic visors were infected, the Swiss government has said plastic shields are inadequate protection and should only be worn in combination with a face mask." <https://www.thelocal.ch/20200715/only-those-with-plastic-visors-were-infected-swiss-government-warns-against-face-shields>

## HCA Healthcare shares jump after beating Q2 expectations despite COVID-19

"HCA received 822 million dollars in federal COVID-19 aid. HCA could not have earned 1.1 billion dollars in the second quarter of 2020 without this aid." <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/hospitals/hca-healthcare-reports-q2-earnings>



## Through the Eyes of the Frontline: COVID 19

*Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> & Massachusetts Nurses Association COVID-19 Worker Safety Conference*

### Online Videos of KeyNote Presentations:

- Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, Board Chairman of Health Watch USA. United States. View Video: <https://youtu.be/L7qShqRSLIU>

- Dr. Christina Vandenbroucke-Grauls, Editor Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control and Professor of Medical Microbiology, VU University Medical Center: Netherlands. View Video: <https://youtu.be/UYLMgDgiI8g>
- 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) at Duke-National University of Singapore: Singapore. View Video: <https://youtu.be/EEWis0cOLLA>
- Dr. Rodriguez-Baño is the immediate past president of the ESCMID ( European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases ) and Associated Editor of Associate-Editor of Clinical Microbiology and Infection: Spain. View Video: <https://youtu.be/mxfGYAtskVY>
- Dr. Elaine Bernard served as Executive Director of the Labor and Worklife Program from 1989-2017 at Harvard University: Harvard University, United States. View Video: <https://youtu.be/UIMg156bM0A>

More information at: [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org)

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