



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

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

- Written 5 articles/opeds regarding COVID-19,
- Participated in 2 COVID-19 video podcasts,
- 16 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)

Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB)

## **Taking Aim at Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria During COVID - A review of the Fall 2020 PACCARB Meeting.**

Patients afflicted with COVID-19 have an increased susceptibility to antibiotic resistant infections both from prolonged hospitalizations and the use of immunocompromising agents such as dexamethasone. <https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/taking-aim-at-antibiotic-resistant-bacteria-during-covid>

**PACCARB, Sept. 2020 Public Comment:** "One Size Does Not Fit All" is an excuse for inaction, it did not work with MRSA and it led to a disastrous uncoordinated wack-a-mole approach with COVID-19. Of utmost importance is the implementation of a National Reporting System for Dangerous Pathogens. <https://youtu.be/yfJ8Yb5LiQk>

Download Written Comment <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Community/PACCARB-WrittenComments/20200909-Written-Comment.pdf>

## **COVID 19: History of Ineffective Infectious Disease Policy.**

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USA(sm) updates his previous lecture which traces the history of the United States response to the COVID-19 epidemic. A historical perspective is given, covering President George Bush's 2005 proposal of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act to the disastrous second peak of the first wave with continued shortages of medical supplies and the changing federal advisements on asymptomatic spread, viral aerosolization and use of masks.

Treatments are reviewed along with overstatements of efficacy. Finally, vaccines are discussed along with the review process and distribution barriers. Sept. 29, 2020. Kentucky Association for Health Care Quality & Southern Kentucky AHEC. [Download Presentation Slides](#)  
YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/xA7pR2bDAes>

## Los Angeles Times

**L.A.'s poorest patients endure long delays to see medical specialists. Some die waiting.**

"This care is an embarrassment and indictment of our healthcare delivery system," said Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, founder of the patient advocacy group Health Watch USA.

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-09-30/delays-los-angeles-hospitals-patients-deaths>



**Trick or Treat ... or COVID-19? Yes it is Airborne**

Traditional trick or treating is viewed as a high-risk-activity by the CDC. Of course, we all knew Halloween would be problematic. An important caveat for Halloween is not to use your Halloween mask to prevent the spread of coronavirus. It will offer very little protection. These recommendations contain many important lessons both for Halloween and how we should be living our lives in general. And Yes, it is Airborne. <https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/trick-or-treat-or-covid-19->

## **Is COVID-19 Primarily a Heart and Vascular Disease?**

Thus, the once thought asymptomatic patients who luckily dodged a bullet and were spared from the ravages of the disease, may indeed be truly sick. A significant portion of them may develop myocarditis along with vascular vasodilation with resultant hypoxemia. This pathological process could easily be more significant than the pulmonary effects of the virus, since it is present in both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients. And could explain the debilitating symptoms of fatigue and mental fog which "long-haulers" are experiencing, many of which had a mild initial illness. Infection Control Today. Sept. 8, 2020. <https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/is-covid-19-primarily-a-heart-and-vascular-diseases>

## **Viewpoint: Infection Preventionist Guide to Dealing with COVID Misinformation.**

"It is imperative that infection preventionists engage and combat this messaging on social media and wherever it occurs. To not do so, allows misinformation to fan the pandemic, placing all of our lives at

risk." After one leave retorts to the misinformation, "you will notice that you have numerous exchanges with one individual. That this individual has left a junkyard full of highly complex and intertwined web of misinformation. Yet for all of this work, when you go to the troll's home page, it will most likely be blank. This tells you may be dealing with a professional. If the troll responded to you throughout the entire day, he may well be on a payroll."

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/viewpoint-infection-preventionist-guide-to-dealing-with-covid-misinformation>

## **Eli Lilly Neutralizing Antibodies: Breakthrough for COVID-19 Treatment?**

Eli Lilly announced preliminary results to their SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibody product, LY-CoV555, which was reported to have spectacular results with a 72% decrease in hospitalizations or ER visits when mildly or moderately symptomatic patients are given the drug within 3 days of diagnosis. As observed in the Eli Lilly study, those newly diagnosed patients who are obese or have advanced age are the most likely to become hospitalized, and I feel initially this innovative product should be targeted toward these high-risk patients.

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/eli-lilly-neutralizing-antibodies-breakthrough-for-covid-19-treatment>

## **Radio / Podcasts**

### **COVID-19: CDC: It's Airborne & Healthy Buildings.**

Discussion regarding the importance of the CDC's announcement that the virus is airborne and that social distancing, wearing of N95 masks needs to be done by all. Schools need to upgrade their infrastructure paying particular attention to air flow and quality. Air should be completely recycled/refreshed and sterilized every 10 mins in normal conditions, but more frequently during a pandemic. We need to do more testing of students and to use masks plus social distancing. Jack Pattie Show. Sept. 21, 2020. WVLK AM 590. (5:30). <https://youtu.be/7u5wQx3vz34>

### **COVID-19: CDC Halloween Regulations -- It's Airborne.**

Discussion regarding the new CDC recommendations on Halloween and what they mean for other similar activities in our daily lives. Aerosole spread is described and outdoor activities with social distancing and masks are still referred to as "Moderate Risk". These recommendations should also apply to similar outdoor venues such as protests, political rallies, funerals and demonstrations. Indoors this is even more dangerous. Schools need to pay attention to their ventilation both with ample complete air exchanges and sanitation. Jack Pattie Show. WVLK AM 590. Sept. 28, 2020. [https://youtu.be/YJkwpn37\\_ck](https://youtu.be/YJkwpn37_ck)

## **COVID-19: Presidential Debates - No Wonder, We Can't Control The Pandemic.**

Discussion regarding the Presidential 'Debate' (if you could call it that) as it relates to COVID-19. What needed to be stressed was the opening of the economy safely, with PPE, social distancing and healthy buildings. Special attention needs to be placed on schools, similar to the attention given to professional athletes. College athletes should not rush back on the field until we know more about COVID-19 effects on the heart in young athletes. Jack Pattie Show. Sept. 20, 2020 WVLK AM 590. (5:22) <https://youtu.be/AUQNibr14fA>

## **COVID-19: The Great Sewage Initiative & Will There Be Enough Vaccines?**

Discussion regarding the innovative approach of pool testing of sewage to target community hotspots for case tracking and for making decisions regarding opening our economy. In addition, this technique can help in opening universities safely. Student behavior is also key to opening universities. Vaccines will be key to opening the economy and our educational institutions. Some estimate that it will take 4 years to vaccinate the world. But with almost 200 companies working on vaccines, this will probably take much less time. In the United States a vaccine should be available to all much sooner. Jack Pattie Show. WVLK AM 590. Sept. 16, 2020. (6:56) <https://youtu.be/Jwur8DaDfGY>

## **COVID-19: The Bob Woodward - President Trump Tapes.**

Discussion regarding the implications of the revelations on the Bob Woodward and President Trump Tapes, including that the virus spreads through the air, affects the young and is more dangerous than the flu. In view of what is known, the continued shortage of N-95 masks in the United States and the lack of production capabilities has placed many front line workers at undue risk. Jack Pattie Show. Sept. 11, 2020. WVLK AM 590. <https://youtu.be/rzM1DFGpYD0>

## **COVID-19: Comorbidities Used As An Excuse To State Few Die.**

Discussion regarding the new spin on fatalities that 94% of cases die have comorbidities. However, this is "associated with and "not caused by". And the comorbidities include diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, and breathing difficulties. Thus, the majority of adults, with advances in treatments many are now living but are developing long term disabilities of heart, lung and kidney problems. It was not so much the concern for death but for the development of myocarditis in college athletes which, caused PAC 12 and Big 10 football to be postponed. In addition, the report of California successfully opening preschools (using strategies of masking children over the age of 2, social distancing, hand hygiene and prompt cleaning of restrooms and toys after use) was discussed. Jack Pattie Show with Scott Johnson. WVLK AM 590. Aug. 31, 2020. (8:02) <https://youtu.be/pDNntFsals8>

# COVID-19 Education Courses



## COVID 19: History of Ineffective Infectious Disease Policy

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Preparedness Act to the disastrous second peak of the first wave with continued shortages of medical supplies and the changing federal advisements on asymptomatic spread, viral aerosolization and use of masks. Treatments are reviewed along with overstatements of efficacy. Finally, vaccines are discussed along with the review process and distribution barriers. Sept. 29, 2020.

[Download Presentation Slides](#) YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/xA7pR2bDAes>

## The COVID-19 Pandemic, The Virus & Infection: Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup>

### COVID-19 Continuing Education Course With Southern Kentucky AHEC.

1 Hour CE/CME for Category 1 AMA Credits & Kentucky Board of Nursing (KBN), also Physical Therapy Credits are available. To Take The Course. <http://soahec.org/ahec-summer-conference> The course has three modules which presents data and evidence of COVID-19. The course is in three short segments totaling one hour.

1) COVID-19: Survivability And The Prevention of Spread. The course discusses the survivability of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19 Virus) in the environment (surfaces, sunlight, humidity, heat) and with different types of hand sanitizers. He also describes research behind the use of masks, eye protection and social distancing along with data indicating the virus may be airborne or aerosolized more commonly than thought. Finally, risks and mitigating strategies are described in various retail and community venues.

2) COVID-19 Characteristics of the Virus, Symptoms & Long-Term Disability: The course discusses the characteristics of the SARS-CoV-2 virus along with the body's immune response and dwindling prospects for herd immunity. Characteristics of COVID-19 along with protracted recovery and disability is also discussed.

3) COVID-19: Presentation In Children and When To Open Schools: The course discusses the various presentations of COVID-19 in children, and the risk of childhood transmission to and infections of

adults. Current guidance on opening of schools along with international experience on school openings is also discussed.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/Y4p6C0mORiM>

To Take Course Go To: <http://soahec.org/ahec-summer-conference/>

## COVID-19 Articles of Interest

### **Kentucky nursing homes with the most COVID-19 deaths have this key factor in common.**

On average, Kentucky nursing homes reported 45 minutes of RN staff time per resident day during the fourth quarter of 2019, the most recent period for which data is available from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. That was close to the national average. But the eight Kentucky nursing homes with the most COVID-19 deaths reported an average of only 24 minutes.

<https://www.kentucky.com/news/coronavirus/article245550700.html>

### **A Doctor Went to His Own Employer for a COVID-19 Antibody Test. It Cost \$10,984.**

"Physicians Premier ER charged Dr. Zachary Sussman's insurance \$10,984 for his COVID-19 antibody test even though Sussman worked for the chain and knows the testing materials only cost about \$8. Even more surprising: The insurer paid in full."

<https://www.propublica.org/article/a-doctor-went-to-his-own-employer-for-a-covid-19-antibody-test-it-cost-10-984>

### **'Carnage' in a lab dish shows how the coronavirus may damage the heart.**

"Maybe we should think of Covid-19 as a heart disease. When SARS-CoV-2 virus was added to human heart cells grown in lab dishes, the long muscle fibers that keep hearts beating were diced into short bits, alarming scientists at the San Francisco-based Gladstone Institutes, especially after they saw a similar phenomenon in heart tissue from Covid-19 patients' autopsies. "

<https://www.statnews.com/2020/09/04/carnage-in-lab-dish-shows-how-coronavirus-may-damage-heart/>

### **Coronavirus: Israel to impose three-week national lockdown.**

"The country's second lockdown begins on Friday and lasts at least three weeks. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the measures would "exact a heavy price on us all", but the country faced a



surge with 4,000 new daily infections. A minister has resigned to protest against the restrictions that overlap with important Jewish festivals.

Housing Minister Yaakov Litzman, who leads an ultra-Orthodox Jewish party, said the measures would prevent Jewish people from celebrating their religious festivals, including Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, on 27 September. He also threatened to pull his party out of the governing coalition.

The country has seen 1,108 deaths from Covid-19 and more than 153,000 confirmed infections, according to a global tally kept by US university Johns Hopkins. "

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-54134869>

## **Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance Findings in Competitive Athletes Recovering From COVID-19 Infection**

"Of 26 competitive athletes (Twelve athletes (26.9%; including 7 female individuals) reported mild symptoms during the short-term infection (sore throat, shortness of breath, myalgias, fever), while others were asymptomatic.), 4 (15%) had CMR findings suggestive of myocarditis and 8 additional athletes (30.8%) exhibited LGE without T2 elevation suggestive of prior myocardial injury. Pericardial effusion was present in 2 athletes with CMR evidence of myocarditis. Two of these 4 athletes with evidence of myocardial inflammation had mild symptoms (shortness of breath), while the other 2 were asymptomatic. Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging evidence of myocardial inflammation has been associated with poor outcomes, including myocardial dysfunction and mortality."

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamacardiology/fullarticle/2770645>



## **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/L7qShgRSLIU>
- 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/UYLMgDgil8g>

- 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/UIMg156bMOA>
- Jodi Sugerman-Brozan is MassCOSH's Executive Director. Before joining MassCOSH in April 2017, she was the Executive Director of Bikes Not Bombs which uses the bicycle as a vehicle for social change. Leadership development and community and youth organizing have been central to her work for decades. View Video: [https://youtu.be/OA1CmmK0\\_60](https://youtu.be/OA1CmmK0_60)

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

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