



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Nov. 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 USAsm has:

- Written 4 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

To 'celebrate' or not to celebrate Halloween; that is the question

"Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, a retired Somerset physician who heads Health Watch USA, which focuses on infection control, reminded Kentuckians on the Jack Pattie Show on Lexington's WVLK that just because an activity is outdoors doesn't mean it's safe. He noted that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared traditional trick-or-treating, in which treats are handed to children who go door to door, a high-risk activity.

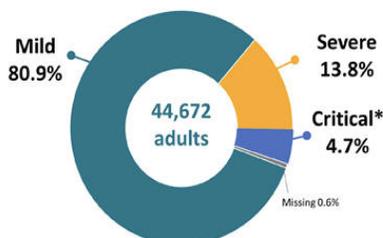
Don't think that wearing a Halloween mask, is going to protect you from the coronavirus, Kavanagh said. "If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised," he said. "The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus."

The CDC also advises against wearing both a regular mask and a costume mask: "Do not wear a costume mask over a cloth mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask." "

<http://kyhealthnews.blogspot.com/2020/10/to-celebrate-or-not-to-celebrate.html>

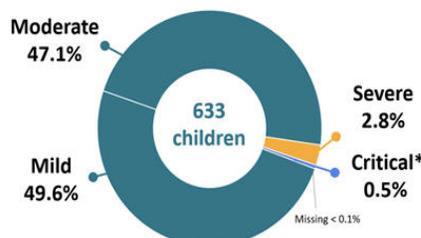
Illness Severity in Adults and Children with COVID-19, China

Severity of Illness, Adult COVID-19
(N = 44,672 confirmed cases)



* 1,023 (49%) deaths among 2,087 critically ill adults

Severity of Illness, Pediatric COVID-19
(N = 633 confirmed cases)



* 1 deaths among critically ill children

Yes, the very young can become severely sick. And those who become severely sick are at risk for developing long-term heart and lung disease.



adapted from Zhang 2020, [China CDC Weekly Report](#); 2(8):113-122 and Dong 2020, [Pediatrics](#); doi 10.1542/peds.2020-0702. (symptomatic cases only)

Valid as of October 15, 2020



FDA Panel Reviews Many Challenges Facing a COVID Vaccine -- Vaccines: Safety & Efficacy

The overall cost for society is far too high for a flawed and relaxed vaccine approval process. If the vaccine has low effectivity and primarily prevents mild disease, it will offer little protection to society and may cause inconceivable harm. To paraphrase Peter Luri, MD, MPH, from the Center for Science in Public Interest—The benefits of a minimally effective vaccine can be negated if the public relaxes wearing masks and social distancing. But even worse, if the vaccine is ineffective, it will further fuel the antivaccine movement for decades to come. Infection Control Today. Oct. 25, 2020.

<https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/fda-panel-reviews-many-challenges-facing-a-covid-vaccine>

COVID Vaccine: What Infection Preventionists Need to Know

Kevin Kavanagh, MD: "Infection preventionists will need to make sure that they still have access to adequate PPE, even if the vaccine comes out [and they] really need to look at the experimental group that was used for the EUA." And believe me, if I was a frontline healthcare worker at my age, a vaccine would really have to have a lot of complications and concerns before I would not get it. Now that's just a personal view. Because if it adds any armor to protect me from a highly infectious disease that's very prevalent in our community, that has a high rate of fatality, and even a higher rate of chronic disability, I would opt for that vaccine. <https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/covid-vaccine-what-infection-preventionists-need-to-know>

Viewpoint: The “Not So” Great Barrington Declaration

Recently, an international group of scientists signed a declaration advocating for achieving herd immunity from coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) by opening communities and business, while protecting the vulnerable with “focused protection.” The Declaration states: “A comprehensive and detailed list of measures, including approaches to multi-generational households, can be implemented, and is well within the scope and capability of public health professionals.” But to be honest, I’m not sure how this can be done. Currently, the United States is undergoing a third peak of infections on our first wave and the metrics, of cases and test positivity rates are increasing. For infection preventionists and frontline healthcare workers, the Great Barrington Declaration places their lives and livelihood at risk. A field hospital has been activated in Wisconsin and the state is at risk of running out of hospital beds and trained staff. Infection Control Today. Oct. 15, 2020.

<https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/viewpoint-the-not-so-great-barrington-declaration>

Update: Eli Lilly Neutralizing Antibodies—Innovative Approach Needs Stewardship

"...phase 2 randomized double-blind controlled trial it observed a 72% decrease in hospitalizations and ER visits with LY-CoV555 and an 85.5% decrease using the combination product..... Eli Lilly has requested an emergency use authorization for its monoclonal antibody product and expect to submit application for its combination product in November. Eli Lilly expects 100,000 doses of their monoclonal product to be available in October and 1 million doses by the end of the year."

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

Q&A: Are Infection Preventionists Being Misinformed?

"Kevin Kavanagh, MD: "Many of the infection preventionists over the last six months now have more experience than many of the policymakers up in DC, because they've lived it firsthand. And they've seen how COVID-19 can spread. And they're starting to develop a good idea of how to stop it."

"There have been a number of statements from the CDC or at least with the CDC label on it, which have been disturbing," Kavanagh tells ICT®. Some of those disturbing statements can be attributed to the fact that the CDC and the rest of the world didn't quite know what it was dealing with, but not all of them. Kavanagh worries that political pressure may be at work. One of the ways infection preventionists (IPs) can educate themselves is to look at what's being done in other countries, and read the comments under pre-print studies. Also, experience counts, and IPs have now had months of dealing with the coronavirus." Infection Control Today. Oct. 9, 2020.

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/q-a-are-infection-preventionists-being-misinformed->

School Daze: COVID-19 Spreads Fear, Confusion:

"Opening schools should depend upon low rates of viral spread in the community, widespread testing, rigorous following of public health guidelines, and upgrading the physical infrastructure of our buildings. Our schools are anything but healthy buildings.¹⁸ Concerns have existed for decades regarding both the air quality and the crowded conditions our children are exposed to. COVID-19 should be viewed as an opportunity for transformation, allowing us to build a better school system with smaller class sizes for better education and implement strategies to prevent the spread of all infectious diseases" Infection Control Today Oct 2020. (Page 28)

<https://cdn.sanity.io/files/0vv8moc6/infectioncontrol/5f2ddf41a688625d1f8afd54dcb8e87d7cb5cbfa.pdf>

President Trump, First Lady Melania Trump Test Positive for COVID

"Kevin Kavanagh, MD, is a member of Infection Control Today®'s Editorial Advisory Board. Kavanagh tells ICT®: "This is a testament to how easily this virus can spread. President Trump was in a testing bubble and relied at his rallies on social distancing. However, these rallies would be defined as a high-risk activity, since even outdoors—and not all were—loud vocalizations can aerosolized the virus. In an aerosolized form, the virus can travel much farther than 6 feet, live for up to 16 hours and defeat the protections afforded by a cotton mask. If one does not wear a mask, then the activity is at an even higher risk." Infection Control Today. Oct. 3, 2020

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/president-trump-first-lady-melania-trump-have-covid-19>

Smoke Gets in Your Eyes: How COVID Spreads Indoors

"While reiterating that SARS-CoV-2 most commonly spreads through close contact (less than 6 feet, and for about 15 minutes) with a symptomatic or asymptomatic carrier, the CDC now suggests that the coronavirus is even more contagious than previously thought."

Well, yesterday the CDC again put the guidance on its website, acknowledging that aerosolized particles of the coronavirus can spread further than six feet and linger for a long time, particularly in poorly ventilated areas. This might not come as a surprise to many experts who've been closely monitoring COVID-19. Certainly not to Kevin Kavanagh, MD, a member of Infection Control Today®'s Editorial Advisory Board and a frequent contributor to ICT®. Kavanagh recently pointed out that the CDC in fact has already acknowledged that the coronavirus can be aerosolized when it released recommendations on how people should approach the upcoming holidays."

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/smoke-gets-in-your-eyes-how-covid-spreads-indoors>

CDC Launches \$180M Anti-infection Program for Healthcare Workers

Kevin Kavanagh, MD, (a) member of ICT®'s Editorial Advisory Board, says that "this efficient and highly accessible training is desperately needed as many states are making final plans for the opening of satellite hospitals and potentially assigning desperately needed staff with minimal experience in infectious disease. In addition, tracking and mandatory reporting of healthcare worker acquisitions and infections with dangerous pathogens such as COVID-19 is of utmost importance.

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/cdc-launches-180m-anti-infection-program-for-healthcare-workers>

Radio / Podcasts

2020, Oct. 12: COVID-19: The False Narrative of Herd Immunity Being Promoted Again (The Not So Great Declaration)

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USAsm discusses the False Narrative of Herd Immunity. He stresses that cases have rebounded in California along with New York City and Sweden. One cannot protect those at risk since about a third of the population falls into this category and we live in multi-generational households. Finally, the economy is transforming and companies have announced working at home will become the new norm for many employees. Production is up and so is customer satisfaction. Also, discussed is the KY Governor going into quarantine and the necessity of scientists to stay nonpolitical. Jack Pattie Show. WVLK AM 590. <https://youtu.be/7bNAzRuX7J0>

COVID-19: The False Narrative of Herd Immunity

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USAsm discusses The Great Barrington Declaration's false narrative of herd immunity. He also discusses the importance of seeing your physician, even during COVID-19, and the new therapies on the horizon. Jeff Santos Show. Oct. 15, 2020. (22:13)

<https://youtu.be/YFWBBZDwa5U>

2020, Oct. 7: COVID-19: The CDC Affirms Aerosolization

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USAsm gives an update regarding President Trumps' status and the Rose Garden superspreader event. In addition, he discusses the new CDC guidance regarding viral aerosolization and the implications this has on the opening of schools. Schools need to require masks and social distancing, along with upgrading their ventilation systems to have at least 6 to 10 complete air exchanges per hour along with air sanitation. Finally, COVID-19 vasculitis is discussed and how the disease affects every organ of the body. Jack Pattie Show.

<https://youtu.be/bD8UqFPj7TI>

2020, Oct. 5: COVID-19: President Trump Very Sick and Making Bad Decisions

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh From Health Watch USAsm discusses the implications of being given dexamethasone (a steroid) in severe COVID-19; on its ability to mask symptoms and at the same time produce mental dysfunction in the patient. He also stresses that remdesivir has had mediocre results in recent studies. The administration of monoclonal antibodies was a wise move, but they have to be given early enough to be effective. Jack Pattie Show. WVLK AM

590. <https://youtu.be/O6kU2apARqQ>

COVID-19 Articles of Interest

High rate of symptomless COVID-19 infection among grocery store workers: study (British Medical Journal)

One in five (21 out of 104) workers tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, indicating a prevalence of 20% at that point in time. This was significantly higher than the prevalence of the infection in the local community at the time: 0.9-1.3%.

Three out of four of those testing positive (76%) had no symptoms. And of those testing positive, most (91%) had a customer facing role compared with 59% of those testing negative.

Workers in customer-facing roles were five times more likely to test positive than their colleagues in other types of role, after accounting for potentially influential factors, such as the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 where they lived. Those in supervisory roles were six times more likely to do so.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-10-high-symptomless-covid-infection-grocery.html>

Risk of hospital admission with coronavirus disease 2019 in healthcare workers and their households: Nationwide linkage cohort study (Scotland)

Healthcare workers and their households contributed a sixth of covid-19 cases admitted to hospital. Although the absolute risk of admission was low overall, patients facing healthcare workers and their household members had threefold and twofold increased risks of admission with covid-19.

<https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m3582>

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus nasal carriage among janitors working in hospital and non-hospital areas: a comparative cross-sectional study

"The prevalence of MRSA was 4.8% (21/436) [95% CI: 3.0–6.9]; of these, 8.1% (18/221) of the isolates were from the hospital and 1.4% (3/215) non-hospital janitors, while methicillin-sensitive S. aureus (MSSA) in hospital & non-hospital janitors were 49 (22.2%) and 31 (14.4%), respectively." <https://ann-clinmicrob.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12941-020-00391-x>

First Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 Reinfections in US

"Unlike most of those cases, however, the men in Reno, NV, and Virginia, and a 46-year-old man in Ecuador, had more severe symptoms during their second infections, potentially complicating the development and deployment of effective vaccines."

<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/939003>

Universal mask use could save 130,000 U.S. lives by the end of February, new study estimates

"Specifically, the paper projected that there could be some half a million Covid-19-related deaths in the U.S. by the end of February, and that some 130,000 of those tragedies might be forestalled with universal mask use."

<https://www.statnews.com/2020/10/23/universal-mask-use-could-save-130000-lives-by-the-end-of-february-new-modeling-study-says/>

Debunking the False Claim That COVID Death Counts Are Inflated

"President Trump, a congressman and conspiracy fantasists have repeated the myth. But three kinds of evidence point to more than 218,000 U.S. deaths."

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/debunking-the-false-claim-that-covid-death-counts-are-inflated/>

Estimating the infection-fatality risk of SARS-CoV-2 in New York City during the spring 2020 pandemic wave: a model-based analysis

"During the period March 1 to June 6, 2020, 205 639 people had a laboratory-confirmed infection with SARS-CoV-2 and 21 447 confirmed and probable COVID-19-related deaths occurred among residents of New York City. We estimated an overall infection-fatality risk of 1·39% (95% credible interval 1·04–1·77) in New York City. "

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(20\)30769-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(20)30769-6/fulltext)

The coronavirus pandemic has caused nearly 300,000 more deaths than expected in a typical year

"The CDC said the novel coronavirus, which causes covid-19, has taken a disproportionate toll on Latinos and Blacks, as previous analyses have noted. But the CDC also found, surprisingly, that it has struck 25- to 44-year-olds very hard: Their "excess death" rate is up 26.5 percent over previous years, the largest change for any age group."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/coronavirus-excess-deaths/2020/10/20/1e1d77c6-12e1-11eb-ba42-ec6a580836ed_story.html

'Profound Human Toll' in Excess Deaths From COVID-19 Calculated in Two Studies

"More than 225,000 excess deaths occurred in the United States from March to July 2020 compared to historic norms, with approximately two thirds directly attributable to COVID-19. However, additional deaths could be indirectly related because people avoided emergency care during the pandemic, new research shows." "Another study published online simultaneously in JAMA took more of an international perspective. Investigators from the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University found that in America, there were more excess deaths and there was higher all-cause mortality during the pandemic than in 18 other

countries." <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/938996>

Inside the Fall of the CDC

"How the world's greatest public health organization was brought to its knees by a virus, the president and the capitulation of its own leaders, causing damage that could last much longer than the coronavirus." <https://www.propublica.org/article/inside-the-fall-of-the-cdc>

Effect of Face Masks on Gas Exchange in Healthy Persons and Patients with COPD

"However, as a group, subjects with COPD did not exhibit major physiologic changes in gas exchange measurements after the 6-minute walk test using a surgical mask, particularly in CO₂

retention." <https://www.atsjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1513/AnnalsATS.202007-812RL>

COVID-19 Education Courses



COVID 19: History of Ineffective Infectious Disease Policy

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USAsm 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. [Download Presentation Slides](#)
YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/xA7pR2bDAes>

The COVID-19 Pandemic, The Virus & Infection: Health Watch USAsm 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4p6C0mORiM>

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



Through the Eyes of the Frontline: COVID 19

Health Watch USAsm & 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 Vandembroucke-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

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