



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

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

- Written 7 articles/opeds regarding COVID-19,
- Participated in 1 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) *The need for the public to embrace public health strategies*



## **To successfully deal with COVID-19, we need to transform our way of life**

It is imperative that we need to take our head out of the sand and unite as a nation. Successfully dealing and living with viruses is the new norm. We need to adapt and need to invest in our infrastructure and transform our society. New Zealand, Australia, Taiwan, China and South Korea have done this, so can the United States. Courier Journal. Nov. 5, 2020. [References https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2020/11/05/to-deal-with-covid-19-we-must-transform-our-lives/6093570002/](https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2020/11/05/to-deal-with-covid-19-we-must-transform-our-lives/6093570002/)



**BMC**

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## **Distortion of Science to Inhibit the Adoption of Infectious Disease Strategies.**

Distortion of science for political and economic ends has prevented the allocation of needed resources to stop the spread of dangerous pathogens. This places all of society as a whole at risk, but exacting an insufferable toll of death and disability on our front-line healthcare workers, along with our most vulnerable populations. COVID-19 has demonstrated how dangerous this scenario has become..... Whether one deals with MRSA or COVID-19, screening and decolonization or self-isolation of healthcare workers is of utmost importance. Their health, the health of their families along with their patients depend upon it. BioMed Central. Nov. 13, 2020. [References https://blogs.biomedcentral.com/on-health/2020/11/13/distortion-of-science-to-inhibit-the-adoption-of-infectious-disease-strategies/](https://blogs.biomedcentral.com/on-health/2020/11/13/distortion-of-science-to-inhibit-the-adoption-of-infectious-disease-strategies/)

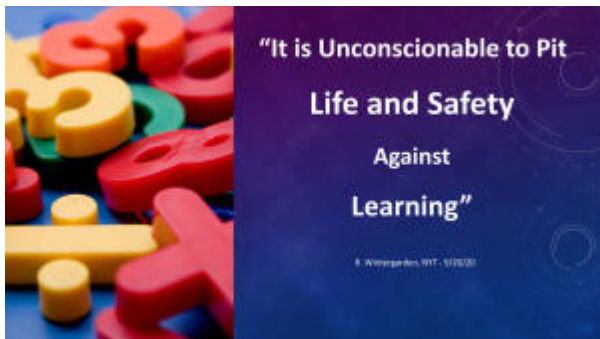
## Will the COVID-19 Pandemic Transform Health Care ?

Many lessons have been learned from COVID-19. We have learned that case definitions can be rapidly created and a reporting system which comprises all types of healthcare facilities can be implemented. The same needs to be done for other dangerous pathogens, including the CDC's Urgent and Serious Threats, and strategies need to be standardized across all types of facilities. SARS-CoV-2 does not vary its lethality or infectivity based upon the facility type or region of the country. [References](http://blogs.biomedcentral.com/on-health/2020/11/11/will-the-covid-19-pandemic-transform-health-care/) <http://blogs.biomedcentral.com/on-health/2020/11/11/will-the-covid-19-pandemic-transform-health-care/>

## COVID-19: Through the Eyes Through the Front Line, an International Perspective

COVID-19 is continuing to ravage the globe. In many Western Countries, the populace has not embraced public health advice which has resulted in a resurgence of the COVID-19 virus. This vulnerable population of frontline workers are faced with a choice of going to work with inadequate PPE or placing food on their families' table. In the United States, official recommendations seem to be ever changing, based more upon supply and test availability, than on science. We must rely on science and learn from the lessons of past pandemics or we will relive, even to a greater degree, the deaths and devastations experienced by our ancestors over 100 years ago. Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control. Nov. 7, 2020. [References](https://aricjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13756-020-00850-2) <https://aricjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13756-020-00850-2>

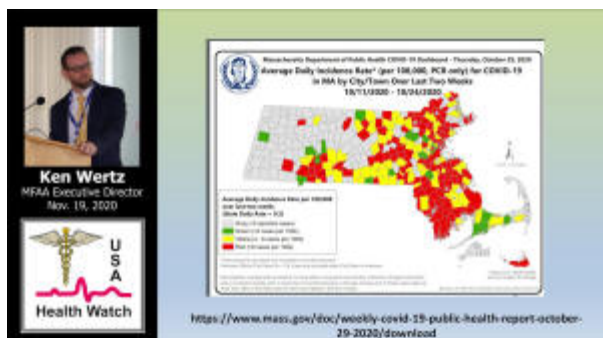
## Health Watch USA - School Safety Resources



### 2020, Nov. 18: COVID-19: Risks and Solutions For Safe School Systems

Rafael Moure-Eraso, PhD, Massachusetts Teachers Association, from Environmental and Safety Committee discusses the roadblocks teachers have encountered in their quest for safe schools along with the importance of proper planning, PPE, social distancing, and air quality. Health Watch USAsm meeting. <https://youtu.be/tg5GxodZc3c>

The Safe Return To Schools and Campuses -- Massachusetts Teachers Association [Download Document](#)



## 2020, Nov. 18: COVID-19: COVID-19: COVID Facility Updates for Public K-12 Schools

Ken Wertz, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Facilities Administrators Association, discusses environmental considerations to make facilities safer during the COVID-19 pandemic. The processes of cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing were discussed. The difference between a disinfectant and sanitizer was illustrated with the shift to students eating in classrooms. Before the change, a disinfectant was

used to clean classrooms, but after the initiation of this strategy, a safer product, a sanitizer, needed to be used. In addition, pandemic strategies involving heating and air conditioning systems were explained along with the difference between air quality and air flow reports. The latter being of utmost importance in a pandemic. Strategies of air filtration and sanitation using UV Light and bipolar ionization of the air were also discussed. Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> meeting. <https://youtu.be/GvE9LqxzEKM>

View Additional Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> School

Resources: [http://www.healthwatchusa.org/COVID19\\_Schools.htm](http://www.healthwatchusa.org/COVID19_Schools.htm)



## Viewpoint: Healthcare Workers Not Being Protected from COVID

Faced with greater than three times the number of cases as the last surge, along with exponential growth with no end in sight, there is little hope

healthcare workers can safely treat patients without a drastic change in policy and a more productive and secure supply line.

<https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/viewpoint-healthcare-workers-not-being-protected-from-covid>

## Viewpoint: Quackery Might Stall Progress Against COVID-19

The worst-case scenario is that if an effective and safe COVID-19 vaccine is found, a large segment of our population will elect to use hydroxychloroquine or another ineffective treatment instead, allowing the virus to continue to thrive, and devastate our nation. As a nation, we can easily defeat this virus, but it requires us to trust modern science and embrace a national strategy coordinated by public health officials and our federal government. Let's not embrace attitudes and views of the 1800's. Infection Control Today. Nov. 6, 2020. [References](#)

<https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/viewpoint-quackery-might-stall-progress-against-covid-19>

## **COVID Unleashes the 'Lurking Scourge' Candida Auris**

"Kevin Kavanagh, MD, a member of Infection Control Today®'s Editorial Advisory Board, says that drug resistant C. Auris is a dangerous pathogen, it first came to attention back in 2015. "Presently, it is known to be highly infectious and can cause dangerous co-infections," says Kavanagh."C. Auris co-infections do occur in COVID-19 patients and if present the case-fatality-rate is 60%"

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/covid-unleashes-the-lurking-scurge-candida-auris>

## **Experts say COVID-19 vaccine will come with challenges and cautions after distribution**

"Even after a vaccine is approved for the novel coronavirus and is widely distributed, it will still be important to follow public-health recommendations to thwart the spread of the virus, including basic hand hygiene, social distancing and wearing a mask.....All that said, Kavanagh said if you are at high risk for COVID-19 or a frontline worker, it may be in your best interests to get the vaccine, after weighing the risks and benefits. As for the rest of the population, the months-long wait for universal distribution will give time for more research, he said: "By that time, there'll be a lot more safety data, and data on the vaccine's effectiveness.""

<https://www.kyforward.com/experts-say-covid-19-vaccine-will-come-with-challenges-and-cautions-after-distribution/>

## **Radio / Podcasts**

### **COVID-19: Roman Catholic Pandemic Preparedness Response**

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> discusses the recent lawsuits filed by various church organizations and that the remediation should be the closing of other unsafe venues rather than opening of church services/schools during a severe pandemic surge. He also discusses the 2019 Roman Catholic Churches Pandemic Response plan as published in the Nov.-Dec. issue of Health Progress. In addition, suggestions on preventing a Post Thanksgiving Surge are discussed. Jack Pattie Show. Nov. 30. 2020. <https://youtu.be/00J60gY1GUc>

Reference: Pandemic readiness: a plan for Catholic parishes. With teamwork, health care and preparation, parish leaders can reduce a pandemic's effects. Prog. Nov-Dec 2009;90(6):68-75.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19938436/>

### **COVID-19: SCOTUS Strikes Down Church Mandates - Is it good public health policy?**

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> discusses the Federal and Supreme Court rulings which struck down church mandates and explains that the discussion appears not be one of the power of government over churches but one which demands consistent uniform COVID-19 control strategies. In New York City, bars and restaurants are open but churches closed. In Kentucky, college sporting events are playing but church schools are closed. All of this causes confusion with the public. This ruling may lead to a national strategy which is pathogen not venue based and one not influenced by political or economic pressures. In addition new research on masks was discussed along with errors in the AstraZeneca/Oxford Vaccine Trial. Finally, exposure risks and how masks and goggles may provide some protection. Jack Pattie Show. Nov. 27,

2020. [https://youtu.be/ank4\\_feUP9g](https://youtu.be/ank4_feUP9g)

## **2020, Nov. 9: COVID-19: Vaccine 90% Effective - Virus Mutating**

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> discusses the new Pfizer Vaccine which is reported to be 90% effective in preventing COVID-19 (prevention of deaths was not an endpoint). This underscores the necessity to follow public health advice so the virus does not spread further and mutate. Mutation of the virus became even more of a concern with the report from Denmark of a mutant strain in minks which appears to be vaccine resistant and it has jumped back to a few humans. The outbreak is contained and 17 million minks were culled. There are also reports of up to 10 laboratory made SARS-CoV-2 mutations which may also be monoclonal antibody resistant. Jack Pattie Show. WVLK AM 590. Additional References: <https://youtu.be/4CA2UlijJVA>

## **COVID-19: School Closings**

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> discusses the closing of schools and what needs to be done for reopening, including better ventilation and sanitation of air, PPE, pool testing of students and teachers. In addition, we need to invoke the Defense Production Act to produce needed PPE and testing supplies. We need better and consistent messaging from our leaders along with everyone following public health advice. Travel and the upcoming holidays are especially problematic. Jeff Santos Show. Nov. 21, 2020. <https://youtu.be/9vL0Q1nOkLQ>

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

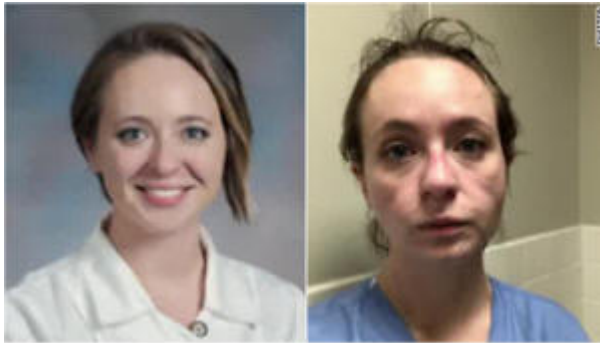
### **Spread of mutated coronavirus in Danish mink 'hits all the scary buttons,' but fears may be overblown**

"Occasionally, the mink infect people — a phenomenon recorded in both the Netherlands and in Denmark. In a statement, the Danish Ministry of Environment and Food said the country would cull its entire herd — estimated to be about 17 million animals — after finding mutations in the viruses from the mink that it believes would allow those viruses to evade the immune protection generated by Covid-19 vaccines."

<https://www.statnews.com/2020/11/05/spread-of-mutated-coronavirus-in-danish-mink-hits-all-the-scary-buttons-but-fears-may-be-overblown/>

### **COVID research updates: Immune responses to coronavirus persist beyond 6 months**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00502-w>



**Kathryn, a 28-year-old ICU nurse whose take on the "How It Started ... How It's Going"**

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/health/2020/11/26/icu-nurse-how-it-started-how-its-going-coronavirus-pandemic-nr-bts-vpx.cnn>



**Trends in County-Level COVID-19 Incidence in Counties With and Without a Mask Mandate — Kansas, June 1–August 23, 2020**

After July 3, COVID-19 incidence decreased in 24 counties with mask mandates but continued to increase in 81 counties without mask mandates.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6947e2.htm>

## COVID-19 Education Courses



**COVID-19 The Need for the Public To Embrace Public Health Strategies**

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> discusses reasons why the public has not embraced public health guidance. They include, overstatement of treatment efficacy, mixed messaging regarding the use of masks, testing for asymptomatic carriers and aerosolization of COVID-19. In addition, false narratives (that herd immunity can be achieved with few deaths, COVID-19 is no deadlier than the flu and children do not become sick) are discussed. Finally,

ways of retorting misinformation with examples given regarding the effectiveness of the Zelenko Protocol and use of facial masks. Nov. 12, 2020. Kentucky Rural Health Association. <https://youtu.be/G7OUYGWaatA>





## COVID 19: History of Ineffective Infectious Disease Policy

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> 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>

Available for this course are 1 Hour CE/CME for Category 1 AMA Credits & Kentucky Board of Nursing (KBN), also Physical Therapy Credits. To take the course go to: <http://soahec.org/ahec-summer-conference>

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 go to: <http://soahec.org/ahec-summer-conference> This one hour lecture has three modules:

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

The second one hour lecture has one module entitled: To Take The Course Go To: <http://soahec.org/ahec-summer-conference/>



## 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<sup>sm</sup>. 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., 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 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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