



**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR ANDY BESHEAR**  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Crystal Staley**

502-564-2611

502-545-3714

**Sebastian Kitchen**

502-564-2611

502-330-0799

**Gov. Beshear: Defeating COVID-19 on First Try Requires Careful  
Reopening**

*Visit the Governor's [Facebook](#) page to watch today's news conference*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 30, 2020)** – On Thursday, Gov. Andy Beshear reminded Kentuckians that we need to be the smartest, not the fastest, in reopening our economy in order to defeat the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) without causing a spike of cases in the commonwealth.

He announced additional testing sites and updated Kentuckians on N95 mask decontamination, unemployment insurance payments, the state budget and new efforts to support working families.

"You, the citizens of the commonwealth of Kentucky, are taking on a pandemic that happens once in every 100 years, and while we have lost too many, you are doing something this world has never seen and not just flattening, but plateauing the curve here in Kentucky," said Gov. Beshear. "Your actions every day are saving lives. And as we go to make a slow, gradual transition from healthy at home to healthy at work, we need you now more than ever to be bought in and to be committed and to make sure that we do what it takes to protect one another."

**N95 mask decontamination for frontline health care workers**

Dr. Steven Stack, Kentucky's public health commissioner, announced that Kentucky hospitals will now be

using the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System™ that uses vapor phase hydrogen peroxide (VPHP) to decontaminate N95 respirator masks for up to 20 reuses without degrading filter performance.

“We need everybody to use this resource,” Dr. Stack said. “We have to maximize N95 respirator supplies while we still try to acquire more of them to build up a resource should we need them at a later point.”

### **Unemployment insurance update**

Josh Benton, deputy secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, announced the state was able to clear an additional 1,050 of the 29,000 remaining initial March unemployment claims yesterday. There are 27,915 March claims remaining. This evening, 8,000 people who applied in March but have not provided identity documents will receive a direct email.

### **State budget**

Today, the Office of the State Budget Director released the [Quarterly Economic and Revenue Report](#), which includes an unofficial revised revenue estimate for the General and Road Funds.

The FY 2020 revenue shortfall estimate for the General Fund ranges from \$319 million to \$496 million (2.8% to 4.7%) and the shortfall estimate for the Road Fund ranges from \$116 million to \$195 million (7.5% to 12.5%).

“So all 50 U.S. governors are pushing, are lobbying, are pressing the federal government and Congress to include direct budget assistance to states and local governments that are facing the same thing,” Gov. Beshear said. “Remember, this type of assistance was done in the Great Recession, but what we are facing right now is a worldwide health pandemic that comes with another great recession. They did it then. They need to do it now.”

### **Operation American Resolve**

The Kentucky Air National Guard will present a two-ship C-130 flyover across the commonwealth of Kentucky on Friday, May 1. The aerial demonstration is part of Operation American Resolve, a nationwide salute to all those supporting COVID-19 response efforts.

The flyover locations include Frankfort, Lexington, Pikeville, Bowling Green, Owensboro and Louisville.

“At each location they are specifically flying over selected medical facilities throughout the entire state,” said Adjutant General Hal Lamberton. “This is a show of honor and respect for the military from everybody to the first responders, to the hospital workers, to those essential personnel who have been engaged in the pandemic response at this junction.”

## **SNAP**

Kentucky is one of the pilot states for a new program allowing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – or food benefits – recipients to use benefits online, including for delivery orders. Amazon and Walmart are currently the only retailers that have partnered with Kentucky for online SNAP purchasing.

Amazon will ship statewide. Walmart will deliver to select locations and also offers grocery pickup as an option to SNAP recipients and all other households. Shipping and delivery fees, when applicable, must be paid with another means of payment. They cannot be paid with SNAP benefits.

More information on who can become an online SNAP retailer and how to apply is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer>. Kentuckians can apply for SNAP by calling 1-855-306-8959 or at [www.benefind.ky.gov](http://www.benefind.ky.gov).

“This is good. This is going to provide an extra level of safety. It’s something we’ve been working on for a long time,” the Governor said. “We got over 600,000 individuals on SNAP who we want to make sure they can take advantage of this in their communities.”

## **Testing update**

The Governor urged Kentuckians to fill up all available testing slots at multiple sites throughout the commonwealth. Anyone can now sign up for the free COVID-19 testing at many, but not all, of the sites. For the latest information on drive-through testing, visit [kycovid19.ky.gov](http://kycovid19.ky.gov).

“Let’s make sure that everybody has opportunity, that everybody signs up and that we have the level of testing that we need,” Gov. Beshear said.

## **Tentative reopening schedule**

This week, Kentucky began the phased reopening of health care services as the first step under Gov. Beshear’s [Healthy at Work](#) initiative.

Yesterday, the Governor unveiled a [tentative reopening schedule](#) for a variety of businesses allowed to resume operations in May. However, he cautioned that in all cases, it will not be business as usual and will require adherence to [the 10 rules to reopening](#), along with industry specific requirements. For more information, [click here](#).

## **Census update**

Gov. Beshear reminds Kentuckians to fill out their census at [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) or by phone at [844-330-2020](tel:844-330-2020) (English) or [844-468-2020](tel:844-468-2020) (Spanish).

## **Condolences**

Gov. Beshear offered condolences to the family of Jerry Maze, 77, of Owingsville, who passed away from COVID-19 on April 29.

“We appreciate Jerry and Jerry’s family and everything Jerry has done for this world and for his family giving us this opportunity to honor him today and to let the rest of Kentucky know that we lost somebody very special,” Gov. Beshear said.

## **Case information**

As of 5 p.m. April 30, Gov. Beshear said there were at least 4,708 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, 174 of which were newly confirmed.

Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear also reported five new deaths Thursday, raising the state’s toll to 240 deaths related to the virus. Today’s totals for cases and deaths include one that is being listed as a “probable case.”

The deaths include a 77-year-old man from Bath, a 66-year-old man from Grayson, a 93-year-old woman from Daviess, a 71-year-old woman from Jefferson and a 97-year-old woman from Grayson.

At least 1,675 Kentuckians have recovered from the virus.

For additional information, including up-to-date lists of positive cases and deaths, as well as breakdowns of coronavirus infections by county, race and ethnicity, [click here](#).

## **More information**

Read about other key updates, actions and information from Gov. Beshear and his administration at [governor.ky.gov](https://governor.ky.gov), [kycovid19.ky.gov](https://kycovid19.ky.gov) and the Governor’s official social media accounts [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

Kentuckians can also access translated COVID-19 information and daily summaries of the Governor’s news conference at [tinyurl.com/kygovespanol](https://tinyurl.com/kygovespanol) (Spanish) and [tinyurl.com/kygovtranslations](https://tinyurl.com/kygovtranslations) (more than 20 additional languages).





*For official news and updates from the Beshear/Coleman administration,  
visit [governor.ky.gov/news](https://governor.ky.gov/news).*