



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Crystal Staley  
502.545.3714  
502.564.2611**

**Sebastian Kitchen  
502.330.0799  
502.564.2611**

**Gov. Beshear Announces New Steps to Protect Kentuckians from COVID-19**

*Fourth death reported; 124 positive cases; Team Kentucky Fund announced  
Visit the Governor's [Facebook](#) page to watch today's news conference*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 23, 2020)** – Gov. Andy Beshear announced Monday the fourth death related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), an 82-year-old woman in Lexington with underlying health conditions.

To show a small, yet significant message of compassion, empathy and renewal, Gov. Beshear said the Governor's Mansion would be lit green in honor of every Kentuckian who passes related to the virus.

"We are entering what will be tougher and tougher times," said Gov. Beshear. "The safest place in the coming weeks for everybody is staying safe at home. This is the test of our time, of our generation, but I know you and I are up for it."

Gov. Beshear also said the error on the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) website has been corrected. Small businesses across Kentucky can now [apply for assistance](#).

To further encourage unity, Gov. Beshear asked all houses of worship and Kentuckians who can to ring their bells at 10 a.m. every day.

Dr. Steven Stack, Commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health, wrote a letter last week to medical students at the three medical schools in Kentucky. More than 200 medical students have already volunteered to help during the state's response to COVID-19. He said he plans to write a similar letter to nursing students.

"I am very proud of that community and all the others I know will step forward," Dr. Stack said.

**Case information**

As of 5 p.m. March 23, the state's COVID-19 patient information includes 124 who have tested

positive. [Click here](#) for the list with details. Additional cases and demographics of other cases mentioned were not known by 5 p.m. ET Monday so not all cases are listed.

## **New actions**

### **Altered mass layoff parameters**

Gov. Beshear announced changes in mass layoff parameters. Any employer with at least 50 employees, who is laying off at least 15 employees, is encouraged to file a claim on behalf of their employees through the E-Claims process. Gov. Beshear announced that they have trained 138 state workers for UI Claims Adjudication to alleviate any case backlog.

### **Announced the Team Kentucky fund**

In collaboration with the Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet (PPC), Gov. Beshear took executive action to establish the Team Kentucky Fund, a fundraising platform designed to provide financial assistance to Kentuckians whose employment has been affected by COVID-19 and challenged Kentuckians who can to make a tax-deductible [donation](#). Kerry Harvey, Secretary of the Public Protection Cabinet, said this fund is an opportunity to help Kentuckians in need.

“Helping people stay safe and navigate through crisis is the heart of public service, and the PPC in particular. We know government can’t cure all the problems associated with the pandemic, but this fund is one way to help those who’ve lost wages,” said PPC Secretary Kerry Harvey. “I encourage everyone to answer the governor’s call of joining Team Kentucky. Giving to the fund is a great way to get on the team.”

### **Started a hotline to report guideline noncompliance**

To combat guideline noncompliance, Gov. Beshear announced the COVID-19 Reporting Hotline. To report an incident, call 1-833-597-2337. Labor Cabinet personnel will monitor the hotline from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET and will respond to messages left after hours.

### **Encouraged all radio and television stations to broadcast PSAs**

To encourage compliance with state guidelines and facilitate unity, Gov. Beshear encouraged all TV and radio stations to conduct Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about social distancing and other state guidelines to combat the coronavirus.

Gov. Beshear also reminded Kentuckians that social distancing is not isolation, kids should remain on a schedule to combat anxiety and to donate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) if possible.

### **Yesterday’s actions**

On Sunday, Gov. Beshear announced the closure of all nonessential retailers effective 8 p.m. today. Life-sustaining retail businesses that will remain open include grocery stores, pharmacies, banks, hardware stores, gas stations and other businesses that provide staple goods. A full list of categories of life-sustaining, in-person retail businesses is attached to [the order](#). Gov. Beshear also mandated all elective medical procedures cease.

### **Other actions by Gov. Beshear**

Gov. Beshear has continued to take decisive action since the first case was confirmed in Kentucky. To read the full list of actions Gov. Beshear has taken to protect Kentuckians and limit the spread of the coronavirus, visit [governor.ky.gov/covid19](http://governor.ky.gov/covid19).

### **More information**

The CDC encourages people to follow these [steps to prevent illness](#). Kentuckians who want

advice can call the state hotline at **1-800-722-5725** or call their local health care provider. To read Gov. Beshear's news releases and watch other news regarding COVID-19 visit [governor.ky.gov](http://governor.ky.gov). To listen to questions from Kentuckians and the media and hear answers from Gov. Beshear watch his news conferences online on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). Gov. Beshear continues to urge Kentuckians to be cautious of rumors and to depend on proven and good sources of news, including [governor.ky.gov](http://governor.ky.gov), [kycovid19.ky.gov](http://kycovid19.ky.gov) and the Governor's official social media accounts: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

**Team Kentucky hashtags for social media**

#TeamKentucky, #TogetherKy, #Patriot and #HealthyAtHome.  
#####



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