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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gov. Beshear: Phased Restart of Economy Begins Monday with Limited Health Care Services

*Governor also announces expanded testing with focus on African-American communities
Visit the Governor's [Facebook](#) page to watch today's news conference*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 22, 2020) – Gov. Andy Beshear announced Wednesday that the phased restart of Kentucky's economy will begin next week, on Monday, with a segment of the health care services industry.

He said initially the easing of restrictions will allow for diagnostic and radiology testing, as well as non-urgent, emergent, in-person office and ambulatory visits.

"We are very close to coming to a consensus and an agreement in being able to put out guidelines for the gradual reopening of many of our hospital and health care services," Gov. Beshear said. "We will be moving from this phase to others. Health care is a good and important place to start some of our reopening."

The Governor said Kentucky will go through three phases in dealing with coronavirus: sacrifice, planning and patience and perseverance. The Governor said now we are in the planning and patience phase.

"Whether it is shuttering a business temporarily, or if it's that you're not going to work right now because of what has happened with this virus," he said. "Whether it is changes to your life, your children not going to school, we have shown that we can pass the test of sacrifice."

The Governor said the phased health care services reopening is the first under the [Healthy at Work](#) initiative he introduced Tuesday to help businesses reopen safely when the time is right.

The initiative set out [public health benchmarks](#) for reopening Kentucky's economy. These benchmarks closely follow the [White House's Guidelines for Reopening America](#).

Gov. Beshear said a foundational basis for safely reopening the economy requires a massive scaling up of testing capacity in the commonwealth.

Expanded Testing

The Governor also said drive-through testing in the fight against the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) will be expanded with a significant focus on African-American communities.

“We have seen the disproportionate impact – especially in the death rate – of this virus and so the commitment we are making teaming with Louisville and Lexington is that we are going to run more tests in that week, with the capacity of 1,500 per week in each of those locations,” he said.

On Wednesday, he announced an expansion of the state’s pact with Kroger and other new partnerships to bring drive-through testing to communities throughout the commonwealth.

The new testing sites with Kroger will be located in Louisville, Lexington, Owensboro and Bowling Green. Kroger testing is open up to everyone who needs a test. Those seeking to obtain a test can get location and registration details at [the KrogerHealth website](#).

Testing will be conducted April 27 to May 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Louisville’s Shawnee Park, 4501 W. Broadway; and at Lexington’s Bluegrass Community and Technical College, 500 Newtown Pike.

The testing also will be done April 28 to April 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Owensboro Community College, 4800 New Hartford Road; and at Bowling Green’s South Warren High School, 8140 Nashville Road.

“This announcement on increased testing is a really great step for us here in the City of Louisville,” said Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer. “We all want to open up our economy in small steps as soon as we can but it’s absolutely critical that we have the testing that will be our guide.”

Through a separate partnership with Walgreens, Gov. Beshear said the company would offer a drive-through testing option in Lexington, starting Friday. The location is 2296 Executive Drive. The site is open seven days a week, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET. Visit walgreens.com/coronavirus for additional information on registering.

“We are so excited to have these two new testing opportunities in Lexington,” said Mayor Linda Mayor Gorton of Lexington. “Our city acted early and quickly to prepare for COVID-19, and the numbers show Lexington citizens have done a great job at following social distancing recommendations. I greatly appreciate everyone’s cooperation.”

Dr. Steven Stack, commissioner of the Department for Public Health also talked about different types of testing.

“Now we want clinician judgment to be the primary guide and if patients have concerns that they should get tested,” said Dr. Stack. “But remember, I’ve urged every step of the way that you should seek a test in

partnership with a clinician who can help you know if the test you've gotten is useful for your particular situation and what you should do with the information when you get it.

'We really need the hospitals and others to start using this test capacity, particularly as we look to start reopening some medical facilities next week. We have to see these numbers go up,' Dr. Stack added.

Case information

As of 5 p.m. April 22, Gov. Beshear said there were [at least 3,373 coronavirus cases](#) in Kentucky, 196 of which were newly confirmed.

'Given that we are doing more tests and how those numbers have gone up and down, we do believe from the total number of tests that we have plateaued,' the Governor said. 'Nobody wants 196 new cases, but we are not seeing a day-over-day increase, and when we average it all out we're not seeing a three-day-over-three-day increase, which we were seeing as early as about two weeks ago.'

Unfortunately, Gov. Beshear also reported 14 new deaths Wednesday, raising the state's toll to 185 deaths related to the virus.

'They are very special people that we have lost, whose families are hurting,' the Governor said.

The newly reported deaths include a 68-year-old woman from Boyd County; a 74-year-old woman from Campbell County; a 71-year-old man from Fayette County; a 96-year-old woman from Graves County; a 76-year-old woman from Grant County; an 88-year-old woman from Hopkins County; three men, ages 50, 74, 87, two women, ages 85 and 80, and a 58-year-old of undisclosed gender from Jefferson County; and a 68-year-old man and an 83-year-old woman from Kenton County.

The Governor highlighted the death of Stanley Lee Buckler of Lexington, whose daughter-in-law wrote a Facebook post after his death on April 21 from the coronavirus.

'To Stanley's entire family, we are thinking about you,' the Governor said. 'When you look around you tonight and see those green houses and places of business, you see the color of compassion and renewal, know that even though we can't be with you physically, we are all with you.'

At least 1,311 people have recovered from COVID-19 in Kentucky.

'We want that number to keep going up each and every day,' Gov. Beshear said.

To date, at least 36,075 people have been tested. At least 1,105 people have ever been hospitalized with 301 currently hospitalized.

At least 564 have ever been in the ICU with at least 161 people currently in the ICU.

Gov. Beshear also offered an update on the racial breakdown of COVID-19 patients and victims, which unfortunately highlights existing disparities in health and health care access.

The Governor said with about 84% of the known cases accounted for, 77.18% of Kentuckians who tested positive were white, 13.38% were black or African-American, 4.83% were multiracial, 4.56% were Asian and 0.04% were Native American or Alaskan Native.

The Governor also said with about 80% of the known cases accounted for, 91.98% of people who tested positive were non-Hispanic and 8.01% were Hispanic.

On fatalities attributed to the coronavirus, with about 85% of the known cases accounted for, Kentucky deaths are about 79.74% white, 17.73% black or African-American, 1.89% Asian and 0.64% were multiracial.

On fatalities attributed to the coronavirus, with about 84% of the known cases accounted for, Kentucky deaths are about 98.72% non-Hispanic and 1.28% Hispanic.

More information The Governor is asking all Kentuckians to continue to fight the spread of the virus by following his [10-step guidance](#), which includes practicing social distancing and staying *healthy at home*. Gov. Beshear says these efforts have the potential to save the lives of as many as 11,000 Kentuckians. Read about other key updates, actions and information from Gov. Beshear and his administration at governor.ky.gov, kycovid19.ky.gov and the Governor's official social media accounts [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

Watch the Governor's social media accounts at 5 p.m. ET each day for his regular briefing. Kentuckians can also access translated COVID-19 information and daily summaries of the Governor's press conference at tinyurl.com/kygovespanol (Spanish) and tinyurl.com/kygovtranslations (more than 20 additional languages).

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages people to follow these [steps to prevent illness](#). Kentuckians who want advice can call the state hotline at 800-722-5725 or call their local health care provider.

Team Kentucky hashtags for social media #TeamKentucky, #TogetherKY, #Patriot and #HealthyAtHome.

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