

Latest models for Ky. virus impact vary; county projections made

**By Al Cross
Kentucky Health News**
Projections of covid-19's impact on Kentucky continue to vary, but one model has begun to estimate how individual counties will deal with the disease.

Those projections rely on data that is even more scant than the earlier models, but they are being updated frequently and are intended to be a guide to local and state

officials in planning for the expected surge of covid-19 patients.

Statewide, that surge is expected to peak on April 24, according to the latest projection by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington. That is during the period that IHME predicts to be the peak for deaths, April 23-27, with 28 deaths per day.

The IHME projection of total deaths, which

is based on patterns of deaths in other locations, has fluctuated widely. Its latest projection is that 933 Kentuckians will die of covid-19, about half the 1,750 it predicted a week earlier, but about the same number it projected a week before that. When it estimated the higher figure, it projected 54 deaths per day at the peak, with approximately the same dates for the peak.

The model predicts that Kentucky's health system is likely to have enough hospital beds, intensive-care beds and ventilators to handle the surge, but its projections have a wide range of possibilities, many of them exceeding capacity. Its projections are based on the assumption that social-distancing rules now in place will remain through May.

Another model, which

Gov. Andy Beshear has used in simplified form at his daily briefings, projects a much later peak of stress on Kentucky hospitals, and a lower number of hospitalizations: 841, on June 7, if there is strict compliance with social-distancing rules. If there is poor compliance, it estimates a peak of 15,105 hospitalizations on June 23. That would be near system capacity, but the state is working on tem-

porary field hospitals and other measures to increase capacity.

The model, developed and updated by a group of epidemiologists across the country branded as CovidActNow, projects that with strict compliance, 2,000 Kentuckians would die of covid-19, and that with poor compliance, 16,000 would die. The latter number is 3,000 higher than it was a week ago.

Woman arrested for damaging pool

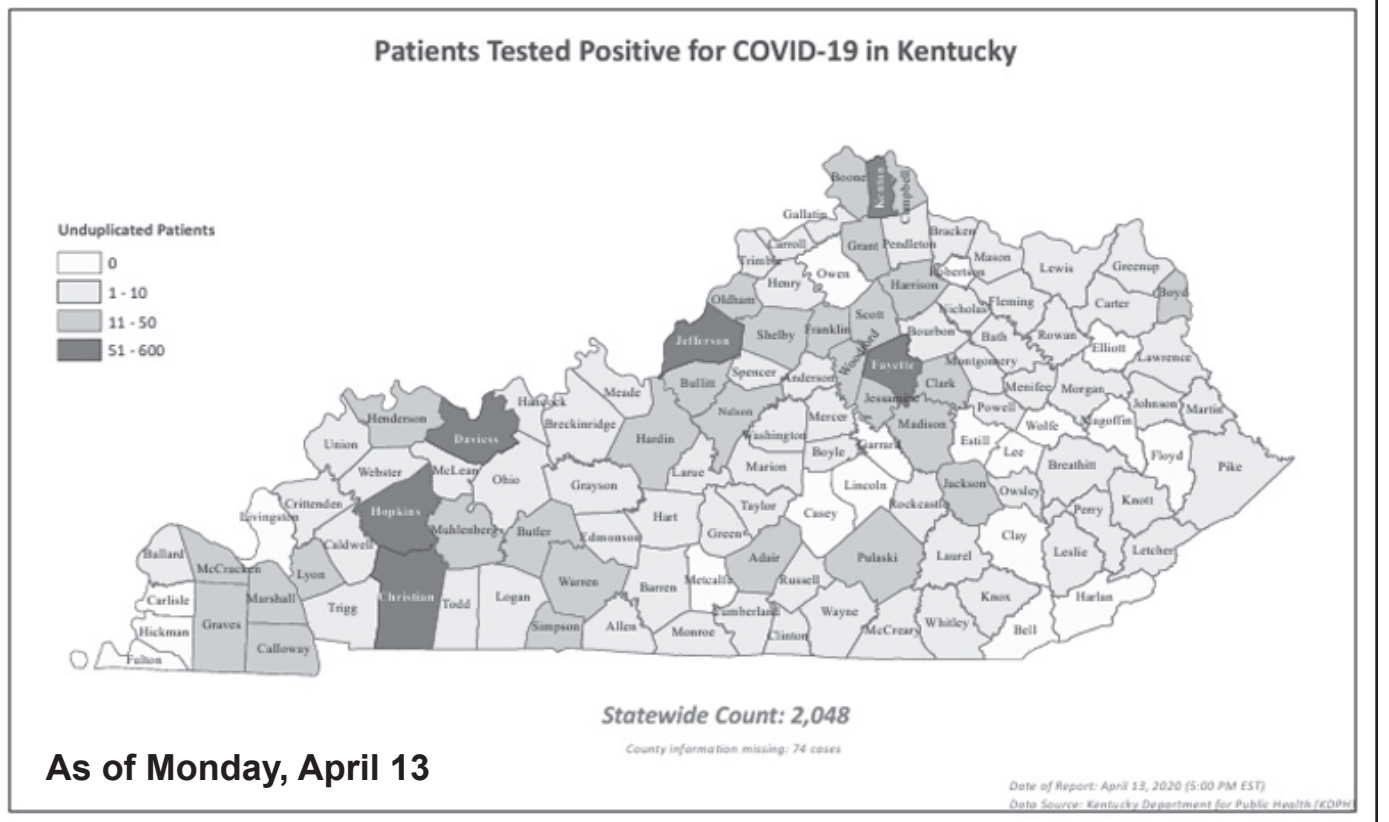
Continued from Page 1

During the standard field sobriety tests, Deputy Coffey and Officer Marshall heard a tearing sound. King said he looked back and Hackworth was standing in front of an above ground swimming pool and her son was in front of her.

King added that Hackworth made a tossing motion towards the ground and stepped in that direction. He and Deputy Coffey walked toward the pool to investigate the sound. They observed a cut approximately two inches long in the pool which cost \$1,200 or more.

When Hackworth moved towards the officer, King said she had a small pocket knife next to where she had made the tossing motion.

Deputy King charged Hackworth, 36, of Peyton Avenue, Irvine with first degree criminal mischief.



State forms task force to deal with covid-19 in nursing homes and other long-term-care facilities, lists those where coronavirus found

**By Al Cross
Kentucky Health News**
State officials have formed a task force to advise them about how to prevent the coronavirus from devastating the state's nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, which have already suffered 18 deaths from it.

"This is our challenge," Gov. Andy Beshear said at his daily briefing on Friday. "This is where the coronavirus is devastating every state and all of our communities." He said 141 residents and 86 staffers have tested positive, with 37 new cases of residents, 38 new cases of staff, and two new deaths in the previous 24 hours.

He said "three or four" facilities have tested their entire staff in the last 24 hours, and three have been hit "very hard." Those are Treyton Oak Towers in Louisville, Summit Manor in Columbia and River's Bend Retirement Community in Kuttawa.

"These are some of the most vulnerable residents in some of the most precarious health situations," Health Secretary Eric Friedlander said, adding that

Health Commissioner Steven Stack's office "engages with every facility that has someone who tests positive."

Friedlander said the state has named 10 people, mostly physicians, "to help us think through" the problem and balance the complex interests involved. He said members of the long-term care task force also include psychiatrists, medical ethicists, geneticists and geriatric specialists, all of whom have long-term care experience. He said they held their first meeting Friday via Zoom, an online conference platform.

Beshear said the state is helping hospitals prepare for transfer of covid-19 patients from nursing homes and is working on getting facilities at the state fairgrounds in Louisville prepared for temporary hospital space.

Friday afternoon, Beshear's office released a complete list of the Kentucky nursing homes or assisted-living facilities that have patients or employees with the coronavirus. The state had earlier given the Lexington Herald-Leader only the names of those with more than one case.

The list has 24 long-term-care facilities. Seven have had multiple cases and at least one death:

Summit Manor, Adair County: 24 residents; one death; eight staff cases.

Treyton Oak Towers, Jefferson: 21 residents; five deaths; eight staff cases.

Rosedale Green, Kenton: 12 residents; four deaths; 5 staff cases.

Coldspring, Campbell: 10 residents; one death; 3 staff cases.

River's Bend Assisted Living, Lyon: six residents; one death; three staff cases.

Ridgewood, Hopkins: four residents, two deaths; five staff cases.

Nazareth Home, Jefferson: two residents; one death; one staff case.

These facilities also reported multiple cases of residents and/or staff:

Morgantown, Butler County: eight residents, one staffer.

Masonic Home Louisville, Jefferson: five residents; three staffers.

Grant Manor, Grant: two residents.

Jackson Manor, Jackson: three residents; one staffer.

Park Terrace in Jefferson County has had one case, which ended in death.

Four facilities each reported one case in a resident: Gateway, Boone County; Hillside Villa, Hopkins; Sisters of Loretto Motherhouse, Marion; Oaklawn, Jefferson.

Two facilities each reported a case in one resident and one staffer: Henderson Nursing & Rehabilitation, and Madonna Manor in Kenton County.

Two facilities each reported cases in two staffers: Parkview, McCracken County; Mills Manor, Graves. Four reported a single case in a staffer: Fair Oaks, Russell County; Kingsbrook, Boyd; Heritage, Knox; Presbyterian Homes-Helmwood, Hardin.

Two facilities have no cases but are still awaiting test results: Countryside in Carlisle County and Jefferson Place in Jefferson County.

A note attached to the list says: "When a staff member tests positive, that does not mean they have been back in the facility, since they tested positive."

Editor's note: This article does not reflect additional cases which were confirmed at Jackson Manor since Friday.

Irvine Police Department Activity Report

Marcum Cole Johnson, 30, of Cantrill Street, Irvine was cited April 11 by Officer James Marshall.

The citation states that Johnson was fighting with a female on Rosebud Avenue. He also had a small bag of marijuana, a syringe, needle, and pipe.

Johnson was charged with second degree disorderly conduct, possession of marijuana, and drug paraphernalia-- buy/possession.

The woman, **Dakota Harvey**, 25, of Broadway, was also charged with second degree disorderly conduct.

The citation states that several residents in the neighborhood called in the incident.

Americanisms



"If we do not save the environment, then whatever we do in civil rights will be of no meaning, because then we will have the equality of extinction."

—James L. Farmer, Jr.

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Pharmacist convicted in huge fraud scam

**VETERANS POST
by Freddy Groves**

A federal jury in Texas spent a week finding a pharmacist guilty of all manner of charges.

The 75-year-old Houston pharmacist, dubbed the "Compound King," had owned Piney Point Pharmacy.

He was convicted on all charges: conspiracy to pay and receive kickbacks, conspiracy to commit health care fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, as well as 11 counts of health care fraud and three counts of wire fraud, beginning in September 2009.

Sounds like this pharmacist had been a busy boy. For his efforts, he'd nabbed \$21.8 million... although maybe he'd had to split some of that with his partner in crime, Anoop Kumar Chaturvedi, age 48, a legal permanent resident from India.

The pharmacist and his buddy cooked up a scheme to bill the gov-

ernment and health care programs for compounded gels and creams that they sent to injured state and federal employees through fake prescriptions.

They did this through a front, Wellington Advisors, and got the cash from billing the Department of Labor Workers Comp and Federal Employees Compensation Act programs.

The pharmacist claimed that the illegal kickbacks were actually "marketing" expenses. Chaturvedi allegedly wrote out hundreds of prescriptions at a time, which the pharmacy filled.

The investigation, started in early 2018, was conducted by a large group of Offices of Inspectors General of various departments, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, the IRS, the Department of Labor and the U.S. Post Office.

Sentencing is scheduled for May 27 for the pharmacist. He could get

20 years, plus 10 years, plus five years for all the charges. His wife, a real estate agent, hasn't been sentenced yet.

Meanwhile, Chaturvedi is still on the run. The government wants to

find him. If you know of his whereabouts, call the OIG of the U.S. Post Office at 1-888-877-7644. He's presumed innocent... for now.

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