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Gov. Beshear Working to Protect Kentucky Families from COVID-19

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Visit the Governor's Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/GovAndyBeshear/videos/644691246364408/) *page to watch today's news co*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 18, 2020) – Gov. Andy Beshear Wednesday announced more actions he is taking to help combat the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and protect Kentuckians.

"This is our duty. This is the challenge that we face in our lifetimes," Gov. Beshear said of people doing their part to stop the coronavirus. "None of us have seen anything like this before, but I believe we are up to it. I believe we can do is a test of the type of neighbors that we are willing to be and I know we are going to get past it."

Gov. Beshear reminded Kentuckians to remain calm, have faith and to continue doing their patriotic duty by following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines to protect the most vulnerable, which includes sen or kidney disease.

"We cannot lose our compassion, even when we are asking people to stay away from each other. We must continue to take care of each other," Gov. Beshear said. "I want to encourage everyone to continue to try and spread good nev defeat coronavirus is by being good people."

Gov. Beshear's new actions include:

Gov. Beshear suspended all charitable gaming licenses, closing bingo halls temporarily, to protect patrons at those establishments after having previously issued new guidance (https://governor.ky.gov/attachments/20200317_Order_P businesses. He said the overriding goal of the order is to minimize in-person interaction, which is the primary means of transmission of COVID-19.

The Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) will extend certification periods for all recipients of all public assistance programs (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/SNAP or formerly food stamps, Medicaid, Ker Supplementation) for three months. Those households whose certification periods end in May will automatically be extended to August, June to September, and so on. Job search, work and participation requirements are temporarily s the Kentucky Works Program, and the Child Care Assistance Program.

"We want everyone to sign up for the programs we have, those who are underemployed or unemployed," said Eric Friedlander, acting secretary for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. "Those who are eligible and not already s website and call us so we can help you with your health benefits."

- For all public assistance programs access the benefind website at https://benefind.ky.gov (https://benefind.ky.gov) or by calling the DCBS call center at 1-855-306-8959.
- For Medicaid only, call the Kentucky Healthcare customer service line at 855-459-6328 or contact an application assister through the Kentucky Health Benefit Exchange website at https://healthbenefitexchange.ky.gov

The Governor also announced that the state is working with federal partners to continue Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) payments on behalf of qualified families during the mandatory closure period. The state will also be cove provided updates on acute and psychiatric care visitation, long-term care visitation, adult day health centers and the closure of in-person government services. (https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&pr offices closed to in-person services. Visit individual cabinet websites for updates and opportunities for virtual services.

Gov. Beshear told people there is no need to withdraw money from banks, which he said are safe. He encouraged banks and their customers to take steps to limit contact with people.

As of 5 p.m. March 18, the state's COVID-19 patient information includes 35 cases (some of which all of the demographics were not available immediately):

- 27   F   Harrison, *recovered*
- 67   F   Harrison
- 69   M   Jefferson
- 40   F   Fayette
- 68   M   Harrison
- 46   M   Fayette
- 60   M   Harrison
- 54   F   Harrison

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- 31   F   Fayette
- 56   M   Montgomery
- 66   M   Bourbon, *passed away March 15*
- 67   F   Jefferson
- 51   M   Montgomery
- 80   F   Jefferson
- 53   M   Nelson
- 68   F   Jefferson
- 51   M   Harrison
- 47   M   Fayette
- 31   M   Fayette
- 73   F   Jefferson
- 49   M   Clark
- 54   M   Jefferson
- 34   F   Jefferson
- 74   M   Jefferson
- 33   F   New York, *tested in Lexington (not included in Kentucky total)*
- 69   M   Lyon
- 66   M   Jefferson
- 88   F   Bourbon
- 8 months   Jefferson
-   F   Jefferson
-     Franklin
-     Harrison
-     Kenton
-     Warren
-     Clark
-     Fayette

Unfortunately, one of the latest cases is an 8-month-old in Jefferson County. Gov. Beshear said the case of an infected child is very rare, but said the child is being treated at home.

"We're going to see new cases every day. That is why we are taking the steps we're taking," the Governor said.

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.g

More information

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourages people to follow these steps to prevent illness (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcor treatment.html). Kentuckians can find regular updates and resources including more information about when to seek medical attention and courses of action for those in counties with positive cases at kycovid19.ky.gov (https://urldefen 3A__lnks.gd_l_eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDAyMjcuOTTc4OTA2ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2t5Y292aWQxOS5reS5nb3YiIn0.F2jAumJBF3 2Dl&d=DwMFAA&c=jvUANN7rYqzaQJvTqI-69lgi41yDEZ3CXTgIEaHlx7c&r=KHF5rLuGCRbKZFUzUGnLNWaa8D6wB-5jgAuZlNFQzXM&m=tAjjZBQpoE8zg9_2EEt_u-A8qhJnMyb2qU6uOljGZOw&s=GxPoRsNTvElr5khynLXOkH8F0C cdc.gov/coronavirus (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) for up-to-date information. 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 (https://governor.ky.gov/news).

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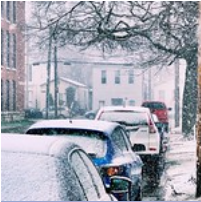
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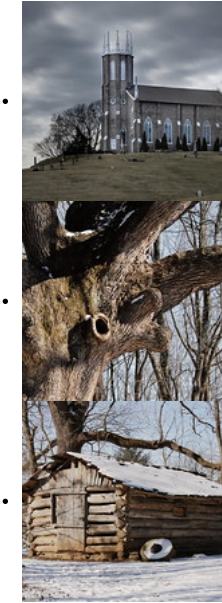
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