

Kentucky compares favorably to border states

by AL CROSS
Kentucky Health News
 Kentucky compares favorably to its major bordering states in the first public estimates of the impact of the coronavirus on the U.S. health-care system and the number of deaths expected from the covid-19 disease caused by the virus.

However, some estimates for Kentucky have wider possible ranges than for the other states, illustrating the shortage of data that public-health experts say is needed for policymakers to make decisions.

The estimates were published Thursday by Christopher Murray, director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington. He used numbers of confirmed covid-19 deaths through March 24, and state-by-state data on hospital capacity and use. He said he used covid-19 data "from select locations to develop a statistical model forecasting deaths and hospital utilization against capacity by state for the U.S. over the next four months."

Murray estimated 585 people in Kentucky will die from covid-19, or 0.013 percent of the state's estimated 2019 population. That is lower than any of the states that have major borders with Kentucky. Indiana's percentage is the highest, 0.036%, representing a forecast of 2,440 deaths.

The death forecasts for other major adjoining states are: Illinois, 2,454 (0.019%); Ohio, 2,733 (0.023%); Tennessee, 1,551 (0.022%); and West Virginia, 460 (0.025%).

Deaths in a pandemic typically follow a bell-shaped curve. Murray estimated the peak of the curve for each state and the likeliest number of deaths on that day. Of the six states, Kentucky has the latest forecast peak date, April 29, when 11 people are projected to die. Indiana is forecast to have the earliest peak among the six, 110 deaths on April 14.

Health experts talk of the need to "flatten the curve" to keep the number of cases from overwhelming the health-care

system, and Kentucky appears to be doing that. Murray estimated that the state will have enough hospital beds for covid-19 patients, but his forecast is less certain when it comes to the number of intensive-care-unit beds.

His report estimates that most of the major border states will be short of ICU beds at the peak, but Kentucky probably will have enough: 448 when only 160 are likely to be needed. However, the report says the number needed could be as low as zero or as high as 2,909.

The wide possible range could stem from the relatively low number of cases and deaths reported in Kentucky through March 24.

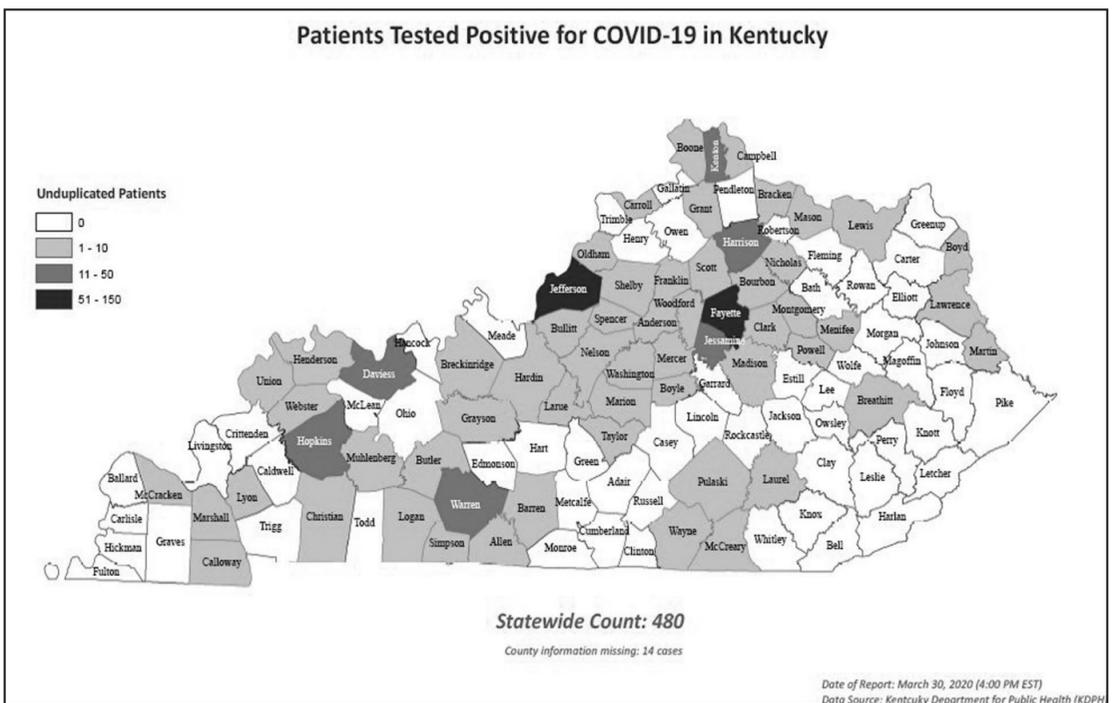
Gov. Andy Beshear was asked at his Sunday press conference if he had a projected peak date for Kentucky. "We're working on that," he said. "It's all based on some really limited data. ... The next two weeks are critical, and we know that will impact the peak."

Kentucky Health News notified Beshear's office before the press conference that it was preparing a story on the report, offering him a chance to comment on it. He did not, at least directly.

Beshear and Health Commissioner Steven Stack said the critical measure in the next two weeks is social distancing to prevent spread of the virus. "We're at crunch time," Stack said. "Assume everybody around you has the coronavirus."

One major obstacle to dealing with the virus is the lack of testing, which could track its spread. widespread testing would identify people who have the virus but no symptoms, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said on CNN. People without symptoms can still spread the virus, and not develop symptoms until two weeks or more after becoming infected.

The University of Washington report estimated that as many as 162,000 Americans will die from covid-19, but that the number could be as low as 38,000. It said the likeliest



State	Kentucky	Illinois	Indiana	Ohio	Tennessee	W. Virginia
Population	4,467,673	12,671,821	6,732,219	11,689,100	6,829,174	1,792,147
Covid-19 deaths projected thru Aug. 4	585	2,454	2,440	2,733	1,551	460
Projected deaths as pct. of population	0.013%	0.019%	0.036%	0.023%	0.022%	0.025%
Peak day for deaths	29-Apr	16-Apr	14-Apr	15-Apr	21-Apr	23-Apr
Deaths projected to occur that day	11	91	110	95	51	14
Ventilators needed	95	721	854	712	411	114
Hospital beds available in state	6210	14,552	8485	14,290	7812	3,032
Likeliest number of beds needed at peak	828	8,841	10,458	8,742	4995	1,402
Bed use as percentage of projected need	13.33%	60.75%	123%	61.18%	63.94%	46.24%
Intensive Care Unit beds available	448	1131	706	1238	629	196
Likeliest number of peak ICU beds needed	160	1365	1633	1354	761	215
Possible range of ICU bed needs	0 - 2,909	216 - 2,703	330 - 4,963	1,178 - 1,508	639 - 855	153 - 253
Likeliest ICU bed use as percentage of need	35.71%	121%	43.23%	109%	121%	110%

number is 81,114 deaths. "In addition to a large number of deaths from covid-19, the epidemic in the U.S. will place a load well beyond the current capacity of hospitals to manage, especially for ICU care," Murray wrote.

Among the bordering states, Indiana is the only one that the report forecasts to be short of beds, but only it and Kentucky are predicted to have enough ICU beds. "The estimated excess

demand on hospital systems is predicated on the enactment of social distancing measures in all states that have not done so already within the next week," Murray wrote, "and maintenance of these measures throughout the epidemic, emphasizing the importance of implementing, enforcing, and maintaining these measures to mitigate hospital system overload and prevent deaths."

Berea man charged by IPD with stealing cell phone

A Berea man has been charged with stealing the cell phone from the owner of El Rancho Restaurant in Irvine.

Officer James Marshall said that a video camera captured the man taking the Samsung Galaxy S8 phone on March 27.

The phone was valued at \$499.95, the case at \$30, and it had a \$30 SIM card inside

it, making the total value \$590.

Marshall said the phone was recovered but the SIM card and case were missing.

Robert L. Lear, 36, was charged with theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others \$500 or more but under \$10,000.

Because the value exceeds \$500, the charge is a Class D felony.

Local Police activity report

Irvine Officer Jason Conrad served a warrant from Lee District Court March 23 on **Christopher R. Cockrell**, 23, of Congleton Road, Irvine.

Skye Lee Greene, 32, of Sugar Hollow Road, Irvine faces seven charges after a traffic stop on March 30 by Officer Conrad.

The officer said he observed Greene traveling on South Irvine Road with no illuminated tail lamps or illuminated rear license plate. The vehicle was also weaving back and forth over the yellow line.

After the stop, Conrad performed field sobriety tests on Greene.

During a search of the vehicle, Conrad said he located a black container containing a crystal like substance, suspected to be methamphetamine and a glass pipe.

Greene was charged with no tail lamps, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, no operators - moped license, rear license plate not illuminated, first degree and first offense possession of a

controlled substance (methamphetamine), possession of marijuana, and drug paraphernalia - buy/possess.

Lindsey Taylor Jones, 24, of Richmond was arrested March 27 by Officer James Marshall on Bertha Wallace Drive in Irvine.

Officer James Marshall said he received a complaint about a vehicle traveling south on KY 89 into Irvine. The 911 caller followed the vehicle until it stopped at the apartments on Bertha Wallace Drive.

When the officer arrived, he said the driver was behind the wheel and the vehicle was running.

He performed field sobriety tests on the driver. He recovered marijuana.

Jones was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence, driving DUI suspended first aggravated circumstance, and possession of marijuana less than eight ounces, first offense.

Deputies Josh King and Brad Smith were dispatched March 24 to a domestic in progress on Cobb Hill

Road.

Upon arrival at the scene, Deputy King said they found **Michael Craig Stamper**, 44, leaning against a GM pickup truck. Stamper reportedly told the officers that he had driven the truck that evening, and he was the last person to drive it.

During a vehicle search, Deputy King said he opened an altered compartment inside the steering wheel. Inside that compartment, he found two small baggies.

After removing the baggies from the compartment, King said he found two suspected hydrocodone pills, three suspected oxycodone pills, and a small clear baggie containing suspected methamphetamine.

Stamper was charged with two counts of possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense.

Cody Begley, 25, of W. Cedar Grove Road, Irvine was arrested March 30 by Deputy King who charged him with third degree criminal trespass and second degree disorderly conduct.

Two warrants were

served by the Estill County Sheriff's Department March 23 on **Coy Gregory**, 41, of Walnut Grove Road, Irvine.

Deputy Smith served a Harrison County District Court warrant on Gregory.

That warrant says Gregory was found guilty last April of receiving stolen property under \$500.

The warrant was issued because Gregory had failed to appear for court. His bail was set at \$350.00 cash.

Deputy King served a probation violation warrant on Gregory from the Kentucky Parole Board.

According to that warrant, Gregory was paroled on November 21, 2019. He had been convicted in Estill Circuit Court of possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine).

The warrant states that Gregory has violated the conditions of his release by absconding parole supervision, failing to report to his parole officer as directed, and failing to abide by the rules of a halfway house.

NOTICE

The free spay and neuter clinic scheduled for cats and dogs at the Estill County Animal Shelter on April 1 and 2 has been postponed. Those who were signed up will be notified when the clinic is rescheduled. Thank you.

For more information, please contact Tommy Mullen at **723-3587**.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Pilate...wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. But they shouted...“Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Then he said to them the third time, “Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go.” But they were insistent... and the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed.

Detail from "The Crucifixion" by Rembrandt, 1635

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