



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

<https://www.healthwatchusa.org> May 1, 2025

Member of the National Quality Forum & designated "Community Leader" for Value-Driven Healthcare by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

Activity for the Month of April Health Watch USAsm:

- 1 Continuing Education Course.
- 1 Presentation.
- 2024 HW USA Conference Videos are Available.

Information Regarding Health Watch USAsm Nov. 1st, 2023: Long COVID's Impact on Patients, Workers & Society: <https://healthconference.org>

Health Watch USAsm 2023 Activities Report:

<https://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Officers/20231231-HWUSA-Report-2023.pdf>

Health Watch USAsm 2022 Activities Report:

<https://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Officers/20221231-HWUSA-Report-2022-2.pdf>

Health Watch USAsm 2021 Activities Report:

<https://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Officers/20211231-HWUSA-Report-2021.pdf>

Health Watch USAsm 2020 Activities Report:

<https://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Officers/20201231-HWUSA-Report-2020.pdf>

Health Watch USAsm - Continuing Education

Reserve the date for Health Watch USA(sm)'s 2025 Public Health Webinar

"Combating Infectious Disease Challenges; Have we gone twenty steps forward or backwards?"

Aug 29, 2025, from 2:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Yes, this is an unusual time, but we have international speakers from New Zealand, Australia and Singapore. More information to follow.

Additional Active Continuing Education Courses



COVID-19: Endemic Impact & Responsibility

Four credit hours for Physicians - Category I AMA Credits and four hours of corresponding Kentucky Board Accreditation, Physical Therapy, Respiratory, EMS, & Nursing (4.8 hrs.)

Course Objectives:

- To better diagnose and recognize the multiple presentations of Long COVID, including behavioral health implications.
- To be able discuss with patients the importance of preventing COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases.
- To combat patient misinformation regarding vaccines and the risks of COVID and Long COVID.
- To identify and reschedule patients who missed disease screenings during the pandemic.
- To discuss how COVID-19 is spread through the air by a continuum of particle sizes.
- To discuss with office staff and other health care professionals strategies to prevent the spread of respiratory pathogens including use of N95 masks and improvement in indoor ventilation.
- To better discuss with patients the benefits and need for vaccinations.

Link to Course (Southern Kentucky AHEC)

<https://sokyahec.thinkific.com/courses/COVID-enduring>

Download Brochure: https://www.healthconference.org/healthconference.org-files/2024Conference_downloads/20240901-HWUSA_Brochure-AHEC.pdf

Health Watch USAsm - Misinformation

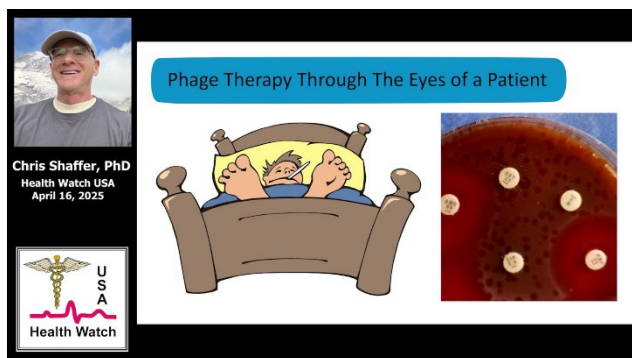
We have posted a number of COVID-19 resources regarding common areas of misinformation. These include:

- The Dangers of Long COVID and COVID-19 in Children: [Download Resource](#)
- COVID-19 Vaccine Prevention of Long COVID: [Download Resource](#)
- COVID-19 Vaccine's Effectiveness & Risks: [Download Resource](#)
- The ineffectiveness of Hydroxychloroquine & Ivermectin in the treatment of COVID-19: [Download Resource](#)

Health Watch USA Op-eds Regarding COVID-19 and Children:

- COVID is still a problem, and we need to do more to stop it | Opinion. Lexington Herald Leader. Nov. 1, 2024. <https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article294875999.html#storylink=cpy>
- COVID is closing Kentucky schools – again. Embracing disinformation paralyzes our response. Sept. 6, 2023. USA Today. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2023/09/06/kentuckyschool-districts-close-covid-upgrade-buildings-ventilation/70765140007/>
- 70% of COVID-19 Cases Transmitted By Children. Infection Control Today. June 5, 2023. <https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/70-covid-19-cases-transmitted-by-children>

Health Watch USAsm – Meetings



A Patient's Successful Quest for a Phage to CURE His Antibiotic-Resistant Infection

Christopher Shaffer, PhD, describes the benefits of phage therapy and its utility in treating antibiotic resistant bacteria. In addition, he describes his journey to Europe to receive this therapy and the barriers in the United States which prevent its widespread adoption. Health Watch USA Meeting April 16, 2025.

YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/i8Gi-IQwZxA>

- 03:35 My story of an Antibiotic-Resistant Infection.
- 10:26 Chronic Infections and Biofilms.
- 12:05 What are Phages and Phage Therapy.
- 15:48 The US Bureaucracy blocking the use of Phage Therapy.
- 19:51 My trip to Europe to receive phage therapy.
- 23:25 Phages and Antibiotic Synergy.
- 35:51 Why the US is not using phage therapy to its fullest potential.
- 40:05 The PASTURE Act -- Needs your support.
- 40:29 Antibiotic Resistance, How many people are dying.
- 42:23 What is needed to bring this therapy to patients.
- 43:20 Phage therapy is not profitable for pharmaceutical companies.



Upcoming Meetings:

-- May 21, 2025. 7 pm ET. TBA

-- June 18, 2025. 7 pm ET. Dr. Bruce Lanphear will present on "The decline in coronary heart disease as an example of why population strategies are so important."

Space is limited. To attend future meetings, send an email to kavanagh.ent@gmail.com

Health Watch USAsm – Articles of Interest



A deadly E. coli outbreak hit 15 states, but the FDA chose not to publicize it

"The outbreak linked to romaine lettuce killed one person and sickened at least 88 more, including a 9-year-old boy who nearly died of kidney failure. According to an internal report obtained by NBC News, the FDA did not name the companies because no contaminated lettuce was left by the time investigators uncovered where the pathogen was coming from. "There were no public communications related to this outbreak," the FDA said in its report, which noted that there had been a death but provided no details about it." <https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/other/a-deadly-e-coli-outbreak-hit-15-states-but-the-fda-chose-not-to-publicize-it/ar-AA1D5LiD?ocid=BingNewsSerp>

US FDA suspends food safety quality checks after staff cuts

WASHINGTON, April 17 (Reuters) – "The Food and Drug Administration is suspending a quality control program for its food testing laboratories as a result of staff cuts at the Department of Health and Human Services, according to an internal email seen by Reuters. The proficiency testing program of the FDA's Food Emergency Response Network is designed to ensure consistency and accuracy across the agency's network of about 170 labs that test food for pathogens and contaminants to prevent food-borne illness." <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-fda-suspends-food-safety-quality-checks-after-staff-cuts-2025-04-17/>

Man busted for working as a doctor despite no medical training to head Trump's review of debunked vaccine-autism link

"A vaccine skeptic who was sanctioned after practising medicine despite having (not attended medical school) is expected to lead the US review into possible links between autism and vaccines."

<https://www.ausdoc.com.au/news/vaccine-skeptic-busted-for-working-as-a-doctor-despite-no-medical-training-to-lead-trumps-review-of-debunked-vaccine-autism-link/>

Maryland State Board of Physicians findings:

<https://www.mbp.state.md.us/BPQAPP/orders/GeierOrder07.302.pdf>

While the United States has cut funds for the COVID-19 Nasal Vaccine Research. France has picked up the ball and taking the lead.

France's New Nasal Vaccine Aims to Cut COVID Transmission

"Nasal vaccines against respiratory viruses offer the advantage of providing both local protection at the site of virus entry (the nasal mucosa) and systemic protection, similar to traditional vaccines, including messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines. This dual action can rapidly slow viral replication and limit its spread within the body. The vaccine that will be tested contains the spike protein and a non-mutated nucleoprotein of SARS-CoV-2 and aims to reduce the transmission of COVID-19."

<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/frances-new-nasal-vaccine-aims-cut-covid-transmission-2025a1000a3b>

Long COVID

"Further research is necessary to establish causation and explore the exact effects of COVID-19 within the CNS affecting cognition and behavior."

Driving under viral impairment: Linking acute SARS-CoV-2 infections to elevated car crash risks

"Results demonstrated a significant association between acute COVID-19 infections and an increase in car crashes, independent of Long COVID status to the tune of an OR of 1.25 [1.23-1.26]. This association was observed despite varying mitigation efforts and vaccination rates across states. The study found no protective effect of vaccination against car crashes, challenging prior assumptions about the benefits of vaccination. Notably, the risk associated with COVID-19 was found to be analogous to driving impairments seen with alcohol consumption at legal limits. Findings suggest significant implications for public health policies, especially in assessing the readiness of individuals recovering from COVID-19 to engage in high-risk activities such as pilots or nuclear plant employees. Further research is necessary to establish causation and explore the exact effects of COVID-19 within the CNS affecting cognition and behavior." <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11978055/>

Long COVID poses lasting health risks for young people

"Long COVID can result in increased risk for a variety of serious health problems for young people, including those affecting the kidney, gut, and cardiovascular system, according to a group of new studies led by investigators at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania."

"While most public attention has focused on the acute phase of COVID-19, our findings reveal children face significant long-term health risks that clinicians need to monitor." -- Yong Chen, PhD, senior author, professor, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology <https://www.news-medical.net/news/20250421/Long-COVID-poses-lasting-health-risks-for-young-people.aspx>

Is Covid Rewriting the Rules of Aging? Brain Decline Alarms Doctors

"Five years after the pandemic's start, millions of Americans are still struggling with long-lasting symptoms of Covid-19. Cognitive difficulties are among the most troubling and common symptoms in people both old and young. These ailments can be severe enough to leave former professionals like Ken Todd unable to work and even diagnosed with a form of mild cognitive impairment."

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/other/is-covid-rewriting-the-rules-of-aging-brain-decline-alarms-doctors/ar-AA1CTkm0>

COVID-19 may put patients at risk for other infections for at least 1 year

CIDRAP: "Almost 50% higher rate of non-COVID respiratory infections

Compared with the test-negative control group, participants with a positive COVID-19 test who were not admitted had significantly increased rates of outpatient diagnosis of bacterial, fungal, and viral infectious illnesses (risk ratio [RR], 1.17; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.15 to 1.19), outpatient respiratory infections (RR, 1.46), and admission to hospital for infectious illnesses (RR, 1.41), including for sepsis and respiratory infections. Those data translate to increased risk of 17%, 46%, and 41%, respectively." <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/covid-19/covid-19-may-put-patients-risk-other-infections-least-1-year>

Measles

West Texas children treated for vitamin A toxicity after measles hospitalizations

"Multiple children in West Texas have been treated for vitamin A toxicity stemming from at-home attempts to treat measles, hospital officials have confirmed. Multiple children in West Texas have been treated for vitamin A toxicity stemming from at-home attempts to treat measles, hospital officials have confirmed. "Some patients reported using vitamin A for both treatment and prevention of measles," Johnson said in a statement on March 27."

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2025/04/04/texas-vitamin-a-toxicity-measles-patients/82871895007/>

CDC says measles cases are most likely underreported as outbreak swells in Texas

"Measles cases are most likely being underreported in the United States as public health officials scramble to find resources to address a ballooning outbreak in the Southwest, according to a senior scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. So far this year, 747 cases have been recorded in the United States, according to NBC News' tally. Two unvaccinated children in Texas and an unvaccinated adult in New Mexico have died. The adult tested positive for measles, but the official cause of death is still under investigation."

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/other/cdc-says-measles-cases-are-most-likely-underreported-as-outbreak-swells-in-texas/ar-AA1D16TG>

Misinformation & Disinformation

KFF Tracking Poll on Health Information and Trust: The Public's Views on Measles Outbreaks and Misinformation

"As the U.S. grapples with rising measles cases across multiple states and the highest number of cases since 2019, about half of adults (51%) and parents (47%) say they are at least "somewhat worried" about the outbreak of measles, including roughly one in seven adults who are "very worried" (14% of all adults, 13% of parents). Concern is notably higher among Black and Hispanic adults – six in ten of each group express worry compared to 46% of White adults. Roughly half of adults (56%) and parents with children under 18 (48%) are aware that the number of U.S. measles cases is higher this year than

in recent years.” <https://www.kff.org/health-information-and-trust/poll-finding/kff-tracking-poll-on-health-information-and-trust-the-publics-views-on-measles-outbreaks-and-misinformation/>

At Least Half of the Public are Uncertain When it Comes to False Claims About Measles, Saying Such Claims are Either Probably True or Probably False

Do you think each of the following is:

■ Definitely true ■ Probably true ■ Probably false ■ Definitely false

False claims about measles and vaccines

The measles, mumps, rubella vaccines, also known as the MMR vaccines have been proven to cause autism in children



Getting the measles vaccine is more dangerous than becoming infected with measles



Vitamin A can prevent measles infections



Health Watch USAsm - 2024 Conference Presentations



4 CME/CEU Credits

CME- Physicians, PA, NHA, NP
Kentucky Approved Credits 4 Hours: EMS, Social Work, PT, Respiratory, Dentistry, OT, Community Health Worker, and Kentucky Board of Nursing (4.8 credits Nursing)

Long COVID's Impact on Patients, Workers & Society

Link to Presentation Videos:

<https://www.healthwatchusa.org/conference2023/index.html>

Download /View Conference Proceedings: Kavanagh KT, Cormier LE, Pontus C, Bergman A, Webley W. Long COVID's Impact on Patients, Workers & Society. Medicine. Published Mar. 22, 2024. https://journals.lww.com/md-journal/fulltext/2024/03220/long_covid_s_impact_on_patients_workers_.50.aspx

Download Brochure: https://www.healthwatchusa.org/conference2023/healthconference.org-files/2023Conference_downloads/20231101-HWUSA_Brochure-5.pdf

Health Watch USASM - Peer-Reviewed Publications



Viewpoint: The Impending Pandemic of Resistant Organisms – A Paradigm Shift Towards Source Control is Needed

The United States needs a paradigm shift in its approach to control infectious diseases. Current recommendations are often made in a siloed feedback loop. This may be the driver for such actions as the abandonment of contact precautions in some settings, the allowance of nursing home residents who are carriers of known pathogens to mingle with others in their facility, and the determination of an intervention's feasibility based upon budgetary rather than health considerations for patients and staff. Facilities are becoming over-reliant on horizontal prevention strategies, such as hand hygiene and chlorhexidine bathing. Hand hygiene is an essential practice, but the goal should be to minimize the risk of workers' hands becoming contaminated with defined pathogens, and there are conflicting data on the efficacy of chlorhexidine bathing in non-ICU settings. Preemptive identification of dedicated pathogens and effective source control are needed. We propose that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention should gather and publicly report the community incidence of dedicated pathogens. This will enable proactive rather than reactive strategies. In the future, determination of a patient's microbiome may become standard, but until then we propose that we should have knowledge of the main pathogens that they are carrying.

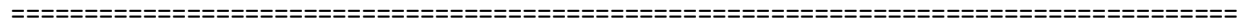
Data from both the U.S. Veterans Health Administration and the U.K.'s National Health Service support the importance of carrier identification and source control. Both organizations observed marked decreases in methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), but not methicillin-susceptible *Staphylococcus aureus* infections with the implementation of

MRSA), but not methicillin-susceptible *Staphylococcus aureus* infections with the implementation of MRSA admission screening measures.

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Preemptive identification of dedicated pathogens and effective source control are needed. We propose that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention should gather and publicly report the community incidence of dedicated pathogens. This will enable proactive rather than reactive strategies. In the future, determination of a patient's microbiome may become standard, but until then we propose that we should have knowledge of the main pathogens that they are carrying. *Medicine* Aug. 2,

2024. https://journals.lww.com/md-journal/fulltext/2024/08020/viewpoint_the_impending_pandemic_of_resistant.46.aspx



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