



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

<https://www.healthwatchusa.org> June 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 May Health Watch USAsm:

- 1 Continuing Education Course.
- 1 Presentation.
- 1 OpEd – Courier Journal
- 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 – Articles & Commentaries



We can't lose more children to measles. Get the facts about vaccines.

"Anti-vaxxers have increased their influence and minimized the dangers of measles infections while exaggerating the risks of vaccinations. This year, we've lost two unvaccinated healthy children. Important Developments:

- The Trump administration's dismantling of public health infrastructure, coupled with anti-vaccine misinformation, is exacerbating the measles outbreak.
- Measles cases are rising, with some resulting in death and long-term health complications, yet public perception of vaccine risks is skewed.
- Budget cuts and layoffs are hindering the CDC's ability to respond effectively to the crisis, while partisan divides further complicate the issue.
- The suppression of data and the spread of misinformation about measles treatments are also contributing to the problem.

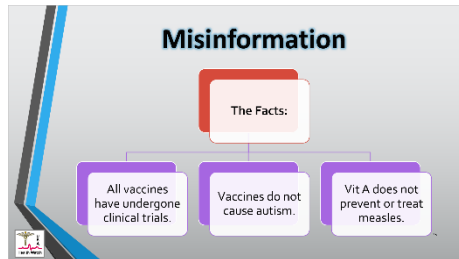
Vaccines are one of the greatest success stories of modern medicine. Since 1975, an estimated 154 million lives have been saved with vaccines. The consequences of our abandonment of



public health are only now becoming apparent. Unfortunately, it is our children who appear to be paying the heftiest price. A price which for some will be paid with interest for decades to come.."

References Courier Journal. May. 8, 2025. USA Today:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/contributors/2025/05/08/trump-doge-cuts-measles-outbreak-misinformation-health/83327636007/>



Health Watch USAsm – Meetings

Measles and Measles Vaccine - Preventable Disease and Disability in the United States

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh discusses the impact of measles and the measles vaccine. Cases are rising as is misinformation. The public has a significant misunderstanding of the risks of measles, and the benefits of the vaccine. The vaccine has been thoroughly evaluated and has an excellent safety record. The vaccine does not cause autism. Measles is a severe disease which can cause death and disability. The inadequate Federal response to the outbreak and cutting of funds to public health are also discussed. Health Watch USA(sm) meeting May 21, 2025. https://youtu.be/X0lq_8DJ9Mk

Download: [PowerPoint Slides](#)



Upcoming Meetings:

-- 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



Another article regarding the destructive impact of COVID-19 on the brain.

Cognitive Slowing, Dysfunction in Verbal Working Memory, Divided Attention and Response Inhibition in Post COVID-19 Condition in Young Adults

"The present study revealed significant long-lasting cognitive dysfunction in PCC in young adults, two years after COVID-19 infection. Verbal working memory was significantly impaired, and a lower performance was found in divided attention and response inhibition. In addition, there was an increased reaction time in most cognitive tasks, demonstrating cognitive slowing in young people with PCC."

"A total of 107 young adults, university students aged 18-34 years, participated. In total, 68.2% had contracted SARS-CoV-2; 21.9% showed PCC. Three groups were compared: no-C19 (COVID-19-negative controls), C19 (COVID-19-recovered without PCC) and PCC. Attention and executive function were measured with the Vienna Test System (Schuhfried®, Mödling, Austria). In verbal working memory, the PCC group had a significantly lower performance with a moderate effect. The rate of below-average performance was higher in PCC (56.2%) compared to no-C19 (20.6%) and C19 (15.8%). In divided attention and response inhibition, PCC also showed lower performance, 62.5% and 37.5%, respectively, than no-C19 and C19. The co-occurrence of decreased cognitive functions was pronounced in PCC."

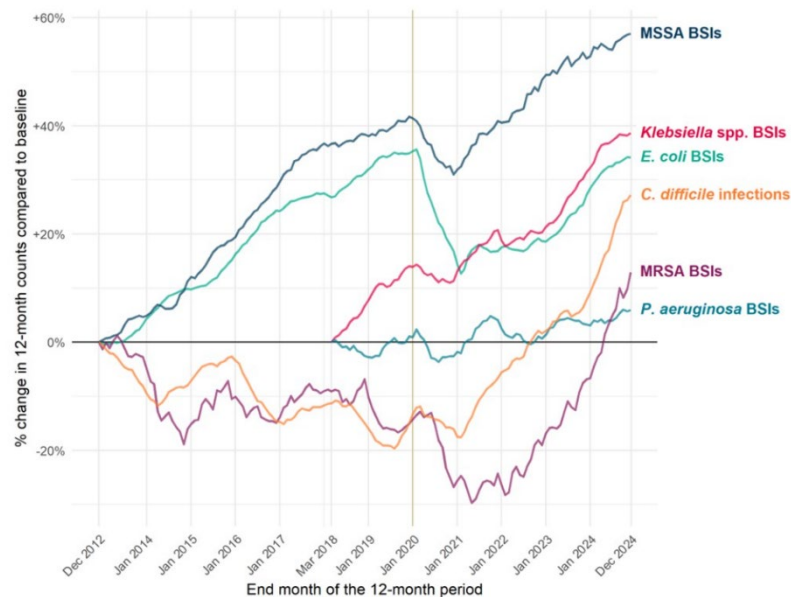
<https://www.mdpi.com/2075-1729/15/5/821>

Study Shows SARS-CoV-2 Corrupts Some White Blood Cells to Suppress Immune System, Suggesting a Path to Severe COVID

"A National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded study by researchers from Johns Hopkins Medicine, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and The Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering finds that neutrophils — the most abundant type of white blood cells in humans — may be altered by SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, to cease their normal function of destroying pathogens in the body and, instead, significantly inhibit other immune cells critical for fighting the virus." <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/newsroom/news-releases/2025/05/study-shows-sars-cov-2-corrupts-some-white-blood-cells-to-suppress-immune-system-suggesting-a-path-to-severe-covid>

As data mounts on the damaging effects of COVID-19 on our immune system. The United Kingdom is reporting a rise in infections.

Figure 1: CDI and bloodstream infections, 12-month rolling percent change since calendar year 2012 for MRSA, MSSA and E. coli bacteraemia and CDI, and from financial year 2017 for Klebsiella spp. and P. aeruginosa bacteraemia, December 2012 to December 2024



Quarterly epidemiological commentary: mandatory Gram-negative bacteraemia, MRSA, MSSA and C. difficile infections (data up to October to December 2024)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mrsa-mssa-gram-negative-bacteraemia-and-cdi-quarterly-report/quarterly-epidemiological-commentary-mandatory-gram-negative-bacteraemia-mrsa-mssa-and-c-difficile-infections-data-up-to-october-to-december-2024>

Real-world effectiveness and causal mediation study of BNT162b2 (Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine) on long COVID risks in children and adolescents

“Our study suggests that BNT162b2 was effective in reducing risk of long COVID outcomes in children and adolescents during the Delta and Omicron periods. The mediation analysis indicates the vaccine’s effectiveness is primarily derived from its role in reducing the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection.” “During the Delta period, the estimated effectiveness of the BNT162b2 vaccine against long COVID among adolescents was 95.4%. During the Omicron phase, the estimated effectiveness against long COVID among children was 60.2% and 75.1% among adolescents.”

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/eclinm/article/PIIS2589-5370\(24\)00541-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/eclinm/article/PIIS2589-5370(24)00541-8/fulltext)

Swedish Study Finds that mild COVID-19 in Pregnant Mothers Alters Babies’ Genes and Impacts Long-Term Health

“In a groundbreaking new study (pre print) out of Sweden, Researchers have discovered that babies born to mothers who had COVID-19 – even if the illness was mild – may carry lasting biological changes at the genetic level. These subtle alterations could potentially affect the child’s neurodevelopment, immune responses, and long-term disease risks.”

<https://www.thailandmedical.news/news/swedish-study-finds-that-mild-covid-19-in-pregnant-mothers-alters-babies-genes-and-impacts-long-term-health>

MedRx: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2025.05.10.25327356v1>

Long COVID Incidence Proportion in Adults and Children Between 2020 and 2024: An EHR-Based Study From the RECOVER Initiative

“Overall, 4% of children and 10%–26% of adults developed long COVID, depending on computable phenotype used. Excess incidence among SARS-CoV-2 patients was 1.5% in children and ranged from 5% to 6% among adults, representing a lower-bound incidence estimation based on our control groups.”

<https://academic.oup.com/cid/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/cid/ciaf046/8002322?redirectedFrom=fulltext&login=false>

Adverse maternal, fetal, and newborn outcomes among pregnant women with SARS-CoV-2 infection: an individual participant data meta-analysis

“This analysis indicates that SARS-CoV-2 infection at any time during pregnancy increases the risk of maternal death, severe maternal morbidities and neonatal morbidity, but not stillbirth or intrauterine growth restriction.” <https://gh.bmj.com/content/8/1/e009495>

The European Medicines Agency is recommending new restrictions on Azithromycin since antibiotic resistance is rapidly developing. This antibiotic has seen significant overuse during the COVID-19 pandemic when combined into a cocktail with hydroxychloroquine. Although ineffective and both drugs have synergistic heart toxicity (prolonged QT interval) it was widely used. Now the antibiotic is becoming ineffective for the infections it was designed for.

EMA proposes azithromycin use restrictions amid rising antimicrobial resistance

The European Medicines Agency’s (EMA) Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) has recommended several key changes to the authorised uses of azithromycin in the European Union (EU), in a bid to promote more rational use of the antibiotic and curb the rise of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). <https://lnkd.in/ex4-BN3Q>

Bird flu is not gone. Similar to the “human” seasonal flu, it just moved to the Southern Hemisphere during the northern summer months.

Brazil can no longer export poultry and meat to EU due to bird flu

BRUSSELS/PARIS (Reuters) – Brazil, the world's largest poultry exporter and main poultry meat importer into the European Union, is no longer allowed to ship poultry and meat products to the EU due to the outbreak of bird flu, the European Commission said on Monday.

This comes after Brazil confirmed its first outbreak of bird flu on a poultry farm on Friday, triggering protocols for a country-wide trade ban from top buyer China and state-wide restrictions for other major consumers such as Japan.

"EU import conditions require that the country of export (Brazil) is free of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza," a European Commission spokesperson said in an email. <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/brazil-can-no-longer-export-poultry-and-meat-to-eu-due-to-bird-flu/ar-AA1F3pus>

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 EDT. 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 – Combating 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.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/70-covid-19-cases-transmitted-by-children>

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.

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 admission screening measures.

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. *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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