



Long-Term Care and the COVID-19 Pandemic

Adam Mather, Inspector General

Keith Knapp, Senior Advisor

Health, Welfare, and Family Services Committee

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CHFS Office of Inspector General

The Office of Inspector General is the regulatory and licensing agency for all:

- health care facilities;
- child care facilities;
- long-term care facilities; and
- child adoption/child-placing agencies

in the commonwealth.

COVID-19 Pandemic in Kentucky LTC

As of 9/17

3,950

CASES AMONG LTC RESIDENTS IN KY

609

DEATHS AMONG LTC RESIDENTS IN KY

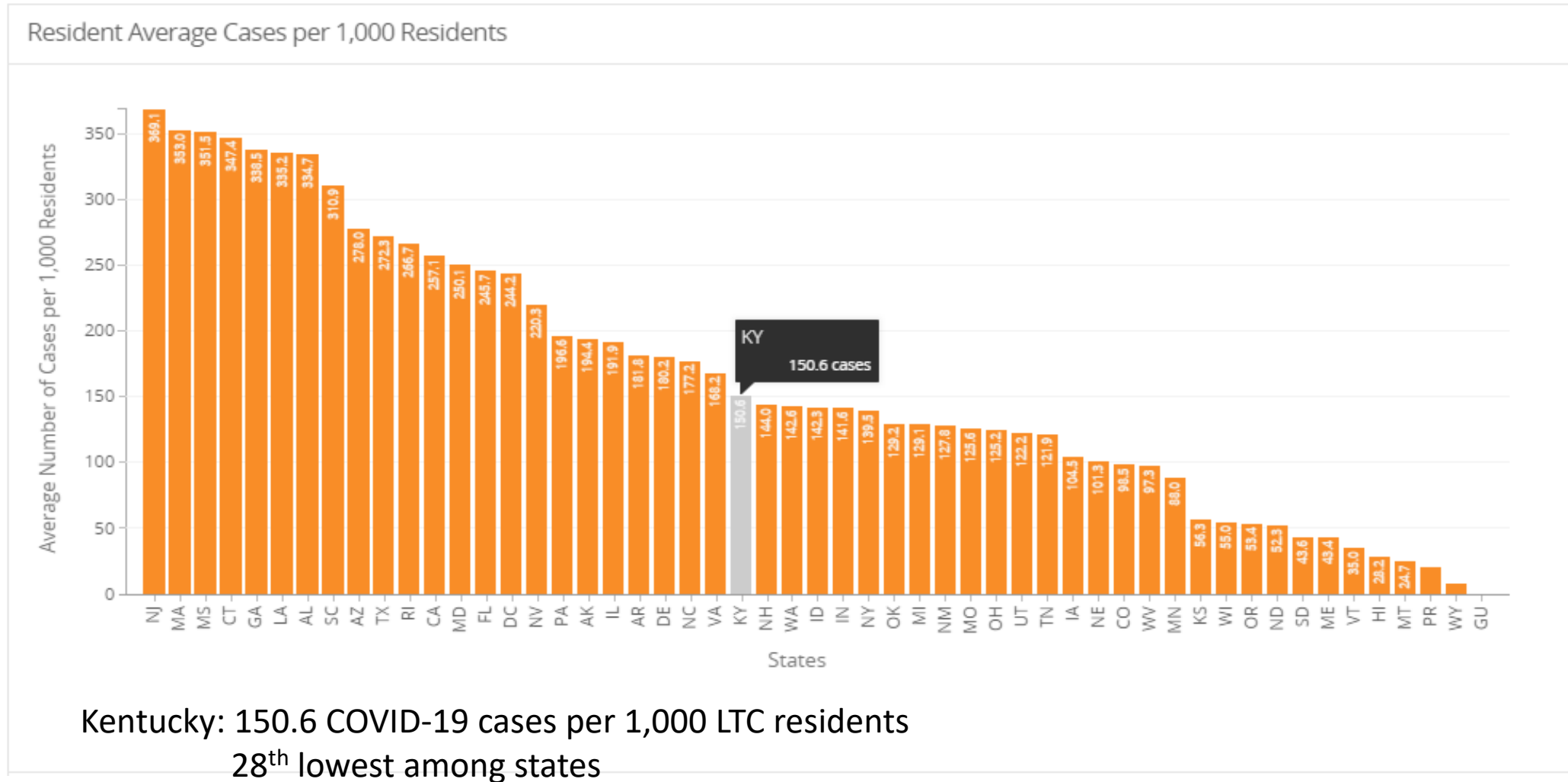
2,486

CASES AMONG LTC STAFF IN KY

5

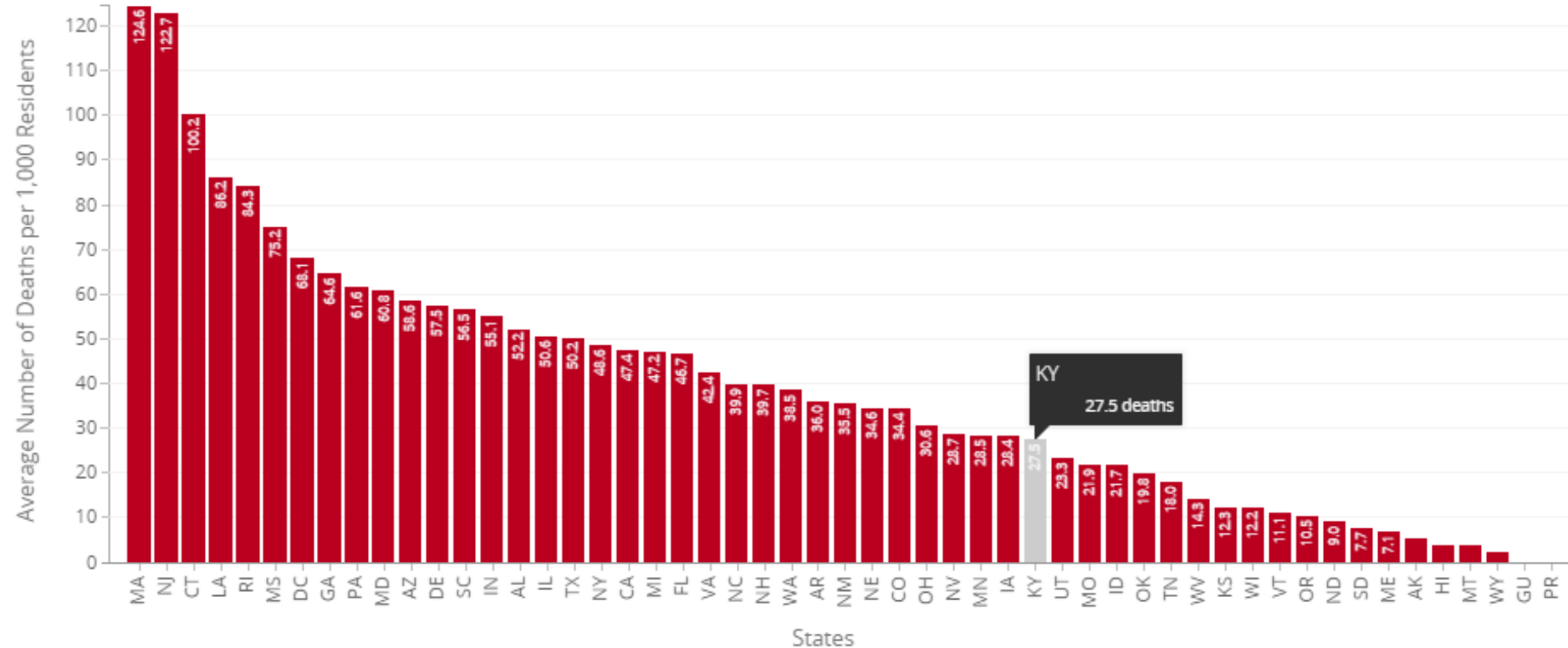
DEATHS AMONG LTC STAFF IN KY

LTC Resident Cases of COVID-19



LTC Resident Deaths Due to COVID-19

Resident Average Deaths per 1,000 Residents



Kentucky: 27.5 COVID-19 deaths per 1,000 LTC residents
18th lowest among states

Long-Term Care Facilities & COVID-19

- Congregate settings for frail adults in KY > 34,000 *plus* staff
 - 285 LTC Facilities > 22,000 residents
 - 231 Personal Care Homes and Assisted Living Communities ≈ 12,000 residents
 - 16 ICF-Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities > 450 residents
- Once COVID-19 has been introduced, it can spread rapidly among residents, staff members, and visitors
- Underlying health conditions and/or advanced age
 - ⇒ greater risk: severe illness and death

Long-Term Care Facilities & COVID-19

- Rapid and sustained public health interventions
- Focus: surveillance and infection control / prevention
- Mitigation efforts = resource-intensive
 - Critical to curtailing COVID-19 transmission and decreasing impact on vulnerable populations (*such as LTCF residents*) ~ CDC
 - Long-Term Care Advisory Task Force
 - Global and surveillance testing in LTCFs

Long-Term Care Task Force

- **Purpose**

Serves CHFS Secretary as a professional resource on COVID-19 in LTC and recommends evidence-based policies, procedures, and protocol

- **Membership** (10 volunteers + 6 staff)

LTC practitioners (clinical & leadership), regulators, and consumer advocates

- **Meeting Frequency:** at least weekly

- **Process**

Queries (LTC providers + regulators + public)

⇒ Research and apply most recent evidence

⇒ Recommend action

⇒ Provider guidance

⇒ Monitor outcomes and re-evaluate, as indicated

Guidance: Long-Term Care Advisory Task Force

April	Admission / discharge / transfer protocols Provider call center (KDPH/HAI & Norton)
May	<i>Update:</i> admission / discharge / transfer protocols Palliative care and emergency medications on-site Universal baseline C-19 PCR testing: staff and residents Oral health and phased resumption: on-site salons
June	Phased reduction of restrictions Adult day health, adult training LTCF: activities, dining, off-site appointments and visits
July	<i>Surveillance:</i> C-19 PCR testing: staff and residents
August	Point-of-care antigen testing: integrate with PCR testing
September	LTC provider operational education on testing: webinar & FAQs

Guidance: Phased Reduction of Restrictions

Adult Day Health Centers & Adult Day Training

- Temperature check & screening
- Transportation & essential visitors
- PPE, transmission precautions, & distancing
- Disinfect between uses

LTCFs

Group activities

Communal dining

Off-site appointments

Visits

Per CMS Phase II-III Guidelines

- ≤ 10 and no high-touch items
- Social distancing-driven
- Provider-operated vs. private vehicle
- 28-day (NH)/ 14-day (AL/PC) w/o new cases
- Designated area & staff-supervised
- Exception: compassionate care

Long-Term Care – Global Testing

- Comprehensive, baseline testing of ALL residents & employees of nursing facilities
 - Completed July 15
- Norton Healthcare partnership
 - Planning, testing, and wrap-around support
 - Provider 24/7 helpline with KDPH/HAI Team
- CMS designated Kentucky’s program a “State Best Practice”

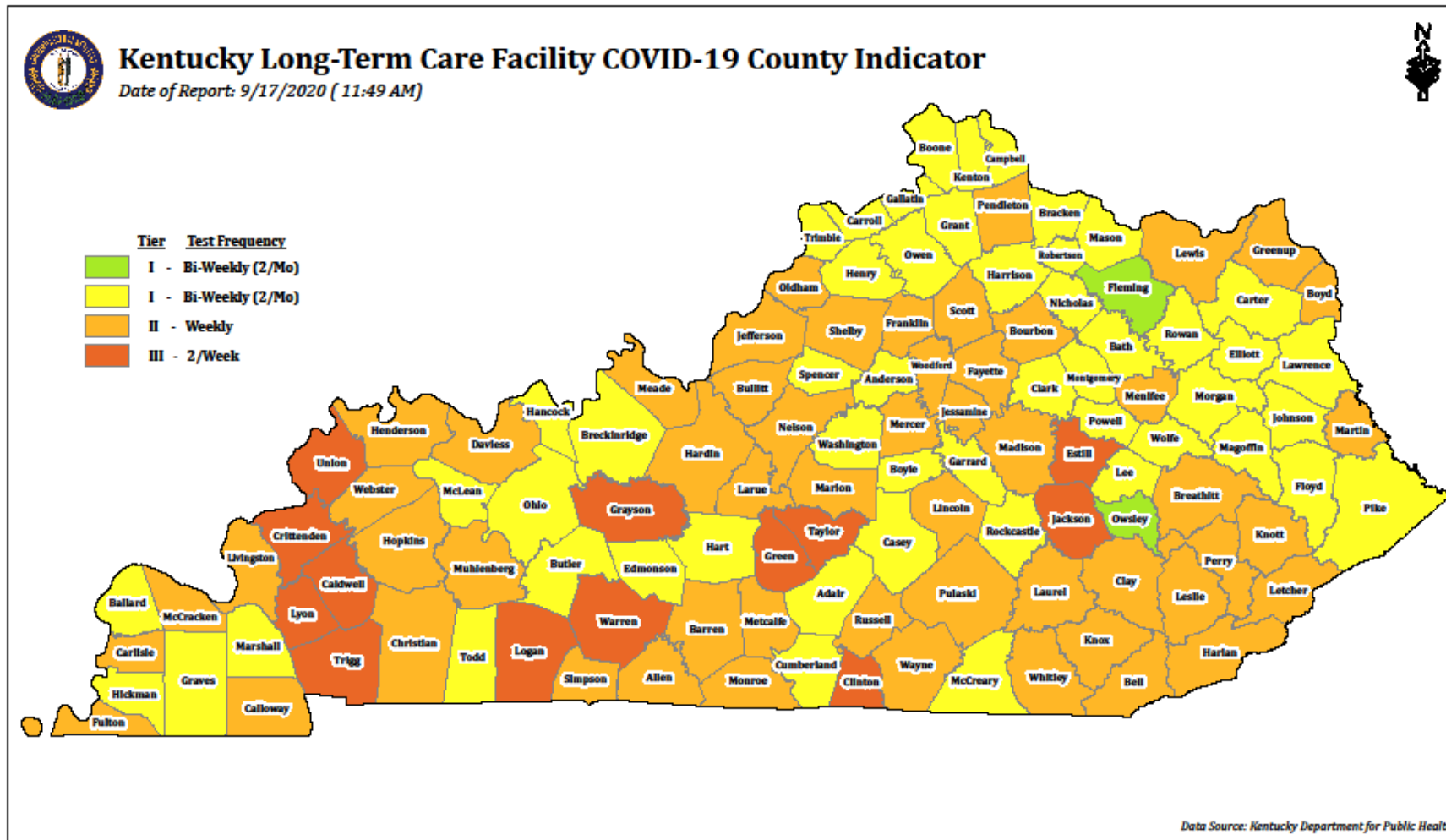
Long-Term Care – Ongoing Testing

- Consistent with CMS guidance, CHFS is offering LTCFs CARES Act funding to provide ongoing surveillance testing
- Invoice CHFS directly: labs performing tests & LTCF sampling
- Testing program:
 - Staff and residents
 - Frequency: community environment
 - Each staff member *at least* bi-weekly; weekly or 2x per week
 - Each resident who develops symptoms of COVID-19
 - All staff and residents exposed to another resident or staff member who tests positive

Long-Term Care Strike Teams

- Help address staffing issues at LTCFs due to symptomatic staff
 - Can deploy anywhere in KY
(determined by Emergency Management and KDPH)
- Team: 2 licensed nurses + 4 certified nursing assistants

Kentucky LTCF COVID-19 Indicator



Other LTCF Support

- Federal
 - \$129M provider relief funds
 - \$5B pledged nationally (state allocation to be determined)
- Kentucky - Medicaid
 - COVID-specific Medicaid rate: \$270/day
 - Expanded bed-hold days from 15 to 30
 - Expedited eligibility
 - Increased Medicaid payments to LTCFs by 8.5%
 - January-June of 2019 = \$496,992,997
 - January-June of 2020 = \$539,429,413
- Kentucky – Provide and distribute personal protective equipment (PPE)

Long-Term Care Ombudsman

- Identify, investigate, and resolve residents' problems and concerns
 - March 13 - July 31:
 - 7,753 contacts (telephone and virtual) made statewide
 - 4,225 with LTCF residents and families
 - 3,528 with LTCF staff
- CARES Act funding
 - PPE for ombudsman visits in LTCFs
 - COVID-19 educational materials to LTCF residents and families

Other COVID-Related Initiatives

- Infection control surveys
 - OIG completed initial round before 39 other states (*per CMS*)
 - Weekly: OIG completes focused IC surveys per CMS Report
- CMP emergency grants for tablets & other devices to conduct tele-visits with family
 - OIG publicized opportunity & processed applications
 - 224 facilities received grants

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security (CARES) Act – LTC

- Comprehensive Baseline COVID-19 Testing \$5.56M
 - LTCF residents and staff (n = 61,000)
 - Childcare (n = 1,500)
- Contract with Norton (through July) \$418,220
 - Provider call center + test-sampling + supplies + travel
- Strike Teams (to date) \$151,170
- Other
 - PPE
 - Educational resources
 - Surveillance testing program (initiated 8/3)

Going Forward: Key Anticipated Issues

- Resident safety ⇔ emotional toll of extended isolation
- Sufficient staffing
- PCR testing
 - Supply chain / availability: reagents
 - Turn-around time for results
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Gowns
 - Fit-testing for N-95 masks
- Influenza season



Questions