

# NISBET

Continued from A1

communion . . . and that would have been catastrophic,” he said.

Then his cough got worse.

“It was a deep cough, a cough like I’d never really had before,” he said. It was a dry cough. He couldn’t get anything up, and it made him tired.

It was like somebody punched him in the stomach, and he couldn’t get his breath, he said.

During that time, he said, the other guys from the ski trip were coming down with pneumonia or other respiratory problems, and then he got a call from one of them, who told Nisbet he had been exposed to someone with the coronavirus and was going to be tested. He had also given them Nisbet’s name and number, so he should expect a call.

That was “Friday the 13th,” Nisbet said. The same day, he went to his own doctor, who at the time had a limited number of test kits, and was tested by providers wearing personal protective equipment. Two days later, the results came back from a lab in Frankfort. He had tested positive.

He was stunned, he said.

“I’ve been in total isolation for over two weeks,” and felt better, he said Thursday, but he had laryngitis during the interview, possibly from talking so much with friends and friends of friends who wanted to know what it was like to have the illness, including some who thought they might have it.

His identify became known when he allowed Lexington TV station WKYT to film his birthday party and then gave an interview that aired on March 31.

Those calls, he said, have been “blessings” because he’s felt so alone.

The outpouring of support, however, has been overwhelming, he said.

“The community was great — my church, my neighbors.” He couldn’t go out, but people brought meals and other things and left them outside his door.

His pastor asked him if he had experienced God’s presence in all of it.

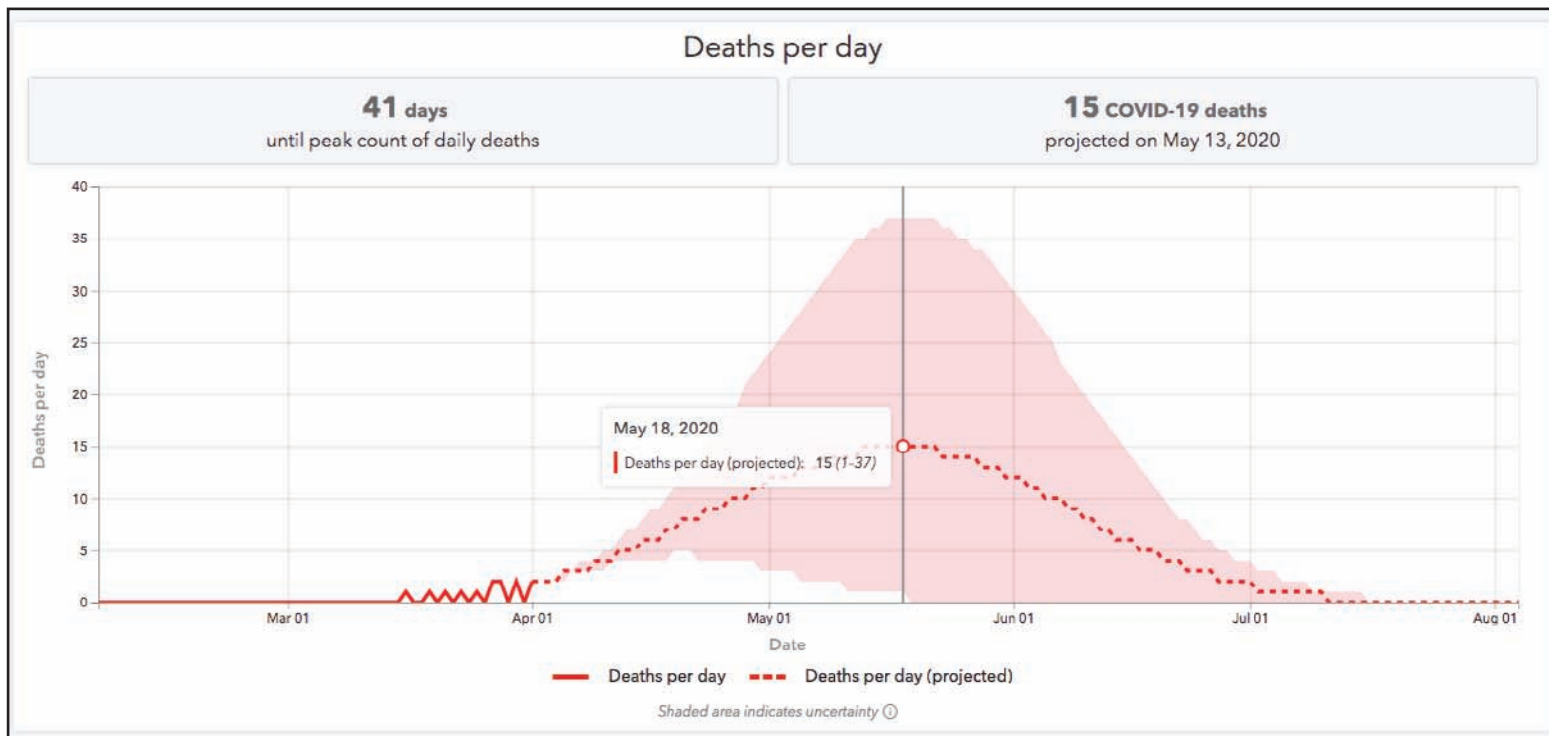
“I said, ‘Jerry, I’ve seen God at my doorstep. God has showed up and delivered,’” he answered.

“That was truly touching,” he said.

Nisbet wants others to do what they can to prevent the spread of the illness to the most vulnerable — the elderly, those with COPD or other respiratory illnesses, those with compromised immune systems.

“I was able to fight it off,” but coronavirus affects some people differently, he said. “I was very fortunate. Other people have to be on a respirator, and they can’t fight it, and it’s killing people, as we’ve seen, very quickly.”

“We really need to protect our folks,” he said.



A graph from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation shows predictions that Kentucky will reach the height of its deaths per day because of the coronavirus in mid-May at 15 deaths per day.

# PREDICTS

Continued from A1

COVID-19 outbreaks are taking, in terms of deaths, around the world and across the US,” researchers wrote. “The data being used in these forecasts come from local and national governments, hospital networks like the University of Washington, the American Hospital Association, the World Health Organization, and a range of other sources. The model is updated regularly as new data are available, in order to provide the most up-to-date planning tool possible.”

According to the database, Kentucky has more than a month until it reaches its peak resource use, projected for May 16. At that date, the state will need about 1,574 of its available 6,210 beds, including 236 of its 448 ICU beds. Additionally, about 188 invasive ventilators will likely be needed at that time.

Kentucky is projected to reach its peak deaths per day around May 13, when we will likely have about 15 COVID-19 deaths per day, according to the database.

The database projects that by August, Kentucky will have at least 821 virus-related deaths. The projection for deaths ranges from 150 to 1,802 in Kentucky.

As of April 3, there have been 37 deaths related to the virus, and 831 positive cases

in Kentucky.

Gov. Andy Beshear announced 93 new cases in one day during his Wednesday press conference, and more than 100 more in his Thursday evening press conference.

In the U.S. COVID-19 deaths are predicted to peak on April 16, when IHME predicts 2,607 deaths in a single day.

Also on April 16, the U.S. is predicted to reach its peak hospital use, when 262,092 hospital beds, including 39,727 ICU beds, and 31,782 ventilators will be needed to support COVID-19 patients. The database indicates the U.S. will be short more than 87,000 hospital beds, including nearly 20,000 ICU beds.

The center predicts 93,765 virus-related deaths in the U.S.

“These estimates assume the strong continuation of statewide social distancing measures in places where they are already enacted, and future adoption within the next seven days in states without them,” researchers wrote. “If such policies are relaxed or not implemented, the US could experience a higher COVID-19 death toll and hospital burden than what our models currently predict.”

In some neighboring states, the situation looks more dire than in Kentucky.

In Tennessee, where preventative measures were taken later than in Kentucky, the peak is expected to come sooner, and there will likely be more deaths and short-

ages of resources.

According to the database, Tennessee will reach its peak resource use April 19, when it will be short more than 7,800 beds, including 1,799 ICU beds. The state will need at least 1,943 invasive ventilators for COVID-19 patients.

Tennessee’s peak in deaths per day is predicted for April 20, when the state will see 165 deaths in a single day.

Overall, 3,422 deaths are predicted in Tennessee by August.

Researchers believe the data drives home the need for preventative measures, namely social distancing.

“Our model suggests that, with social distancing, the end of the first wave of the epidemic could occur by early June,” the researchers wrote. “The question of whether there will be a second wave of the epidemic will depend on what we do to avoid reintroducing COVID-19 into the population. By the end of the first wave of the epidemic, an estimated 97 percent of the population of the United States will still be susceptible to the disease and thus measures to avoid a second wave of the pandemic prior to vaccine availability will be necessary. Maintaining some of the social distancing measures could be supplemented or replaced by nation-wide efforts such as mass screening, contact tracing, and selective quarantine.”

# CLARIFICATION

A story published Friday about an Easter egg hunt incorrectly stated there was a Facebook group with clues to egg locations. The group was actually for families at Calvary Christian with activities. Organizer Ashley Rose said she is encouraging her families to participate in the hunt. The Easter egg hunt has been extended until Easter Sunday, April 12.

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