

News Highlights:

- Researchers found that a **baby's temperament** can be a predictor of personality traits in adulthood. University of Maryland researchers studied babies at age 14 months, then the same children at age 15 years and then in adulthood at age 26. They found that **behavioral inhibition** in infancy is linked to a reserved, introverted personality in adulthood. Also, those who showed sensitivity to making errors in adolescence were more likely to have internalizing disorders like **anxiety and depression** in adulthood.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/04/200420201513.htm>

- The American Lung Association's annual "**State of the Air Report**" says that 150 million Americans are breathing polluted air. They noted significant spikes in short-term pollution associated with wildfires in the western US. Use their **interactive map** to view long and short-term pollution and ozone data by state, county, and metropolitan statistical areas.



Cities in the United States with the highest air pollution (American Lung Association)

<http://www.stateoftheair.org/key-findings/>

Novel Coronavirus-Related News:

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advised that physicians must carefully consider their decision to prescribe drugs "off-label" for COVID-19 and then closely supervise any such use of **antimalarial drugs** to treat COVID-19, as risks could include **heart rhythm** and other problems. FDA says the drugs should only be used in a hospital or clinical trial setting.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-reiterates-importance-close-patient-supervision-label-use>

- More than 800 people were recruited for the **first human trial in Europe** of a **coronavirus vaccine**. Half the volunteers will receive the COVID-19 vaccine, and half will receive a control vaccine that will only protect against meningitis. The test vaccine was made from a weakened version of a common cold virus from chimpanzees that was modified with genes from the spike protein of the coronavirus. The Oxford University scientists developed the vaccine using the same technique (which was never completed) used to develop a vaccine against the **MERS coronavirus**.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-52394485>

- **Demand has waned** for extra **hospital facilities** that are being built by the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** in anticipation of hospital overload. Two hospital ships deployed to help out hard-hit cities, the 1000-bed USNS Comfort and 1000-bed USNS Mercy, have treated few patients. Many military medical personnel are being

deployed from ships and elsewhere and assisting directly in local hospitals and nursing homes, either embedded or operating their own wards.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/as-beds-go-unfilled-states-scale-back-army-corps-makeshift-hospitals/2020/04/24/4570fb5c-8404-11ea-9728-c74380d9d410_story.html

- COVID-19 hospital patients using [angiotensin-converting enzyme](#) inhibitors (**ACE**Is) and [angiotensin II receptor blockers](#) (**ARB**s) **hypertension drugs** had a **lower risk of all-cause mortality** compared with non-users according to this study of patients who were admitted to nine hospitals in Hubei Province, China between December 31, 2019 and February 20, 2020.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32302265> (American Heart Association's *Journal of Circulation Research*)

- With newly relaxed rules designed to remove administrative red tape for providers as well as to make it less expensive for patients to receive health care during the pandemic, cases of **fraudulent billing** related to "**telehealth**" are emerging and expected to increase. Some worry that there may be pressure from industry to make the relaxed guidelines permanent. Telehealth appointments have grown exponentially during the pandemic; Partners HealthCare visits jumped from 1,600 virtual visits in February 2019 to 90,000 such visits in March 2020.

<https://khn.org/news/coronavirus-fuels-explosive-growth-in-telehealth-%e2%80%95-and-concern-about-fraud/>

- Canadian Medstore (Florida) has reported that a recent **FDA crackdown on drugs being imported** directly to patients from **licensed pharmacies in Canada** is affecting many older customers whose goal is to stay home during the coronavirus pandemic. While recently there has been a push by consumer advocates and some lawmakers to allow personal importation of drugs from Canada, one pharmacy expert surmised the crackdown could be related to FDA efforts to scrutinize shipments of medications and substandard hand sanitizers claiming to help treat or prevent COVID-19.

<https://khn.org/news/amid-pandemic-fda-seizes-cheaper-drugs-from-canada/>

- For a variety of reasons related to the coronavirus pandemic, **organ donations** and **transplant procedures have plummeted** in the U.S. Here is a case study of a patient on the waiting list for a double-lung transplant since December. Twice, he made a trip by ferry from his home on the Olympic Peninsula to Seattle for the potentially life-saving surgery, only to find out that donor organs were not acceptable. While some patients have declined offers of a transplant recently because they didn't want to come into a hospital, this patient was willing to accept the risk.

<https://www.statnews.com/2020/04/22/organ-transplants-plummet-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>

The newsletter will be in brief format for the next few weeks as we work on web site enhancements. You may always check out the real-time news feeds on general, mental health, seniors health, FDA news, and more on the web site:

<https://www.askapatient.com/news/pharmnews.asp>

AskaPatient Weekly Healthcare Newsletter 4-26-2020

Trouble viewing this email? View it as a [web page](#).

Subscribe and visit us at <https://www.askapatient.com>

Check out the up-to-date health news feed on our web site:

[Pharm News](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) from the weekly newsletter.

Please contact us with suggestions, comments, or questions:

admin@askapatient.com

We welcome your feedback.



Copyright © *|CURRENT_YEAR|* AskaPatient ®