



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 5, 2018

### **CDC Outbreak Alert: Potential Life-Threatening Vitamin K-Dependent Antagonist Coagulopathy Associated With Synthetic Cannabinoids Use**

(CDC Clinicians) From 10 March 2018 through 05 April 2018, 94 people have presented to Emergency Departments (89 in Illinois, 2 in Indiana, 1 in Maryland, 1 in Missouri, and 1 in Wisconsin) with serious unexplained bleeding. None of these patients were on anticoagulation therapy or reported exposure to rat poisons containing a long-acting anti-coagulant brodifacoum. However, their work-up and their response to treatment with fresh frozen plasma and high doses of vitamin K was consistent with long-acting vitamin K-dependent antagonist toxicity. Laboratory investigation confirms brodifacoum exposure in at least 18 patients. There are 2 fatalities—both in Illinois. Illinois public health epidemiologists interviewed 63 patients, and they all reported synthetic cannabinoids use. At least 3 synthetic cannabinoid product samples related to this outbreak have tested positive for brodifacoum. A working hypothesis is the synthetic cannabinoids were contaminated with brodifacoum.

Full alert message: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCDC/bulletins/1e6dac3>

### **Surgeon General Urges More Americans to Carry Opioid Overdose Drug(**

(AHA Today) U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams, M.D., today issued a [public health advisory](#) urging Americans who misuse opioids, have an opioid use disorder or recent overdose, or know someone who does, to carry and know how to use naloxone – a drug that can be delivered via nasal mist or injection to temporarily suspend the effects of an overdose until emergency responders arrive. "Each day we lose 115 Americans to an opioid overdose – that's one person every 12.5 minutes," Adams [said](#). "It is time to make sure more people have access to this lifesaving medication, because 77% of opioid overdose deaths occur outside of a medical setting and more than half occur at home." Approved by the Food and Drug Administration, naloxone is covered by most health plans and may be available to the uninsured at low or no cost through local public health programs or retailer and manufacturer discounts, Adams said. "To manage opioid addiction and prevent future overdoses, increased naloxone availability must occur in conjunction with expanded access to evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder," he said.

For more information on preventing opioid overdoses, visit [www.surgeongeneral.gov/priorities/opioid-overdose-prevention](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/priorities/opioid-overdose-prevention).

### **A look at how the opioid crisis has affected people with employer coverage**

(Kaiser) With deaths from opioid overdose rising steeply in recent years, and a large segment of the population reporting knowing someone who has been addicted to prescription painkillers, the breadth of the opioid crisis should come as no surprise, affecting people across all incomes, ages, and regions. About four in ten people addicted to opioids are covered by private health insurance and [Medicaid](#) covers a similarly large share.

Read more: <https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/brief/a-look-at-how-the-opioid-crisis-has-affected-people-with-employer-coverage/>

### **FDA chief: Opioids are "biggest crisis facing the FDA"**

(CNN) FDA chief Dr. Scott Gottlieb tells CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta opioids are "biggest crisis" facing FDA; Tobacco is another key health crisis, youth e-cig use must be curtailed.

Video and story: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/05/health/fda-gottlieb-opioid-crisis-tobacco-crackdown/index.html>

### **Clean gear is the new badge of honor**

(US Fire Admin) Studies have shown that inhalation or absorption of carcinogens is how firefighters are most likely exposed to cancer risk. One of the ways exposure can occur is from direct contact with the skin to dirty gear — including gear removal.

Read more: [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/current\\_events/040518.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/current_events/040518.html)

## New SARS-like virus from bats implicated in China pig die-off

(CIDRAP) The virus, which killed nearly 25,000 piglets at four farms in Guangdong province in 2016 and 2017, came from horseshoe bats and bears other similarities to the advent of SARS in 2002.

Read more: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2018/04/new-sars-virus-bats-implicated-china-pig-die>

## New Medicare Cards Are Coming Soon

Starting this month, [Medicare will begin mailing new cards to everyone who gets Medicare benefits](#). The updated version will have a new unique Medicare number and no Social Security number to help protect your identity. Even though the cards will be sent automatically, you may still be a new target for scams. Learn what to expect and avoid being targeted when waiting on your new card.



The [Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act \(MACRA\) of 2015](#), requires removal of Social Security Numbers (SSNs) from all Medicare cards by April 2019. A new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) will replace the SSN-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) on the new Medicare cards for Medicare transactions like billing, eligibility status, and claim status.

You can find more details in [frequently asked questions](#), [5/30/17 press release](#), and latest [Open Door Forum slides](#).

What to Expect from Your New Medicare Card

>> [From the - EMR-ISAC InfoGram for April 5, 2018 <<](#)

## Results of EMS mental health services survey

The National Association of EMTs (NAEMT) recently released “2016 National Survey on EMS Mental Health Services” (PDF, 15.4 MB). The information can assist leaders to determine how to best address mental health issues in their departments.

Unfortunately, the survey indicated a lot of work is still needed to address stresses and strains so prevalent in EMS jobs. NAEMT candidly reports the survey results, including quotes from respondents along the way, discussing both what is being done well and what can be improved upon.

Most first responders can easily share stories of calls that haunt them. Even fairly routine calls have their share of risks and stressors as they force EMTs and paramedics to constantly be on guard against diseases, hazardous substance exposure or violent patients. Information gathered by NAEMT shows many mental health concerns are not addressed or, worse, not taken seriously.

Budget restrictions are only one barrier for beginning mental health care programs. The “just deal with it” attitude is common, but that philosophy is outdated and potentially dangerous to the health and wellbeing of first responders. Statistical evidence shows 37 percent of fire and EMS professionals have considered suicide, nearly 10 times greater than the general population. The time has come for this issue to get the attention it deserves, and it should be part of a comprehensive health and welfare plan. (Source: [NAEMT](#))

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan 2017 Update

The United States Department of Agriculture recently released “[Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) Response Plan: The Red Book](#),” newly updated to reflect lessons learned in the avian influenza outbreaks between 2014 and 2017.

The guide will help animal health emergency responders, all levels of government and industry partners detect, control and contain HPAI in domestic poultry as quickly as possible. Updates are related to:

- Policy changes since last update in 2015.
- The new National Response Framework.
- Replacement of surveillance sections, revised by the Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health.
- Incorporation of new permitted movement guidance.
- Inclusion of additional guidance on restocking activities.

The goal is to eradicate HPAI in a way that would regain a disease-free status in the nation without causing more disruption and damage than the disease outbreak itself. Done right, this protects public health and the environment, stabilizes animal agriculture, the food supply, and the economy.

(Source: [Department of Agriculture](#))

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### **Central US Earthquake Consortium [News](#)**

In **March 2018**, there were **107 M1.5 or greater earthquakes** in the 18 CUSEC Member and Associate States. The largest recorded was a [M4.2 located near Enid, Oklahoma](#). Year to date there have been **more than 350 earthquakes** in the region.

Recently, CUSEC launched an automated earthquake notification service for M3.0 or greater earthquakes occurring within the CUSEC Member and Associate States. The service, while not real-time, provides a summary of earthquakes as reported by the US Geological Survey (USGS) as well as a link to the USGS event page for each earthquake.

To subscribe to the service you can [follow @eqconsortium on Twitter](#).

To view a list of recent earthquakes recorded by the USGS, visit their [recent earthquakes map](#).

### **John Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [April 4, 2018](#) & [April 5, 2018](#)**

[In Puerto Rico's 'Last Mile,' Power is Still Elusive as Next Hurricane Season Looms](#) (*Washington Post*) Norma Ramos and Helga Marrero stood outside, chatting, as a Thursday afternoon dusk diluted the last bits of blue sky and sunshine in La Merced. Nearly every cement-block house along their meandering mountain road flickered to life as indoor lighting flashed on. A girl ran through the barrio and yelled, "Luz!" Power had returned. But the electrification only went as far as the bakery on the corner, where the linemen piled into bucket trucks and called it a day. [Go to article](#)

[See also: New FCC Policy Would be a 'Death Sentence' for Puerto Ricans Recovering from Hurricane Irma](#) (*News Week*) A new rule championed by Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai would limit internet and phone access for millions of low-income and elderly Americans. [Go to article](#)

[FEMA Has a 'Blunt' New Message: It Won't Be There for Every Future Disaster](#) (*Federal News Radio*) Last year's severe hurricanes and wildfires were devastating and historic, but they did prompt some good at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA took advantage of a dire situation and piloted in the field in Texas, Florida, the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico several new innovative ways to streamline its work--and change its strategic plan for the next 4 years. [Go to article](#)

[2017 Disaster Supplemental Appropriations: Overview](#) (*Congressional Research Service*) According to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 2017 was "a historic year of weather and climate disasters" for the US. A combination of deadly hurricanes and wildfires were among the 57 major disasters declared under the Stafford Act in 2017. [Go to article](#)

[Salt Lake County Reports First Deaths in Hepatitis A Outbreak](#) (*Food Safety News*) The Salt Lake County Health Department announced Tuesday that 2 county residents have died in Utah's ongoing hepatitis A outbreak. The first person died in January but had other health conditions and officials were waiting on tests to declare an official cause of death. The second person died in late March. [Go to article](#)

[Up Close the Ebola Virus is Finally Revealing Its Deadly Secrets](#) (*Wired*) Scientists at Boston University have observed a common pattern of immune response to Ebola in monkeys, which might

enable doctors to treat infected people far earlier. There is currently no way to diagnose Ebola until the first symptom of the disease, a fever, appears, followed by severe headache and muscle pain arriving anywhere between 2 and 21 days after exposure. [Go to article](#)

**[How to Encourage More Female Staff in Disaster Response](#)** (*devex*) When a disaster strikes, surge staff are the first ones deployed to assess and implement what is most needed on the ground. While disasters can disproportionately affect women, they only make up 40 percent of surge staff according to research report conducted by ActionAid and CARE International last year. In particular regions, this can be significantly lower. [Go to article](#)

----- **From Trust for America's Health** -----

CDC released a new **Vital Signs** this week on [Containing Unusual Resistance](#). The issue explains how new nationwide testing in 2017 uncovered 221 instances of unusual resistance genes in "nightmare bacteria." The issue also highlights how CDC's Containment Strategy can keep new threats from spreading. This testing and containment capacity is possible because of new investments over the past few years in CDC's Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative. Please see the [Vital Signs fact sheet](#) from CDC as well.

Related from **CNN**: [Unusual forms of 'nightmare' antibiotic-resistant bacteria detected in 27 states.](#)

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**Feds Say They've Detected Apparent Rogue Spy Devices In D.C.**

(NPR) This is believed to be the first time the U.S. government has publicly acknowledged the apparent devices in the capital. The agency warned that they could be used by hackers, criminals and spies.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2018/04/04/599428495/feds-say-theyve-detected-apparent-rogue-spy-devices-in-d-c>

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**National Donate Life Month**

(HRSA eNews) Throughout April, people across the U.S. celebrate the tremendous generosity of those who have saved lives by becoming organ and tissue donors and encourage more Americans to follow their example.

Nearly 115,000 people currently need and are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. Every ten minutes, someone is added to the national transplant waiting list. Sadly, more than 7,000 individuals passed away in 2016 while waiting for a match.

You may have already registered as a donor. However, if you have not, please go to [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov) or [www.donaciondeorganos.gov](http://www.donaciondeorganos.gov), click on your state, and consider signing up. And, if you are wondering whether transplantation really saves lives, just consider that in 2017 alone, more than 34,000 people in the United States received the gift of life thanks to the people who said "yes" to donation.



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**Save the Date!**

**St. Vincent Evansville Trauma Conference**  
**August 23-24**  
**Doubletree Hilton, Evansville, IN**

St. Vincent Evansville Trauma Services is presenting a comprehensive two-day conference covering extremes of age, managing the complex medical patient and caring for ourselves as clinicians and responders. [Registration will open soon!](#)

The KHREF Emergency Preparedness Update is assembled several times a week. When events make it necessary, the Update may be sent out several times a day to keep our hospital and the healthcare community advised on preparedness news and information. Most of this information is compiled from open sources, and where possible reference links will be provided. There is an archive of [Emergency Preparedness Updates available here](#). If you would like to be added or deleted, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please [CLICK HERE](#) (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.