



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 7, 2018

“Kentucky Public Health Alert”

First Case in Kentucky linked to Potential Life-Threatening Vitamin K-Dependent Antagonist Coagulopathy Associated with Synthetic Cannabinoids Use

(KY Public Health) As you may have heard recently, an outbreak of coagulopathy cases has occurred in the U.S., primarily in Illinois but also in other states (Indiana, Maryland, Missouri and Wisconsin), associated with synthetic cannabinoid (marijuana) use. So far, there have been 94 cases nationally, with 2 deaths.

We have identified the first Kentucky case that appears to be linked to this outbreak. As per CDC, clinical signs of coagulopathy include “bruising, nosebleeds, bleeding gums, bleeding disproportionate to injury, vomiting blood, coughing up blood, blood in urine or stool, excessively heavy menstrual bleeding, back or flank pain, altered mental status, feeling faint or fainting, loss of consciousness, and collapse.”

Providers in Kentucky should maintain a high index of suspicion for vitamin K-dependent antagonist coagulopathy in patients presenting with clinical signs of coagulopathy, bleeding unrelated to an injury, or bleeding without another explanation and with a possible history of synthetic cannabinoids (e.g., K2, Spice, and AK47) use. These patients can be screened for coagulopathy by checking their coagulation profile (e.g., international normalized ratio (INR) and prothrombin time (PT)).

Should you see a patient exhibiting signs indicative of coagulopathy, call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222 for diagnostic and clinical consultation and report the case to your local health department immediately. For night and weekend public health case reporting, please call 1-888-9-REPORT (1-888-973-7678) for the Kentucky Department for Public Health’s Epidemiology On-Call Service.

These cases often require therapy with fresh frozen plasma and high doses of Vitamin K for extended periods (up to months) due to the long-acting nature of the poison.

Please see the CDC Health Alert issued April 5th or more information on the current outbreak. Alert link at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCDC/bulletins/1e6dac3>

For additional information specific to this message, contact Doug Thoroughman, PhD, MS, CAPT, US Public Health Service, CDC Career Epidemiology Field Officer, Kentucky Department for Public Health at telephone: 502-564-3418 x4315 or email at douglas.thoroughman@ky.gov

Doctors warn of "second wave" of the flu

(CBS) Though it may not feel like it everywhere yet, the calendar says spring is here. But that doesn't mean we're out of the woods when it comes to [this year's nasty flu season](#), experts warn.

Flu season peaked in February and the majority of the country has finally seen a dramatic decrease in flu activity. However, flu seasons have long tails and doctors expect to see cases even into May.

This year's flu season was particularly rough, and appeared to [hit children harder than usual](#). The virus has been responsible for 142 pediatric [deaths](#) so far this season.

While health officials say the worst is behind us, there is still some flu virus circulating.

What's changed in the mix of virus type. Earlier in the season, influenza A viruses were causing most of the cases, while now the B type of virus is predominating.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/doctors-warn-of-second-wave-of-the-flu/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

FEMA releases new strategic plan

(Nat. Assoc. of Counties) The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently released its new 2018-2022 strategic plan, which outlines a vision of unifying and further professionalizing emergency management across the country.

FEMA's new strategic plan encompasses three overall goals including:

- Building a culture of preparedness
- Preparing the nation for catastrophic disasters
- Reducing the complexity of FEMA's everyday work

FEMA's new strategic plan released by Administrator Brock Long is a major undertaking and outlines the goals of the agency over the next four years.

Counties are on the ground before disasters hit, as first responders, and through the rebuilding process, and remain an integral partner with the federal government in addressing the growing costs of natural disasters. NACo remains committed to partnering with FEMA and connecting the agency with local officials across the country to further enhance our nations preparedness when disaster strikes.

To review FEMA's 2018-2022 strategic plan

https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1521736077767-89fc0afeacb7a93bd7b6a1091aaeba2b/strat_plan.pdf

Full NAC story: <http://www.naco.org/blog/fema-releases-new-strategic-plan>

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 add or delete, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact preparedness@kyha.com (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.