



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 15, 2018

KY will soon lead nation in syringe exchanges, but work isn't done

(WFPL) Kentucky will soon have the largest number of syringe exchange sites in the country, after nine more open in coming months.

At that point, Kentucky's [total sites](#) will jump to 52, leaping ahead of California's 42 sites and New Mexico's 49 sites, which had in recent years topped the list of states with the most syringe exchanges. This is remarkable considering Kentucky's size and population: geographically three times smaller than New Mexico and with about one-ninth the population of California.

Learn more: <http://wfpl.org/kentucky-will-soon-lead-nation-in-syringe-exchanges-but-still-needs-work/>

Surgeon General Supports Needle Exchanges To Limit Disease

<http://wfpl.org/surgeon-general-supports-needle-exchanges-to-limit-disease-from-opioid-crisis/>

Kentucky school wins \$150K for device that picks up needles

ASHLAND, Ky. (AP) — A Kentucky middle school has won a nationwide competition for creating a device that can safely pick up used needles and other drug paraphernalia. Ashland Middle School won \$150,000 Wednesday from Samsung. The hand-held device looks like a plastic box with flexible teeth that first responders and others can use to avoid touching needles.

Story: <https://apnews.com/8ded1be570514155a62170df8e94772e>

Berea McDonald's worker infected with hepatitis A

BEREA, Ky. (WKYT) - The Madison County Health Department says it is investigating the case of a Berea McDonald's food handler who was infected with hepatitis A. Health officials say the individual worked at the restaurant on Glades Road Mar. 23 while infected. People who ate there on that date should watch for symptoms from Apr. 7- May 12.

Story: <http://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Berea-McDonalds-worker-infected-with-hepatitis-A-479525083.html>

FBI: The most violent city in every US state

(29. Louisville, Kentucky, had 31.7 violent crimes per 10,000 residents.)

(Business Insider) The FBI recently released [crime statistics](#) that the agency compiled from US cities with a population over 100,000 between January 2017 to June 2017.

Among the data was the number of violent crimes committed in these cities, including murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. We then took these violent crime rates per 10,000 people to rank the most violent city in each state.

Full story: <https://www.businessinsider.com/most-violent-city-every-us-state-fbi-2018-4#30-omaha-nebraska-had-314-violent-crimes-per-10000-residents-11>

FBI Crime Stats (Jan-June 2017): <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2017/preliminary-report>

Life expectancy varies greatly among states

(CBS) How long you might live may depend on *where* you live.

New research suggests that if you spend your days on a sunny Hawaiian island, your [life expectancy](#) is more than 81 years. Halfway across the country in Mississippi, however, you can count yourself lucky if you make it to 75.

Overall, the study uncovered some good news: premature death rates are down in the United States as a whole. In 1990, 745 per every 100,000 people died early. By 2016, that number was down to 578 per 100,000 people.

The 10 states with the lowest probability of premature death were: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Vermont and Washington.

But the news wasn't good for all states. The 10 states with the highest probability of premature death included: Alabama, Arkansas, **Kentucky**, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, **Tennessee** and **West Virginia**.

In 19 states, young and middle-aged adults didn't fare as well. Decades of declining mortality rates were reversed in these states. And, in New Mexico, Wyoming, Oklahoma, **Kentucky** and West Virginia, the probability of death for that age group not only stopped decreasing, it actually increased by 10 percent over the study period.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/life-expectancy-varies-greatly-among-states-study/>

Pets in nursing homes bring both benefits and risks

(Reuters) Pets that visit nursing homes or live there with a resident can be a benefit to all, but administrators also need to consider possible risks like injuries and illness and develop policies to avoid them, researchers say.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-pets-nursing-homes/pets-in-nursing-homes-bring-both-benefits-and-risks-idUSKBN1HJ2BS>

Robot dog lends a helping paw to dementia sufferers

Story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-robotdog/robot-dog-lends-a-helping-paw-to-dementia-sufferers-idUSKBN1HJ222>

**Atlantic Ocean Currents are Weakening,
May Bring More Winter Storms and Summer Heat Waves**

(Newsweek) Two new scientific papers have confirmed that currents in the Atlantic Ocean are slowing down. Ocean currents play a large role in global weather, and a slowdown in the Atlantic could mean serious weather changes, particularly in Europe and North America.

The two studies, both published in the online journal *Nature* on Thursday, presented evidence to show that ocean currents in the Atlantic are changing. Both studies focused on the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation, a system of ocean currents found in the North Atlantic.

One [study](#) measured circulation patterns and temperature changes from a 5.2 million square mile patch of cold water in the North Atlantic to better understand how today's currents compare with those of the past, [IFL Science](#) reported. The second [study](#) used a combination of three methods to understand how currents have changed over time. This involved observing changes in the size of sediments on the ocean floor, looking at temperature patterns over time and analyzing the types of organisms that lived on the ocean floor throughout various moments in time.

Full report: <http://www.newsweek.com/climate-change-global-warming-ocean-currents-885237>

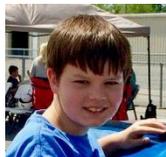
**Our buildings can't withstand extreme weather
these new structures could save lives**

(Business Insider) Across the globe, architects and developers are planning for a future when storms and other climate-related disasters become more common. Many are thinking about climate resilience — the idea that buildings should be designed to endure the impact of sea-level rise, increasing temperatures, and climate disasters.

Building designers no longer see climate change as a far-off prospect. To cope with rising waters and powerful storms, some are designing buildings to withstand them. Learn about some of the building designs for the future.

Read and see more: <http://www.businessinsider.com/buildings-that-survive-hurricanes-floods-architecture-2018-4>

Policy on bullying eyed after 12-year-old hangs himself



JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Andy Leach was a silly 12-year-old boy with a contagious smile before relentless bullying pushed him to kill himself, his father says.

What exactly prompted Andy to hang himself in his garage after school March 6 remains a mystery. Key details are shrouded by privacy rules.

Full story: <https://apnews.com/e5bc8c49129541998dc3c7857bc1e086>

How to Protect Your Child from Accidental Poisoning

(HealthDay News) -- Young children are at high risk for accidental poisoning, so parents and other caregivers need to take precautions, a pediatric toxicologist says.

Children under age 6 account for about half of the more than 2 million poisonings reported each year to U.S. poison centers, according to the American Association of Poison Control Centers.

Moreover, more than eight of 10 calls to poison control centers occur at home, said Dr. Cyrus Rangan, of Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Full story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=202765>

Included in HB 200 - The KY Budget Bill approved by a veto override, was \$750,000 in each fiscal year for the Kentucky Poison Control Center.

See the full budget bill: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/18RS/HB200/bill.pdf>

**How did student die in school parking lot?
Prosecutor launches full investigation**

'Tell my mom I love her,' boy said in 911 call

CINCINNATI -- Hamilton County Prosecutor Joseph Deters is launching a comprehensive investigation to determine what exactly went wrong that led to the death of a 16-year-old Seven Hills student in the school parking lot Tuesday afternoon. "The young man was trapped in the third row bench seat, and it is called positional asphyxiation," Deters said.

Just after 3 p.m. Tuesday, 16-year-old Kyle Jacob Plush called 911 panicking. Over the course of a three-minute call in which he gasped, cried repeatedly for help and struggled to communicate with the operator, he relayed that he was trapped inside his car in the parking lot of Seven Hills School. A source close to the investigation said Plush was going to get his tennis racket from the van when he became trapped.

Full story: <https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/hamilton-county/cincinnati/madisonville/pd-teenager-found-dead-on-seven-hills-campus>

Kids in Tough Neighborhoods Head to ER More Often

Growing up in a disadvantaged neighborhood may mean more visits to the emergency room, a new study suggests. When children came from areas of "low opportunity," they were about one-third more likely to have been treated at an urgent care center or an emergency room than kids from areas with more opportunity. They were also twice as likely to receive care for an assault-related injury compared to kids in the "highest opportunity" areas.

Full story: <https://thehealthcast.com/kids-health/kids-in-tough-neighborhoods-head-to-er-more-often/>

Study: Hand dryers can spread poo particles to your recently-washed hands

(WKYT) - Researchers in Connecticut say using hand dryers can blow bacteria throughout bathroom surfaces and your hands. These bacteria came from bathroom air, and it included some that can cause disease. The dryer can act as a reservoir for the bacteria inside the dryer before someone turns it on, blowing the potential pathogens on your recently-washed hands.

The study shows if hand dryers are retrofitted with HEPA filters, it can reduce the spread of the bacteria four-fold.

Full story: <http://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Study-Hand-dryers-can-spread-poo-particles-to-your-recently-washed-hands-479560473.html>

207 million eggs in nine states recalled over salmonella fears

(WSJ) RALEIGH, N.C.—More than 200 million eggs distributed to restaurants and grocery stores in nine states have been recalled because of bacterial contamination.

A notice posted on the Food and Drug Administration [website](#) Friday said the eggs shipped from a North Carolina farm may be tainted with salmonella. The bacteria can cause nausea, diarrhea and, in rare cases, death. Twenty-two illnesses have been reported.

The eggs reached consumers in Colorado, Florida, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia, according to the notice.

The notice lists varieties of a Food Lion store brand as well as some cartons available as the Great Value brand, which is sold at [Walmart](#). The recall also lists eggs that were distributed to the Waffle House restaurant chain.

Full story: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/more-than-200-million-eggs-recalled-because-of-salmonella-risk-1523827334>

The affected eggs, from **plant number P-1065** with the **Julian date range of 011 through date of 102** printed on either the side portion or the principal side of the carton or package, as follows: <https://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm604640.htm>

**2018's 'Dirty Dozen' fruits and veggies
Strawberries top the list!**

(CNN) Once again, strawberries top the list of the 12 "dirtiest" fruits and vegetables, according to the Environmental Working Group. Every year since 2004, the group -- a nonprofit, nonpartisan environmental organization -- ranked pesticide contamination in 47 popular fruits and vegetables for its [Shopper's Guide to Pesticides in Produce](#).

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/10/health/2018-dirty-dozen-fruits-and-veggies-ewg/index.html>

EpiPen shortages seen in Canada, UK but U.S. supply intact

(Reuters) Mylan N.V.'s emergency allergy antidote EpiPen is in short supply in Canada and Britain, but remains available in the United States, the treatment's manufacturer said on Friday.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mylan-nl-pfizer-epipen/epipen-shortages-seen-in-canada-uk-but-u-s-supply-intact-idUSKBN1HK2YG>

Cure Rate for Experimental Hepatitis C Drug Tops 95 Percent

(HealthDay News) -- Researchers report that an experimental drug has cured more than 95 percent of patients infected with [hepatitis C](#), including some who failed other treatments.

If it wins approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, this new drug, called ABT-450, could potentially compete with another innovative [hepatitis C](#) medication that costs \$1,000 a day. Nearly 3 million Americans have [hepatitis C](#), a disease that can cause [liver cirrhosis](#) and [cancer](#).

Full story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=177849>

Radioactive sludge barrel ruptures at Idaho nuclear site

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A barrel containing radioactive sludge ruptured at an Idaho nuclear facility, federal officials said Thursday, resulting in no injuries and no risk to the public but possibly slowing progress in shipping waste out of the state.

The rupture triggered a fire alarm, and three Idaho National Laboratory firefighters extinguished the smoldering barrel and pulled it away from a dozen other barrels nearby.

When the firefighters left the building, emergency workers detected a small amount of radioactive material on their skin, said department spokeswoman Danielle Miller. The material was washed off the firefighters, who were taken to a nearby medical facility as a precaution, she said. Initial assessments showed they did not inhale the radioactive material and were not injured, Miller added.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/c7b4380362dd4d1995788ce8727dc072>

How 'condom snorting' turned into a pro-gun argument

(BBC) "Condom snorting" - a dangerous activity that involves stuffing a condom up your nose until it comes out of your mouth - has been the subject of a number of recent viral news reports. It's a years-old trend that wasn't very popular even when it first surfaced - and now, in a bizarre twist, it's now being used as an argument against young gun-control advocates in America.

Story: <http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-43670679>

Terminix employee indicted in family's pesticide poisoning

(CNN)A Terminix employee has been charged in relation to 2015 pesticide use at a US Virgin Islands resort that left a Delaware family gravely ill. The indictment says he used fumigants containing methyl bromide in multiple locations in the Virgin Islands, including the St. John resort where the family that became ill was staying in March 2015. The father was found unconscious, and the boys and their mother were having seizures. The teens were placed in medically induced comas for weeks. Six months later, the teens were still struggling to eat, walk and sit up on their own. The father continued to suffer from extreme tremors, struggled to speak and couldn't turn the pages of a book.

Read full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/14/us/virgin-islands-terminix-pesticide-indictment/index.html>

In the age of #MeToo, investigation finds doctors keep licenses despite sex abuse

(Chicago Tribune) In recent months, Hollywood moguls, elite journalists and top politicians have been pushed out of their jobs or resigned their posts in the wake of allegations of sexual misconduct. In contrast, the world of medicine is often more forgiving, according to an AP investigation.

When the doctors are disciplined, the punishment often consists of a short suspension paired with mandatory therapy that treats sexually abusive behavior as a symptom of an illness or addiction, the AP found.

Full story: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ct-doctors-sex-abuse-20180414-story.html>

Can the Law Stop Ransomware?

(US News) Lawmakers across the U.S. have made even the possession of malware illegal – whether that will deter attacks, however, is a different story.

Stunning ransomware attacks like those that recently hobbled Atlanta and Baltimore have thus far defied a legislative solution, with lawmakers in only a handful of states having criminalized the activity and experts skeptical that harsher laws would even make a difference.

The attack on Atlanta last month, which reportedly struck five of 13 city agencies and forced some 8,000 city workers to take their computers offline while preventing residents from paying traffic tickets or water bills, was among the highest profile of a series of incidents that have targeted U.S. municipalities in recent years. As the city was attempting to recover its computer systems, reports

emerged that a similar attack had shut down the computer assisted dispatch function of Baltimore's 911 emergency system.

Full story: <https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2018-04-13/can-the-law-stop-ransomware>

Zuckerberg denies that Facebook uses your phone's microphone to spy on you... *Hmm*

Facebook's CEO Mark Zuckerberg appeared before Congress and was questioned on a number of issues challenging Facebook including data usage, selling user data, privacy, the societal value of Facebook, Facebook's political stance and how they censor outlets based on their political stance.

One of the longest running theories about Facebook was that it would collect information from your verbal conversations via your phone's microphone while you have your phone on or around you. You likely experienced the following before: You are having a conversation with friends about a very specific brand, specific product and so forth. Then suddenly you hop on Facebook, having not searched for that product or brand at all, now there is an ad for that very product in your newsfeed.

Logically one would think the only way for this to happen would be that they are analyzing trigger words in your conversations. That, or they are somehow tapped into your consciousness and gathering data that way.

Congressman Larry Bucsh asked Zuckerberg on Wednesday whether or not Facebook does in fact mine data via your personal conversations using your phones microphone.

"My understanding is that a lot of these cases that you're talking about are a coincidence," [Zuckerberg told Congress](#). This answer did not seem to go over so well based on the look on Bucsh's face.

Read more: <http://www.thesleuthjournal.com/zuckerberg-denies-facebook-microphone-spies/>

Am I Vulnerable When Using Tor

Alongside VPNs, TOR is probably the most instantly recognizable and most commonly used online security and privacy tool around at the moment. In recent years, the number of TOR users has grown considerably, and it is telling that an increasing number of these users are regular people rather than tech experts. This is because awareness of the risks of going online is growing, and TOR is recognized as one of best tools to counter these threats. But just how secure is TOR?

Learn more: <https://www.addictivetips.com/vpn/vulnerable-using-tor/>

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.