



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 16, 2018

Public Health Recommends Hepatitis A Vaccination for Children and Adults in Counties Impacted by Outbreak

FRANKFORT, Ky. (From an April 16, 2018 Press Release) – Due to an ongoing outbreak of Hepatitis A, the Department for Public Health (DPH) within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), is recommending vaccination for everyone residing in **Jefferson, Bullitt, Hardin, Greenup, Carter and Boyd** counties.

To date, 214 cases have been reported in the Jefferson County/Louisville area. Bullitt, Hardin, Greenup, Carter and Boyd counties have each reported 5 or more cases for a total 311 cases associated with the outbreak. One death has been reported.

“Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable illness. DPH recommends all children, ages 1 year through 18, receive the Hepatitis A vaccine as well as adults who want to protect themselves from an acute hepatitis A infection,” said Dr. Jeffrey Howard, acting DPH commissioner. “In these counties with local transmission of the hepatitis A virus, we recommend everyone be vaccinated per guidelines to help stop this outbreak.”

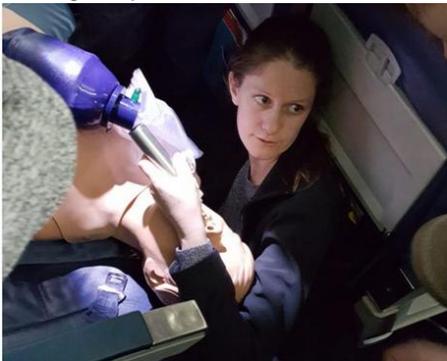
For adults, the hepatitis A vaccine is typically given in two doses — an initial vaccination followed by another shot six months later. DPH recommends that all people in outbreak counties consult with their primary care doctor or insurance carrier regarding an in-network provider for administration of the hepatitis A vaccine. The Center for Disease and Control (CDC) recommends vaccination for people who wish to be protected against hepatitis A infection. For insured people, the hepatitis A vaccine should not require any out-of-pocket costs as long as policies are compliant with the federal Affordable Care Act.

Signs and symptoms of Hepatitis A include jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes), dark-colored urine, fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, nausea, diarrhea and fever. The virus is found in the stool of people infected with Hepatitis A and typically spread from person to person contact. The disease often is transmitted when people do not wash their hands properly or do not have access to proper sanitation. DPH recommends individuals wash their hands often and particularly after using the restroom or before consuming food. Hand sanitizer should be used only when soap and water is unavailable.

Hepatitis A vaccine is widely available at local pharmacies and health care providers. For additional information on the hepatitis A vaccination, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/afaq.htm#E1>.

Innovative field training prepares UofL medical students for emergency situations

(UofL News) “Odds are that at some point in your flying career, you will have to respond to an overhead page: ‘Is there any doctor on board the flight,’” Raymond Orthober, MD, assistant professor of emergency medicine at the University of Louisville, told 35 second- and third-year medical students.



Third-year emergency medicine resident Jennifer McGowan, M.D., instructs the students in intubation

Orthober, the students and additional instructors were aboard a Delta aircraft, engaged in a training event for treating passengers who have medical issues during a commercial flight. Although the aircraft remained at the gate, the space created a realistic environment for learning to provide medical care in the air.

See a [video](#) about the in-flight emergency training.

In-flight emergencies are just one of the scenarios Wilson and other medical students experience as part of the Disaster Medicine Certificate Series, a program at the UofL School of Medicine that prepares them for a wide variety of emergency situations. More than

65 second- and third-year students have participated in DMCS training events, including mass casualty triage and handling hazardous materials, since the extracurricular program began at UofL last fall. Organizers believe it is the only program in the nation that exposes medical students to this type of training on an ongoing basis.

Although the students will not be licensed physicians for a few more years, they are putting their training to work for the community immediately. Program participants are required to enlist in the [Medical Reserve Corps](#), a national network of volunteers organized for emergency response under the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Some of the students have participated with the MRC in response to the Hepatitis A outbreak, assisting the Louisville Department of Health & Wellness with vaccination drives.

Full story: <http://uoflnews.com/post/uofltoday/innovative-field-training-prepares-uofl-medical-students-for-emergency-situations/>

Today is National Healthcare Decisions Day

(AHA Today for April 16) The American Hospital Association (AHA) is one of many sponsors for this weeklong event—April 16-22—that focuses on the importance of advance health care planning. At hospitals and health systems, they see patients and families who are faced with difficult decisions every day. By helping the community better understand advance directives and health care decision-making at the end of life, they can demystify the topic and increase the number of people who have a plan in place.

Advance directives, such as living wills and health care powers of attorney, are valuable tools to communicate personal wishes about future medical care. The questions addressed during this process are not simple; they reflect the complexity of the choices that most people will face in the modern medical system.

Please join the AHA and other national partners, including the American Bar Association and National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, to focus attention on this important topic. Visit www.nhdd.org to learn more and find suggested activities and free materials and resources. AHA.org also offers links to [resources](#) for advance directives. (Nancy Howell Agee, AHA Chair)

Network Exploitation Device Technical Alert

(DHS Healthcare and Public Health Sector) The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the United Kingdom's (UK) National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) released a joint [Technical Alert \(TA\)](#) about malicious cyber activity carried out by the Russian Government. The targets of this malicious cyber activity are primarily government and private-sector organizations, critical infrastructure owners and operators, and the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) supporting these sectors.

This alert provides information about large numbers of enterprise-class and small office home office (SOHO)-class routers and switches worldwide that have been exploited by cyber actors supported by the Russian government. It contains indicators of compromise (IOCs) and contextual information regarding observed behaviors on the networks of compromised victims.

Network device vendors, ISPs, public-sector organizations, private-sector corporations, and SOHO customers should read this report and take action on the recommended mitigation strategies. The current state of U.S. network devices, coupled with a Russian Government campaign to exploit these devices, threatens the safety, security, and economic well-being of the United States.

Russian state-sponsored cyber actors are using compromised routers to conduct spoofing (i.e., man-in-the-middle) activity to support espionage, extract intellectual property, maintain persistent access to victim networks, and potentially lay a foundation for future offensive operations.

DHS encourages recipients who find signs of the malicious cyber activity discussed in this document to report information to NCCIC or law enforcement immediately. To request incident response resources or technical assistance, contact NCCIC at NCCICcustomerservice@hq.dhs.gov or 888-282-0870 and the FBI through a local field office or the FBI's Cyber Division at CyWatch@fbi.gov or 855-292-3937.

CDC Issues Spanish Version of Antibiotic Stewardship Materials

(AHA) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released Spanish versions of its most popular materials to educate health care [providers](#) and [consumers](#) about appropriate use of antibiotics and prevent the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Print materials also can be ordered at <https://go.usa.gov/xQbY6>. In coming weeks, CDC plans to release the materials in French, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean and Portuguese. In an April 3 [Vital Signs](#) report, CDC urged state and local health departments and health care facilities to work with its Antibiotic Resistance Lab Network to implement a coordinated strategy to prevent the spread of unusual germs that are resistant to all or most antibiotics or can spread their resistance to other germs. For additional tools to prevent antibiotic resistance, including an antimicrobial stewardship toolkit, visit <http://www.ahaphysicianforum.org/resources/appropriate-use/antimicrobial>.

John Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts for [April 16, 2018](#)

[Weapons Inspectors Say They Have Been Denied Access to the Site of a Suspected Syrian Chemical Attack](#)

(Buzz Feed) The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' fact-finding mission has not yet been allowed access to the site in Douma, where it's claimed up to 75 people were killed in an alleged chemical weapons attack, according to its director-general. [Go to article](#)

[A Hard Lesson in Syria: Assad Can Still Gas His Own People](#)

(New York Times) A year ago, after President Trump rejected the Obama-era approach as naïve, he bombed an airfield where a new chemical attack by the Syrian president, Bashar al-Assad, had originated. Mr. Trump's newly appointed national security adviser, Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster, predicted "a big shift on Assad's calculus," because it was "the first time the US has taken direct military action." [Go to article](#)

[Puerto Rico's Slow-going Recovery Means New Hardship for Dialysis Patients](#)

(Kaiser Health News) Hurricane Maria totaled Vieques' hospital, which housed the island's only dialysis clinic. That set off an ongoing crisis for patients with kidney failure such as Garcia - who cannot survive without dialysis and for whom the thrice-weekly round trip to a dialysis center in Humacao on Puerto Rico's main island, including treatment, takes at least 12 hours. [Go to article](#)

[How Do We Control Dangerous Biological Research?](#)

(Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists) No military wishes for an enemy with capabilities that match its own. Indeed, the US chairman of the joint chiefs of staff has said he does not want American service members to ever have to face a fair fight. But how do you stay ahead of an adversary? The US tries to remain "overmatched" against any enemy by investing heavily in technological innovation, and today, a considerable part of that investment goes into the biological sciences. [Go to article](#)

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 RBartlett@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.