



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 28, 2018

### **Presidential Disaster Declared for Kentucky Counties Impacted by Severe Weather and Flooding**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 27, 2018) – President Donald Trump has authorized assistance for certain Kentucky counties that suffered significant damage as a result of the severe weather and flooding event occurring from Feb. 21, 2018 through March 21, 2018.

The President's action grants public assistance to 34 impacted counties to repair roads, bridges and other infrastructure due to severe storms, tornadoes, flooding, landslides and mudslides. The declaration will also provide the Commonwealth with mitigation funds.

Counties included in this declaration are: Boyd, Bullitt, Butler, Caldwell, Campbell, Carlisle, Carroll, Carter, Crittenden, Fulton, Gallatin, Grant, Graves, Greenup, Hancock, Hardin, Henderson, Henry, Hickman, Jefferson, Kenton, Lawrence, Livingston, McCracken, McLean, Metcalfe, Ohio, Owen, Spencer, Trigg, Trimble, Union, Washington and Webster.

Additional information about KYEM and FEMA's Public Assistance program can be found [here](#).

Full press release: <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=KentuckyGovernor&priid=669>

### **Another Kentucky Utility Adds Solar To Its Mix**

(WFPL) Duke Energy is the latest major utility to begin experimenting with solar power in Kentucky. It was just two years ago that Louisville Gas and Electric opened the largest utility-scale solar array in the state.

Now, Duke Energy is testing solar power in Northern Kentucky. The utility unveiled two solar farms this week that combined, use approximately 29,000 solar panels.

The two facilities in Kenton and Grant counties are already creating enough energy to power about 1,500 homes, said Lee Freedman, Duke Energy spokesman.

Lower production costs and federal tax credits influenced Duke's decision to build the solar farms, he said.

"Solar energy has really become cost-competitive and that's why we chose to build about seven megawatts of solar in Kentucky," Freedman said.

Story with pictures: <http://wfpl.org/another-kentucky-utility-adds-solar-to-its-mix/>

### **DEA aimed for record removal of unused pills through its National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Initiative**

[\(Based on DEA article\)](#) - After collecting more than 9 million pounds (4,500 tons) of expired, unused and unwanted prescription medications at 14 previous events over the past 8 years, the Drug Enforcement Administration and its national, tribal, and community partners held the 15th National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day across the country on Saturday, April 28th. The service was free and anonymous.

This weekend more than 5,600 collection sites manned by almost 4,500 partner law enforcement agencies participated. The public has embraced the opportunity these Take Back Day events provide to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous prescription drugs.

"Take Back Day helps to keep drugs out of the hands of abusers and potentially save lives by removing unused painkillers and controlled drugs from homes," said DEA Acting Administrator Robert W. Patterson. "The more unused painkillers or controlled drugs we can help to remove from homes, the more potential lives will be saved. The home medicine cabinet is a frequent target of prescription drug abusers and often provides access to prescription medication. We need the help of the public to dispose

of this unwanted source of abuse. Take Back Day is an effective tool for addressing the opioid crisis in America.”

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### **NPR: Are We Prepared For A Killer Flu Epidemic?**

A hundred years ago, the world was struck by a nightmare scenario. World War I was still raging. And then a suspicious disease appeared.

In the spring of 1918, the first wave of cases weren't all that bad. The death rate was low. But by November, the "mother of all flu pandemics" was spreading explosively across Asia, Europe and North America.



Known as "la grippe," the new flu strain killed quickly and at a high rate, especially among soldiers in the war. "The boys were coming in with colds and a headache, and they were dead within two or three days," a French nurse [wrote](#) on Nov. 11, 1918, the day of the armistice. "Great big handsome fellows, healthy men, just came in and died. There was no rejoicing in Lille the night of the armistice."

Studies suggest the fatality rate was 20 times that seen in previous pandemics. Up to 2 percent of the people infected died. In the U.S., it took just five weeks to kill more than 500,000 people. By summer of 1919, a third of the world's population had been infected and at least 40 million people

had died. By this point, many people had picked up immunity to the strain, and the pandemic fizzled out.

Read full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2018/04/27/606086442/are-we-prepared-for-a-killer-flu-epidemic>

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### **Bill Gates thinks a coming disease could kill 30 million people within 6 months — and says we should prepare for it as we do for war**

(Business Insider) If there's one thing that we know from history, it's that a deadly new disease will arise and spread around the globe.

That could [happen easily within the next decade](#). And as Bill Gates told listeners on Friday at a [discussion about epidemics](#) hosted by the Massachusetts Medical Society and the New England Journal of Medicine, we're not ready.

Gates presented a simulation by the Institute for Disease Modeling that found that a new flu like the one that killed 50 million people in the 1918 pandemic would now most likely kill 30 million people within six months.

And the disease that next [takes us by surprise](#) is likely to be one we see for the first time at the start of an outbreak, like what happened recently with SARS and MERS viruses.

Full story: <http://www.businessinsider.com/bill-gates-warns-the-next-pandemic-disease-is-coming-2018-4>

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### **CDC Clinician Outreach Update on Multistate Outbreak of E. Coli O157:H7**

#### **Case Count Update**

Since the last update on April 25, 2018, 14 more ill people were added to this outbreak. As of April 26, 2018, 98 people infected with the outbreak strain of *E. coli* O157:H7 have been reported from 22 states. [Note – at this point Kentucky is NOT on the list, but several surrounding states ARE.] A list of the states and the number of cases in each can be found on the [Case Count Map page](#). Illnesses started on dates ranging from [March 13, 2018 to April 20, 2018](#). Ill people range in age from 1 to 88 years, with a median age of 31. Sixty-five percent of ill people are female. Of 87 people with information available, 46 (53%)

have been hospitalized, including 10 people who developed hemolytic uremic syndrome, a type of kidney failure. No deaths have been reported.

Illnesses that occurred after April 7, 2018, might not yet be reported due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill with *E. coli* and when the illness is reported. This takes an average of [two to three weeks](#).

### Investigation Update

Information collected to date indicates that chopped romaine lettuce from the Yuma, Arizona growing region could be contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7 and could make people sick. No common grower, supplier, distributor, or brand has been identified at this time. Read [CDC's advice](#) to consumers, restaurants, and retailers.

This investigation is ongoing, including work to identify the source of the romaine lettuce. CDC will provide more information as it becomes available.

To read the full investigation notice, click [here](#). For additional resources, including epi curves, case counts maps, advice to consumers, restaurants, and retailers, as well as the notice in Spanish, click [here](#). For more information about Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* and steps that people can take to reduce their risk of infection, click [here](#).

Full report: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCDC/bulletins/1eca9d3>

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### Ascension suspends air, ground medical transport After fatal crash kills flight crew

(Fox) April 27 - Ascension Wisconsin says it's suspending operations of its air and ground medical transport units following the fatal crash of a medical helicopter in northern Wisconsin.

The Oneida County Sheriff's Office says three flight crew members on board an Ascension Health Spirit helicopter died when it crashed in Hazelhurst, a small town about 150 miles (241 kilometers) northwest of Green Bay. The wreckage was found early Friday after the chopper was reported missing late Thursday night.

Ascension Wisconsin says air and ground ambulance service will be suspended until the company determines when it's appropriate to resume operations. The company said in a statement that it's working with emergency service partners and medical transportation colleagues in the region to meet patient needs.

Air Methods operates medical air services for Ascension, providing mechanics and pilots. Air Methods spokeswoman Christina Ward says one of its pilots was killed in the crash. Ascension operates its own ambulances in the region.

Full story: <http://fox11online.com/news/local/medical-helicopter-found-in-oneida-county>

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### John Hopkins Health Security Headlines Extracts from [April 27, 2018](#)

[Strategies for Effective Improvements to the BioWatch System](#) (*National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine*) BioWatch is the DHS's system for detecting an aerosolized biological attack using collectors that are positioned strategically across the country to continuously monitor the air for biological threats. As currently deployed, BioWatch collectors draw air through filters that field technicians collect daily and transport to laboratories, where professional technicians analyze the material collected on the filter for evidence of biological threats. [Go to article](#)

[Health Care in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands: A Six-Mont Check-Up After the Storms](#) (*KFF*) Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands suffered significant damage to their infrastructure and health care systems from Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017. Drawing on interviews with residents and key stakeholders as well as public reports, this brief provides an overview of the status of the recovery efforts 6 months after the storms, with a focus on the health care systems. [Go to article](#)

[HHS Partners to Develop New Treatment for Seizures Caused by Nerves Agent](#) (HHS) A new treatment for seizures that cannot be stopped with current medicines will be developed under an agreement between HHS ASPR and Proniras Corporation of Seattle, Washington. Uncontrollable seizures are a devastating result of exposure to nerve agents and can be deadly or lead to permanent brain damage. [Go to article](#)

[FDA Chief Moves to Promote Artificial Intelligence in Health Care](#) (The Hill) The FDA is moving to encourage the use of artificial intelligence in health care, the agency's chief said Thursday. "AI holds enormous promise for the future of medicine," FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said in prepared remarks to the Health Datapalooza conference in Washington, DC. [Go to article](#)

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**US DHS - Healthcare & Public Health Sector Highlights**  
**Extracts from April 27 Update**

**Threat Groups Exploiting Common Web Server**  
**Vulnerability Dubbed Drupalgeddon2**

The HHS Healthcare Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (HCCIC) has published a vulnerability notice related to the March 28, 2018, Drupal organization security advisory (labeled "highly critical") detailing a remote code execution vulnerability (RCE) – dubbed Drupalgeddon2 – that exists within multiple subsystems of Drupal 7.x and 8.x. This vulnerability allows unauthorized threat actors to remotely compromise Drupal installations and execute malicious code. This notice provides additional details on the situation, potential exposure risks, and recommendations for owners, operators, and administrators of Drupal systems moving forward. ([Link](#))

**"Orangeworm" Hackers Pose Threat to Healthcare Industry**

Symantec is reporting a newly-identified group of [hackers is targeting the health care industry worldwide with the apparent goal of corporate espionage](#). From Symantec's report: "Symantec has identified a new attack group dubbed Orangeworm deploying the Kwampirs backdoor in a targeted attack campaign against the healthcare sector and related industries...Based on the list of known victims, Orangeworm does not select its targets randomly or conduct opportunistic hacking. Rather, the group appears to choose its targets carefully and deliberately, conducting a good amount of planning before launching an attack...almost 40 percent of Orangeworm's confirmed victim organizations operate within the healthcare industry. The Kwampirs malware was found on machines which had software installed for the use and control of high-tech imaging devices such as X-Ray and MRI machines. Additionally, Orangeworm was observed to have an interest in machines used to assist patients in completing consent forms for required procedures. The exact motives of the group are unclear." ([Link](#))

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**May 6-12 – Resources for National Hospital Week**

(AHA) National Hospital Week celebrates hospitals, health systems, and the women and men who support the health and well-being of their communities through dedication and care from the heart. Celebrating National Hospital Week provides an opportunity to thank all of the dedicated individuals – physicians, nurses, therapists, engineers, food service workers, volunteers, administrators and so many more – for their contributions. The AHA has created a digital toolkit and a template for a #MyHospital social media campaign that organizations can use during the week. [See the AHA's webpage for more information and resources.](#)

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](mailto: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.