



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 30, 2018

### Regional Hepatitis A Outbreak Linked to Ohio Valley Addiction Crisis *Is it safe to come to the Derby?*

(WFPL) A hepatitis A outbreak growing in the Louisville area since last summer reached a new peak recently with a travel advisory from [Indiana health officials](#). They told Hoosiers heading to Kentucky to get a hepatitis A vaccine.

Soon, Kentucky's Acting Commissioner for Public Health Dr. Jeffrey Howard was [pushing back](#).

"Let me say that it IS safe to travel to Kentucky, and it IS safe to attend the Kentucky Derby," Howard said via the state's official YouTube channel.

Later that same day [West Virginia health officials](#) announced a hepatitis A outbreak detected in Kanawha and Putnam counties.

The immediacy and tragedy of overdose deaths in the Ohio Valley have overshadowed the risks of infections linked to the opioid epidemic. But with this latest outbreak, it's clear that disease has joined overdoses as yet another public health threat from the addiction crisis.

Howard, in Kentucky, said the [Centers for Disease Control is tracking hep A outbreaks in five states](#) that show this unusual transmission. That means hepatitis A now joins overdose, hepatitis C and HIV as health threats linked to the addiction crisis. And monitoring and treatment efforts are complicated by the regional nature of the infection.

"The biggest challenge we face is when outbreaks cross state lines," he said. He pointed to an ongoing investigation of a cluster of HIV cases in northern Kentucky, which includes many commuter communities tied to Cincinnati. That outbreak is also linked to needle drug use. "For the first time in the history of Kentucky, we had HIV transmission with the most common risk factor being intravenous drug use," he said. Full story: <http://wfpl.org/regional-hepatitis-a-outbreak-linked-to-ohio-valley-addiction-crisis/>

#### ----- **Kentucky police program offers addiction treatment options**

ASHLAND, Ky. (WDRB/AP) - A police program in Kentucky allows community members struggling with addiction to seek help without facing reprisals.

The Daily Independent reports the Ashland Police Department launched its Angel Program on Thursday. Similar initiatives have been implemented at Kentucky State Police posts, and three other police departments in the state.

The program allows people to surrender illegal items, drugs or paraphernalia to the department. An "Angel" will connect that person to treatment options.

Full story: <http://www.wdrb.com/story/38060358/kentucky-police-program-offers-addiction-treatment-options>

#### ----- **Cocaine valued at \$17 million seized at UPS in Louisville**

(Herald-Leader) More than 1,100 pounds of cocaine valued at \$17 million was seized last week at the UPS hub in Louisville. The drugs had been hidden in 60 boxes, each containing 24 tubes of silicone adhesive, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a news release.

Read more: <http://www.kentucky.com/news/local/crime/article210008784.html>

#### ----- **As states consider taxing opioids, drugmakers push back**

ST. PAUL, Minn. (WDRB/AP) - Lawmakers across the country are testing a strategy to boost treatment for opioid addicts as their states confront a rising death toll from drug overdoses. They want to force drug manufacturers and their distributors to pay for it. Drugmakers and distributors say the cost

increases would eventually be absorbed by patients or taxpayers, and that there are other ways to pay for addiction treatment.

Read more: <http://www.wdrb.com/story/38064633/as-states-consider-taxing-opioids-drugmakers-push-back>

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### **Officials warn about possible 'rabbit fever' outbreak in Butler County**

(Herald-Leader) State health officials have closed a 240-acre field in Morgantown after a rabbit tested positive for a serious disease.

[Lex18 reported](#) that officials are warning Butler County residents who spend time outdoors to take precautions against tularemia, also known as "rabbit fever," which can be transmitted to people and pets. It can be fatal if left untreated.

Read more: <http://www.kentucky.com/news/local/counties/article210094094.html>

**CDC site on Tularemia:** <https://www.cdc.gov/tularemia/>

**CDC Guidance on steps to [prevent](#) tularemia include:**

- Use of insect repellent
- Wearing gloves when handling sick or dead animals
- Avoiding mowing over dead animals

**CDC Signs & Symptoms:** <https://www.cdc.gov/tularemia/signssymptoms/index.html>

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### **Study: Low-level antibiotics can produce high-level resistance**

(CIDRAP) A new study by scientists in Sweden indicates that bacteria exposed to small concentrations of antibiotics over time can become highly resistant, a finding the authors say provides an example of how low levels of antibiotics present in many environments may potentially contribute to antibiotic resistance.

In the study, published this week in *Nature Communications*, researchers from Uppsala University demonstrated that *Salmonella* exposed repeatedly to an amount of streptomycin that was not strong enough to kill the bacteria or inhibit growth still evolved high-level resistance. The resistance was caused by genetic mutations that haven't been typically associated with antibiotic resistance and were different from those that develop when the bacteria is exposed to lethal amounts of the drug.

Read more: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2018/04/study-low-level-antibiotics-can-produce-high-level-resistance>

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### **Study: Mass distribution of azithromycin reduces childhood mortality in Africa**

([CIDRAP News Scan](#)) A study today in the *New England Journal of Medicine* reports that childhood mortality in sub-Saharan African communities randomly assigned to mass distribution of azithromycin was lower than in those assigned a placebo. But the authors warn that resistance emerging from mass distribution of the antibiotic could curb or reverse any potential benefit.

CDC Clinicians Outreach

### **[Recommendations for the Use of Herpes Zoster Vaccines](#)**

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### **Trauma centers serving vulnerable patients on shaky financial ground**

(Reuters Health) The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been good for the financial health of Level 1 trauma centers in hospitals that serve vulnerable patients, but these critical facilities remain at risk of future financial problems, U.S. researchers say.

Level 1 trauma centers play a "special role," both in providing the highest level of trauma care and in training the next generation of trauma surgeons, the study team writes. These trauma centers are also often located in safety net hospitals.

According to the Institute of Medicine, safety net hospitals "organize and deliver a significant level of healthcare to the uninsured, Medicaid, and other vulnerable populations, or . . . by mission offer access to care regardless of a patient's ability to pay."

The researchers [in California] found that while the four safety net hospitals owned by counties were often in the red, non-profit safety net hospitals were more financially stable and more closely resembled non-safety net hospitals.

On average, county-owned safety net hospitals were operating at a 16.5 percent deficit, while the seven non-profit safety net hospitals ran at an average 8.4 percent surplus, compared with 9.5 percent for non-safety net hospitals.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-traumacenters-finances/trauma-centers-serving-vulnerable-patients-on-shaky-financial-ground-idUSKBN1HX2LO>

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**After push from activists, Chicago's violent south side gets an Adult Trauma Center**

Full NPR story: <https://www.npr.org/2018/04/28/606716569/chicagos-new-trauma-center>

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**Soccer 'headers' may do more brain harm than most collisions**

(Reuters Health) For soccer players, regularly "heading" the ball may have a bigger effect on everyday cognitive functioning than occasional accidental head impacts, a U.S. study suggests.

Researchers examined more than 300 adult amateur soccer players in New York City and found the ones who headed the ball most often during practice and games had poorer performance on tests of psychomotor speed, attention and memory. The changes in cognitive function did not cause any obvious impairment, but the study team is concerned about potential long-term damage.

Full report: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-soccer-headers-cognitive/soccer-headers-may-do-more-brain-harm-than-most-collisions-idUSKBN1HY23K>

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**Fewer dementia patients die after surgery when nurses more educated**

(Reuters Health) - Patients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia may be less likely to die after surgery when they're treated at hospitals that employ a larger proportion of nurses with at least a college degree, a U.S. study suggests.

(Reuters Health) - Patients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia may be less likely to die after surgery when they're treated at hospitals that employ a larger proportion of nurses with at least a college degree, a U.S. study suggests.

After researchers accounted for the type of surgery and individual hospital and patient characteristics, each 10 percent increase in the proportion of nurses with at least a bachelor's degree was linked to 4 percent lower odds of death for patients without dementia and 10 percent lower odds of death for patients with dementia.

Read full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-surgery-dementia/fewer-dementia-patients-die-after-surgery-when-nurses-more-educated-idUSKBN1HY2XE>

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**CMS Releases Proposed Rule for Inpatient Psychiatric Facility PPS for FY 2019**

Read more: <https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2018-04-27-cms-releases-proposed-rule-inpatient-psychiatric-facility-pps-fy-2019>

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**CMS Issues IRF, SNF and Hospice Proposed Rules for 2019**

Read more: <https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2018-04-27-cms-issues-irf-snf-and-hospice-proposed-rules-2019>

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**Humana Launches Hospital Quality Incentive Program**

(AHA Today) Humana Inc. has launched a national program that will compensate hospitals for improving patient experience, safety and outcomes based on certain quality measures from The Joint Commission's Integrated Care Certification and hospital-based Palliative Care Coordination Certification programs, the insurer [announced](#). The Hospital Incentive Program, which will be open to general acute care hospitals, seeks to better integrate care and reduce duplicative services, hospital readmissions, and complication rates in acute care inpatient admissions, according to the insurer. "We're excited to launch

our value-based care initiative for hospitals, utilizing several quality standards that include certifications developed by The Joint Commission," said Caraline Coats, vice president of Humana's Provider Development Center of Excellence. "This program expands Humana's reach in value-based care as we broaden our efforts to provide a better experience for our members and help them achieve their best health."

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**Mass. School district pays \$10,000 bitcoin ransom after cyberattack**

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/school-district-pays-10000-bitcoin-ransom-after-cyberattack-massachusetts/>

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**T-Mobile, Sprint announce merger in all-stock deal**

(CBS) T-Mobile and Sprint [announced](#) Sunday that they will merge the two wireless companies, bringing the number of major cellphone companies to three. The combined company will be named T-Mobile.

In a joint statement, the wireless carriers said the combined company will have lower costs and better quality that could essentially help them compete with AT&T and Verizon. The supersized company would have nearly as many wireless subscribers as Verizon and AT&T have now. T-Mobile and Sprint could save money by merging their networks and closing stores.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/t-mobile-sprint-announce-merger-today-live-updates-2018-04-29/>

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**Is Your Cell Phone Trying to Kill You? New Study Says 'Maybe'**

Read more: <http://newser.com/s258515>

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**DRIVE: Accelerating National Health Security Innovation**

([Global Biodefense](#)) The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) is seeking applicants for a network of accelerators across the U.S. to promote national health security innovation.

[Read more](#)

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**Is Facebook making moves in healthcare?**

(Modern Healthcare) Following in Apple's and Amazon's footsteps, Facebook could be the next tech giant jumping into healthcare. [READ MORE](#)

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*All Hazards Training Center at The University of Findlay*

**DOT PHMSA Rail Car Response Training  
for Crude Oil, Ethanol, and Other Flammable Liquid Incidents course**



Training *FREE* - hosted by: Lawrence County EMA  
Lawrence County Community Center  
180 Bulldog Lane, Louisa, KY 41230  
Date: July 18, 2018  
Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EDT)

[*See flyer attached for details and & registration.*]

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**FEMA - REVISED: L0388 Advanced Public Information Officers**

**Course Date:** May 21-25, 2018

**Course length:** This course is five (5) days in length. Class times generally run from 8:00am to 5:00pm each day.

**Location:** Coast Guard Island, Building 55, Alameda, CA

**More info:** [1396 - Training Bulletin - L0388 Advanced Public Information Officers May 2018](#)

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**The Electric Infrastructure Security (EIS) Council presents EARTH Ex 2018**

**The Second Annual Emergency All-sector Response Transnational Hazard Exercise**

**Webinar Date: Wednesday May 23, 2018; 1-2 pm Eastern**

On May 23, 2018, the National Information Sharing Consortium (NISC) will host a webinar with the Electric Infrastructure Security (EIS) Council on the [EARTH Ex 2018 Exercise](#) and how you or

your organization can participate! **EARTH Ex**, scheduled for August 22, 2018, is an international, multi-sector, virtual exercise that will focus on processes and tools to support response and recovery from a long duration power outage - caused by one of the six Black Sky hazards. The exercise will provide participants with a unique opportunity to examine response and restoration postures. The exercise will use NISC developed tools and move the exercise portal into a new direction with feedback mechanisms and emphasis on Course of Action development.

The **EARTH Ex 2018** webinar is the tenth webinar in the [NISC's Mission-Focused Job Aids Webinar Series](#) that reviews tools, techniques, and standard operating procedures that NISC partners in the homeland security, emergency management, public safety, first responder, and healthcare preparedness communities use to facilitate and manage information sharing. For more information about the webinar series and the NISC, visit the NISC website at [www.nisconsortium.org](http://www.nisconsortium.org). To become a member of the NISC, [click here](#) to join, membership is free for all users!

[Register Today](#)

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**Inventors Reveal New 'Suicide Machine'**



(Newser) – Visitors at an Amsterdam funeral show Saturday were able to don virtual reality glasses and see their own suicide by nitrogen gas—all to imagine a new way of dying, the [Guardian](#) reports. Inventors Alexander Bannink and Philip Nitschke were there to show off a model of their "Sarco," a 3D-printed euthanasia pod replete with detachable coffin, and VR glasses to imagine using it. "The person who wants to die presses the button and the capsule is filled with nitrogen," says Nitschke, an Australian euthanasia activist. "He or she will feel a bit dizzy but will then rapidly lose consciousness and die." He says the goal is "to provide people with a death when they wish to die." The Sarco (short for sarcophagus) is another step in Nitschke's long journey to make suicide widely available, [Newsweek](#) reports.

Full Newser story: <http://newser.com/s257934>

Original Newsweek story: <http://www.newsweek.com/elon-musk-assisted-suicide-machine-727874>

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**Terry Stewart Says "Good Bye"**

Terry Stewart, the KY Public Health Preparedness Coordinator for Regions 8/9 and 10/11, will be retiring effective on May 1, 2018. In an email to his regions and colleagues sent on Friday he said, "It has been my HONOR to work with each of you. I will miss working with each of you, but I am looking forward to moving on to a new chapter in my life."

A large number of people have extended him well wishes for his retirement.

***"Thank you for your contributions to KY Public Health Preparedness!"***

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.



# Rail Car Incident Response for Crude, Ethanol and Other Flammable Liquids

Louisa, KY / July 18, 2018

**DELIVERY  
COMING TO  
LOUISA, KY**

The All Hazards Training Center at The University of Findlay has developed the *Rail Car Incident Response for Crude, Ethanol, and Other Flammable Liquids* training course for the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (DOT PHMSA) to educate emergency responders on freight rail car incidents involving hazardous materials, specifically crude oil, ethanol, and other flammable liquids. As more and more rail traffic transports cargo, including hazardous materials, it is important that the responder community become educated about the dangers and unique hazards presented with rail cars carrying these commodities. The information covered in this **FREE** training course will enhance the ability of emergency responders to assess the scene of a rail car incident, understand the resources needed to remediate the emergency situation, including how the railroad will play a critical role in the response.



Hands-on scenarios using a rail car simulator are conducted to emphasize the objectives of the training including:

- Identifying the design, construction, components and markings of rail tank cars that carry crude/flammable liquids
- Recognizing and identifying the chemical being transported, and the properties that must be considered in an emergency
- Assessing the scene to determine the potential hazards to people, property, and the environment
- Recognizing mitigation strategies including offensive, defensive, and non-intervention strategies for fire and/or spill incidents
- Identifying key resources in the rail/ freight industry as well as federal, state, and private resources for response assistance



**Training hosted by:  
Lawrence County EMA**

**Training Site:** Lawrence County Community Center  
**180 Bulldog Lane  
 Louisa, KY 41230**  
**Date:** July 18, 2018  
**Time:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND**

- Firefighters—including neighboring departments
- Other First Responders— including law enforcement
- Community Emergency Management Personnel
- Other Community Stakeholders—including railroad representatives

**Certificates of Completion will be issued for 8.0 contact hours**

Please complete the registration form fully and email it to:

**Michael Woods**

[jawcokvem@gmail.com](mailto:jawcokvem@gmail.com)

Office: 606-638-0334

Minimum of 20 registrants are needed for training to occur.

<b>Name</b>			
<b>Course date &amp; location</b>	July 18, 2018 / Lawrence County Community Center		
<b>Position</b>			
<b>Agency/ Company</b>			
<b>Address</b>			
<b>City/State</b>		<b>Zip</b>	
<b>Phone</b>		<b>Fax</b>	
<b>E-mail</b>			



For more information about this course please contact John Kayser at [Kayser@findlay.edu](mailto:Kayser@findlay.edu) or 419-434-5814.