



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 2, 2018

CDC reports tripling of vector-borne diseases since 2004

In a new *Vital Signs* publication today, scientists from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new data showing more than 640,000 Americans suffered from vector-borne illnesses from 2004 to 2016.

Researchers based the report on cases recorded by the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System for 16 notifiable vector-borne diseases, transmitted by fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes.

Many of the 642,602 cases are caused by nine new pathogens introduced into the United States during that same period by mosquitoes (Zika and chikungunya) and ticks, the report said.

Read more and learn about how climate change is impacting this: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2018/05/cdc-reports-tripling-vector-borne-diseases-2004>

Winners Announced in 'Find Help Now' & 'Don't Let Them Die' Student PSA Competition *Kentucky high schoolers showcase original marketing campaigns aimed at fighting opioid crisis*

(From Press Release) **(May 1, 2018)** – Gov. Matt Bevin's office today announced the winning teams in the "[Find Help Now](#)" / "[Don't Let Them Die](#)" marketing challenge, a public service announcement (PSA) competition for Kentucky high school students designed to create awareness about the dangers of opioid use.

Sponsored by the Governor's Office, the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and WLKY, the contest drew more than two dozen entries from across the Commonwealth. Teams were charged with developing an integrated marketing and advertising campaign to bring attention to addiction treatment resources.

The top three finishers received individual team awards, and the top five teams will receive cash awards for their schools:

- Sacred Heart Academy – Markestrella (1st Place)
- Green County High School – Students Offering Support (SOS) (2nd Place)
- McCracken County High School – Mustang Media Club (3rd Place)
- Graves County High School – GCHS STOP Club (4th Place)
- Jessamine County Career & Technology Center (5th Place)

Launched in 2017, the Governor's "[Don't Let Them Die](#)" campaign seeks to bring awareness to the opioid crisis. The Commonwealth added a new tool earlier this year — [FindHelpNowKY.org](#) — a new website that allows users to search in real-time for a local substance use disorder (SUD) treatment center. [Click here](#) to download photos of today's winning teams.

Press release: <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=KentuckyGovernor&priid=672>

Hospital preparing for extra patients during Derby weekend

(WDRB) The Kentucky Derby is this weekend, and Norton Audubon Hospital is betting on seeing for a lot of extra patients. Norton Audubon Hospital off Poplar Level Road isn't far from Churchill Downs, so hundreds of extra patients are expected to show up at its Emergency Room on Oaks and Derby Day -- but ER Nurse Manager Renee Cecil says the staff is ready. Officials say they saw about 300 extra patients during the 2017 Derby weekend.

Video and story: <http://www.wdrb.com/story/38084360/norton-audubon-hospital-preparing-for-extra-patients-during-derby-weekend>

**KY Atty. General: Almost 3 million Ky. and Ind. residents
affected by alleged Facebook data breach**

(WDRB) -- Nearly three million residents in Kentucky and Indiana were affected by an alleged privacy breach by social media giant Facebook. That's according to a release issued Tuesday from the Office of the Attorney General for the state of Kentucky.

Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear's office says Facebook stated about 1.3 million Kentucky residents and another 1.6 million Indiana residents were affected by the breach.

In March, Beshear and a group of attorneys general from other states sent a letter to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg requesting information about the number of users affected by the breach.

The breach was associated with "recent reports that Facebook users' personal information was provided without permission to a third party."

Read more: <http://www.wdrb.com/story/38086183/atty-general-almost-3-million-ky-and-ind-residents-affected-by-alleged-facebook-data-breach>

**Kentucky public health officials say hepatitis A
outbreak may get worse before it gets better**

ASHLAND, Ky. (WSAZ) - It's a health alert Gray affiliate WSAZ has been reporting for several weeks as the hepatitis A outbreak continues across Kentucky. Now cases in Ohio and West Virginia are coming in well above average as well. One of the most recent cases of the virus [in eastern KY] was reported at the Texas Roadhouse in Ashland, Kentucky where a food service worker tested positive.

But WSAZ has learned that the public hasn't seen the worst of it. Officials with the Kentucky Department for Public Health say the hepatitis A outbreak may even get worse before it gets better

"This has been going on across the country for about two years," said acting Kentucky Commissioner for Public Health, Dr. Jeffery Howard. "So if that's any precedent, we may consider ourselves in this predicament at least a year from now."

Howard says they the outbreak started in California before spreading to Utah. It has since made its way to Michigan and Kentucky. In Kentucky, the outbreak has turned deadly three times. But health officials say those who died also had preexisting health conditions that lead to co-morbidity.

Read more: <http://www.wkyt.com/content/news/481374211.html>

Police use stun gun on nurse who refused to leave emergency room

(ABC) Police in Tennessee used a stun gun on a hospital nurse who they say refused to comply when medical officials asked him to leave the facility's emergency room, according to court documents.

Roger Davis, a nurse at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee, faces charges of assault, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct in the wake of the April 26 incident, which police say turned violent when the 42-year-old nurse started yelling and swinging at the officers, punching one in the lip, according to a charging affidavit.

Read and see more: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/police-stun-gun-tennessee-nurse-refused-leave-emergency/story?id=54846737>

**Police use taser on nurse inside ER —
*but there's way more to this story***

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/2018/05/01/police-use-taser-on-nurse-inside-er-but-theres-way-more-to-this-story>

Survey: 4 Million Working-Age Adults Have Lost Health Coverage Since 2016

(AHA Today for 5/1/18) An estimated 4 million adults aged 19-64 have lost health coverage since 2016, according to the Commonwealth Fund's latest [Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey](#). An estimated 15.5% of working-age adults were uninsured during the February-March survey, down from 12.7% in February-

March 2016. Rates were higher among households earning less than 250% of the federal poverty level (25.7%) and in states that did not expand Medicaid (21.9%).

She didn't get treated at the ER. But she got a \$5,751 bill anyway

(Vox) On October 19, 2016, Jessica Pell fainted and hit her head on a nearby table, cutting her ear. She went to the [emergency room](#) at Hoboken University Medical Center, where she was given an ice pack. She received no other treatment. She never received any diagnosis. But a bill arrived in the mail for \$5,751. "It's for the ice pack and the bandage," Pell said of the fee. "That is the only tangible thing they could bill me for."

Pell's experience is not unique. Submissions to Vox's [ER database project](#) found multiple examples of ERs charging patients hundreds or even thousands of dollars for walking through the door. Some never got past the waiting room. Some were triaged, but none received treatment from a doctor.

Read more: <https://www.vox.com/2018/5/1/17261488/er-expensive-medical-bill>

WA Hospital Injected patients at risk of Hep C exposure from nurse who stole drugs

(CBS) A hospital near Tacoma is issuing a Hepatitis C warning for 2,600 emergency room patients who may have been exposed to the virus through a nurse who has admitted to stealing narcotics. The hospital said those patients had received narcotic, antihistamine or sedative injections while the nurse was working. Two patients she treated have already tested positive.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hospital-injected-patients-at-risk-of-hep-c-exposure-from-nurse-who-stole-drugs/>

Plan to curb gun violence known as "paintball wars" linked to 2 deaths

(CBS) Cities plagued by shootings are now battling a new type of gun violence, known as "paintball wars."

In the last week, there have been more than 200 paintball shootings reported in Atlanta; Detroit; Greensboro, North Carolina and Milwaukee, where 65 incidents have been reported in four days. It's an idea that may have backfired.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/paintball-wars-initially-intended-to-curb-gun-violence-linked-to-2-deaths/>

US warns liquid nicotine packets resemble juice boxes, candy



Read AP story: <http://www.wkyt.com/content/news/US-warns-liquid-nicotine-packets-resemble-juice-boxes-candy-481384881.html>

Children who play football before age 12 show CTE-related symptoms much sooner

(CBS) A new study published in Annals of Neurology found kids who start playing tackle football before age 12 will, on average, develop cognitive and emotional symptoms associated with the [degenerative brain disease CTE](#) much earlier than those who start later. A new study published in Annals of Neurology looked at the brains of 246 deceased amateur and professional football players. Two-

hundred-eleven of them had the degenerative brain disease known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, which can be caused by repetitive hits to the head. The study showed kids who began playing tackle football before the age of 12 began showing cognitive and emotional symptoms associated with CTE an average of 13 years earlier than those who started after 12.

See video report and read story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cte-symptoms-youth-football-before-age-12/>

Report To Army Finds Blast From Some Weapons May Put Shooter's Brain At Risk

(NPR) Military personnel may be endangering their own brains when they operate certain shoulder-fired weapons, according to an Army-commissioned report released Monday. The [report](#), from the [Center for a New American Security](#), says these bazooka-like weapons pose a hazard because they are powered by an explosion just inches from the operator's head.

Hear and read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/04/30/606142634/report-to-army-cites-concussion-risk-of-weapons-blast-to-the-shooter>

New twist on Telemedicine

When Inmates Need A Specialist, They Often See The Doctor By Video

(NPR) When an inmate needs to see a medical specialist, getting that care can be complicated.

Prisons are often located in rural areas far from medical centers that have experts in cancer, heart and other disease treatments. Even if the visit just involves a trip to a hospital across town, the inmate must be transported under guard, often in shackles. The whole process is expensive for the correctional facility and time-consuming for the patient.

Given the challenges, it's no wonder many correctional facilities have embraced telemedicine. They use video conferencing to allow inmates to see medical specialists and psychiatrists without ever leaving the facility.

A survey by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of prison health care in 2011 found that 30 states out of 45 that responded said they used telemedicine for at least one type of specialty or diagnostic service. The participating states reported that telemedicine was most commonly used for psychiatry (62.2 percent) and cardiology (26.6 percent), [according to the research](#), which was published in 2016.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/05/01/607354073/when-inmates-need-a-specialist-they-often-see-the-doctor-by-video>

"That's not fair": Federal insurance program falls short for flood victims

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fema-national-flood-insurance-program-funds-go-to-lawyers-fighting-victim-claims/>

Mom who left kids in hot car as a "lesson" sentenced in deaths

(CBS) A North Texas mother whose [two toddlers died in a hot car last May](#) will spend the next 20 years in prison, a Texas jury ruled Monday. The same jury convicted 25-year-old Cynthia Marie Randolph of two second-degree felony counts of recklessly causing injury to a child hours earlier.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mom-who-left-kids-in-hot-car-to-teach-them-a-lesson-gets-max-sentence-in-their-deaths/>

**John Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [May 1, 2018](#)**

[US 'A Lot More Fragile Than We Realize' on Biothreats, Experts Warn](#) (*Homeland Security Today*)

The nation is critically underprepared to confront transnational biological threats ranging from DIY bioterror agents to natural pathogens that outpace current pharmaceuticals and overwhelm medical facilities, the Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense heard at a Wednesday event at the Hudson Institute. [Go to article](#)

[Feeble Flu Vaccine Still Wields Power](#) (*Nature*) Seasonal-flu vaccines can prevent millions of infections even if they don't closely match the strains of virus in circulation. Flu vaccines are reformulated

each year in an attempt to keep up with the fast-evolving influenza virus. The 2017-18 vaccine was a particularly poor match to circulating flu strains, and early evidence suggests that this led to a spike in hospitalizations and deaths. [Go to article](#)

Six cases of hospital-acquired malaria in Europe demonstrate risk

Since January of 2016, four European Union countries reported six cases of hospital-acquired malaria. A new report from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) highlights the rare possibility of hospital-acquired malaria transmission and explains possible routes of transmission.

Though the number of hospital-acquired cases is not necessarily alarming, ECDC officials said the concomitant infections in Italy (2 cases), Spain (2), Greece (1) and Germany (1) are unusual.

The route of transmission in these cases is not known, but hospital-acquired malaria has been associated with procedures related to blood-borne transmission, including injections or infusions. The ECDC said the risk of further malaria transmission in isolated hospital-acquired cases is negligible.

"Even if hospital-acquired malaria is uncommon, clinicians and healthcare providers should consider it in patients with unexplained fever or a malaria-like clinical syndrome, especially if their hospital stay coincides with that of a malaria-infected patient," the ECDC said in a news release on the report.

Apr 30 ECDC [report](#)

Take action May 19 for Home Fire Sprinkler Day



(USFA) Home Fire Sprinkler Day is May 19 and fire sprinkler advocates from around North America are planning events to help spread the word about this life-saving technology. The U.S. Fire Administration is partnering with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition in this effort to help educate everyone about home fire sprinklers.

The US Fire Administration encourages local fire departments to host an event or share information in the community to promote their use.

Find out more: https://www.usfa.fema.gov/current_events/050218.html

EARTH Ex 2018

The Second Annual Emergency All-sector Response Transnational Hazard Exercise

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

[Register Today](#)

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. To become a member of the NISC, [click here](#) to join, membership is free for all users!

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 be added or deleted, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please [CLICK HERE](#) (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.