



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 23, 2018

Hardin Memorial sold to Baptist Health

(Press Release) The Hardin Memorial Hospital (HMH) Board of Trustees voted today 8-1 to approve the sale of the health system to long-time manager Baptist Health. The vote was taken today at the meeting of the Hardin County Fiscal Court, whose members also serve as the HMH Board of Trustees. The final step in the process will be finalizing the sale, expected Dec. 1, 2018. After the acquisition is finalized, the hospital will be known as Baptist Health Hardin.

CHFS cites budget constraints in announcing closure of Eastern State Hospital Long Term Care Facility

(KyForward) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) announced Tuesday the Eastern State Hospital Long Term Care Facility will be closed due to state budget constraints. The facility currently serves 14 residents with acquired brain injuries (ABI) or geriatric residents with long-term care needs.

Eastern State Hospital, a state-owned psychiatric facility, is managed by UK HealthCare and primarily serves patients with acute mental health needs. The current action impacts only the long-term care facility and all other services will remain intact. Closing the facility is expected to save \$2 million. CHFS believes that this closure will allow a more efficient use of resources to support the behavioral health system and provide quality care.

Read full story: <http://www.kyforward.com/chfs-cites-budget-constraints-in-announcing-closure-of-eastern-state-hospital-long-term-care-facility/>

Senate Hearing Examines Health Care Workforce Shortages

(AHA Today) The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee today held a [hearing](#) on how to address the growing shortage of physicians, nurses and other health care professionals, especially in rural areas, as the U.S. population ages. "It is my hope that the committee will soon begin working on solutions to address these shortages," said Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN). The committee has jurisdiction over about 70 health care workforce programs, including programs that provide scholarship and loan repayment in exchange for working in underserved areas and grants for children's hospitals that train physicians and dentists. "These are great programs with a positive impact – but we need to invest in that impact on a larger scale, because compared to the scope of the challenge, we're fighting fires with a squirt gun," said Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA).

The AHA has urged Congress to reject reductions in Medicare funding for graduate medical education and pass the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act to increase the number of Medicare-funded residency positions. The association also supports appropriate funding of training programs for nurses and other health care professionals, and actions to expand scope of practice laws and allow all clinicians to practice at the top of their license.

Panel to Create National Plan to Accelerate Patient Safety Progress

(AHA Today) The Institute for Healthcare Improvement today convened a national [steering committee](#), whose members include the AHA, to create a national plan to accelerate patient safety progress across the care continuum. "We've seen success in targeted areas, such as reductions in health care-associated infections and hospital acquired conditions," [said](#) Jeffrey Brady, M.D., co-chair of the committee and director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety. "Those gains have been supported by prominent national initiatives and efforts involving governmental agencies and public-private partnerships.

This renewed, shared focus on keeping patients safe and the work of the National Steering Committee reflect the importance of effective coordination at all levels – from national organizations to individual clinicians. Teamwork will be necessary to achieve patient safety across the entire continuum of patient care." AHA works with hospitals across the country to advance patient safety through the [AHA-Health Research & Educational Trust Hospital Improvement Innovation Network](#), [AHRQ Safety Program for Intensive Care Units](#) and other initiatives. AHA Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Jay Bhatt, D.O., and American Organization of Nurse Executives Acting CEO Susan Gergely will represent AHA and its American Organization of Nurse Executives subsidiary on the committee.

Worsening drug shortages leave providers scrambling for alternatives

(Modern Healthcare) Ninety-one percent of nearly 250 emergency physicians surveyed in a new ACEP poll said they had experienced a shortage or absence of critical medicine in their emergency department in the past month. That increases costs and compromises care. [READ MORE](#)

CMS puts Tenet hospital on notice after patient dies

(Modern Healthcare) A Tenet Healthcare Corp. hospital is under CMS scrutiny after a patient died and others are at risk for harm because staffers didn't follow proper restraint procedures. [READ MORE](#)

---- CIDRAP [News Scan](#) extracts ----

- [AAP says FluMist can be used as a 'last resort' in kids - May 21 AAP statement](#)
- [Study finds pneumococcal vaccine 73% effective in older adults - May 21 Clin Infect Dis study](#)

Congo Ebola vaccination campaign begins with health workers

(AP) — Congo began an Ebola vaccination campaign Monday in a northwest provincial capital in a major effort to stem an outbreak that already has spread from rural towns into a city of more than 1 million people.

The vaccination drive started a day after the health ministry announced that a nurse had died from Ebola in Bikoro. The rural northwestern town is where the outbreak announced in early May began. The death toll now stands at 27.

Read more: <https://apnews.com/8c8f125d61134a63954dfff324d4902b>

The Lancet has made their [Ebola resource center](#) content available for free.

A watchdog group asks Netflix to pull '13 Reasons Why'

(AP) - A media watchdog group is calling on Netflix to pull its "13 Reasons Why" series because of potentially harmful content. The first season of "13 Reasons Why" included a graphic depiction of a teen's suicide. The second season includes a story line about a student's thwarted plans to shoot up a school dance.

Read more: <http://www.wkyc.com/content/news/A-watchdog-group-asks-Netflix-to-pull-13-Reasons-Why-483258371.html>

John Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [May 22, 2018](#) and [May 23, 2018](#)

[Study by Center for Health Security Identifies Characteristics of Microorganisms Most Likely to Cause a Global Pandemic](#)

Infectious disease preparedness work focuses predominantly on a historical list of pathogens derived from biological warfare agents, political considerations, and recent outbreaks. That fails to account for the most serious agents not currently known or without historical precedent, write scholars from the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security in a new report on the traits of microorganisms with high pandemic potential. [Read more](#)

[The Political Theater of Controlling Ebola with Border Checks](#) (*Wired*) The WHO, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and *Doctors Without Borders* send in rapid-response teams. These

teams set up treatment centers and ship in supplies--including, this time, the first doses of an experimental vaccine. With luck, those emergency measures will control the spread of this outbreak. But there's another emergency measure that won't curb Ebola, and might even encourage it to spread: stopping people at national borders to see whether they carry the disease. [Go to article](#)

[Ebola: Outbreak Update, Vaccinations and What About Unintentional Spread by Travelers?](#)

(Outbreak News Today) In an outbreak update on the Ebola Virus Disease situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), health officials say the situation continues to evolve. [Go to article](#)

[2 Patients Who Fled Ebola Ward Among the Dead in Congo](#) *(US News)* Two infected patients who fled from an Ebola treatment center in a Congo city of 1.2 million people later died, an aid group said Wednesday while asserting that "forced hospitalization is not the solution to this epidemic." As the number of suspected Ebola cases continued to rise, experts emphasized that more community engagement is needed to prevent the spread of the deadly virus. [Go to article](#)

[Nipah Outbreak in Kerala: Experts Suspect Human-to-Human Transmission](#) *(Hindustan Times)*

Epidemiologists and virologists are investigating whether the outbreak in Kerala of Nipah, a zoonotic disease that is usually transmitted to humans from fruit bats, could be the result of human-to-human transmission. [Go to article](#)

[The White House Signals That Bioterrorism and Disease Don't Matter -- Again](#) *(Washington Post)*

In eliminating the Office of Global Health Security at the National Security Council, it seems these events have slipped the mind of newly installed national security adviser John Bolton. But he is not alone. This marks the third time that the national security community, in both Democratic and Republican administrations, has downgraded the importance of disease and bioterrorism threats in the hierarchy of national security issues. [Go to article](#)

[Fresh from Hurricane Harvey's Flooding, Houston Starts to Build Anew -- in the Flood Plain](#)

(Washington Post) A city chastened by disastrous flooding just months ago is trying to balance the need for new construction in a region short of housing with the civic fear that Houston is returning to its freewheeling ways. The construction in northwest Houston, which serves as something of a post-Harvey starting gun, is being built to new, stricter standards. [Go to article](#)

[Hawaii on Edge as Lava Reaches Power Plant: 'No One Has Faced This Before'](#) *(USA Today)*

Civil defense authorities in Hawaii were scrambling to firm up contingency plans after hot, powerful lava flowing from Hawaii's erupting Kilauea volcano reached the edge of a Big Island power plant. The lava flow entered the 800-acre property of the Puna Geothermal Venture Plant before stalling at a swale about 300 yards from the nearest underground, geothermal well. If lava breaches the well, authorities fear it could release hydrogen sulfide, a toxic and flammable gas. [Go to article](#)

[EMS: A Critical Partner in Successful Community Disaster Planning and Response](#) *(ASPR Blog)*

During EMS Week, we want to draw attention to the vital role EMS plays in disaster healthcare and salute our Emergency Medical Services colleagues nationwide. We know that across the country, our EMS colleagues work on the frontlines of health, providing lifesaving services every day, even on the worst days in your communities. EMS is the first point of contact with medical services for millions of Americans, and with every call EMS professionals put years of training and education to use to make a difference. Your care saves lives. [Go to article](#)

[Antibiotic Resistance Increases with Local Temperature](#) *(Nature Climate Change)*

Antibiotic resistance in bacteria is believed to develop largely under the selective pressure of antibiotic use; however, other factors may contribute to population level increases in antibiotic resistance. We explored the role of climate (temperature) and additional factors on the distribution of antibiotic resistance across the US, and here we show that increasing local temperature as well as population density are associated with increasing antibiotic resistance (percent resistant) in common pathogens. [Go to article](#)

New ASPR TRACIE Topic Collection: Pre-Hospital

Link: <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/technical-resources/54/pre-hospital-emncy-medical-services-ems-rescue-first-responder-mass-gathering/47>

EMTALA and Disasters Fact Sheet

Link: <https://asprtracie.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/aspr-tracie-fact-sheet-emtala-and-disasters.pdf>

Rural Disaster Health

Link: <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/technical-resources/92/rural-disaster-health/47>

Electronic Health Records

Link: <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/technical-resources/66/electronic-health-records/60>

NETEC Announces Ebola Training

(AHA Today) Health care and public health leaders, clinicians and first responders can register to attend an [Aug. 7-8 workshop](#) in Atlanta on preparing for Ebola and other emerging infectious diseases, offered by the National Ebola Training and Education Center. NETEC also will offer the two-day workshop later this year in Omaha, NE, and Boston and next year in Denver, Spokane, WA, and Baltimore. For additional Ebola preparedness resources, visit <https://netec.org>.

[What health IT can learn from the hurricanes](#)

(Modern Healthcare) By learning from experiences in Florida, Texas and Puerto Rico, health systems can be better prepared when the next disaster strikes. [READ MORE](#)

Protecting Chemical Facilities Against Terrorist Attack

(Domestic Preparedness) This 2013 article describes how the U.S. government's chemical security program helps to identify high-risk targets for terrorist attacks based on the type of chemical being manufactured or delivered and the physical location of the facility where it is stored.

Read more: <https://www.domesticpreparedness.com/resilience/protecting-chemical-facilities-against-terrorist-attack/>

2018 Predicted to Be Challenging Wildfire Year

(Domestic Preparedness) Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and Forest Service Interim Chief Vicki Christiansen briefed members of Congress on what to expect in the coming fire season. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service is well prepared to respond to wildfires in what is currently forecast to be another challenging year.

Read more: <https://www.domesticpreparedness.com/updates/2018-predicted-to-be-challenging-wildfire-year/>

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.