



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 25, 2018

Keystone Virus Makes First Known Jump from Mosquitoes to Humans

(NPR) A 16-year-old Florida boy is the first person known to have become infected, researchers say. Symptoms in humans include a rash and mild fever.

The virus was first found in the U.S. in 1964, when researchers isolated it from mosquitoes in Keystone, Fla. Since then, it "has been found in animal populations along coastal regions stretching from Texas to the Chesapeake Bay," according to [a statement](#) from University of Florida Health.

But until now, there hasn't been a way to test humans for the Keystone virus, which is carried by the *Aedes atlanticus* mosquito, a cousin to the Zika-spreading *Aedes aegypti*.

The virus can cause a rash and mild fever in humans. The teenager did not show signs of encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain — but Keystone is part of a group of viruses "known to cause encephalitis in several species, including humans," said lead study author [John Lednicky](#), a University of Florida research professor in the environmental and global health department of the College of Public Health and Health Professions.

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/2018/06/21/622402387/keystone-virus-makes-jump-from-mosquitoes-to-human-for-first-time>

Long-awaited report on water contaminants released by HHS

(CNN)A long-awaited government study on the toxicity levels chemicals commonly used in manufacturing was made public on Wednesday, months after a White House official warned that it could be a "potential public relations nightmare."



The [800-plus-page draft report](#) from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a division of the US Department of Health and Human Services, indicates that the "minimal risk levels" for oral exposure to two chemicals known as PFOS and PFOA are lower than the threshold currently recommended by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA's levels are 10 and 6.7 times higher, respectively.

These chemicals, known as polyfluoroalkyl and perfluoroalkyl substances or PFASs, have been linked to a variety of adverse health effects including liver damage, thyroid disease, decreased fertility, high cholesterol, obesity, hormone suppression and cancer.

CNN Story link: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/20/health/hhs-releases-water-contaminant-report/index.html>

Report link: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp200.pdf>

How the Opioid Crisis Is Depressing America's Labor Force

(NPR) It's been a decade since the financial crisis drove up the unemployment rate in the U.S. and forced people in the prime of their careers to give up looking for work.

Even today, as employers add jobs at a furious pace, the workforce participation rate still hasn't recovered. And now researchers think they know one reason why: the opioid crisis.

[According to a report](#) by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the percentage of people of prime working age – between 25 and 54 – who are employed or looking for work is well below the rate of other developed countries.

The OECD report also states that opioid prescription rates tend to be higher in areas where labor force participation is lower. Princeton University economist Alan Krueger [found](#) that the increase in

opioid prescribing can account for 20 to 25 percent of the decline in the number of people who are employed or looking for jobs.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the amount of opioids prescribed per person in the U.S. was [three times higher](#) in 2015 than in 1999. In 2016, the [overdose rate](#) from prescription opioids was highest among those ages 25 to 54.

The OECD report states that the opioid prescription rate per capita is "significantly higher" in the U.S. than in the organization's other member nations, which include the U.S, most of the European Union, Canada and Japan.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2018/06/18/621159438/how-the-opioid-crisis-is-depressing-americas-labor-force>

Laser pointer burns hole in boy's retina

(CNN) A 9-year-old boy in Greece permanently injured his left eye when he repeatedly gazed into a laser pointer's green beam, doctors say.

Examination revealed a large hole in the macula, a small area in the retina that helps with discerning detail in faces and while reading or driving, the doctors said in [a case report](#) published Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine. Further imaging revealed two more injured areas below the macular hole.

In this case, because the macular hole resulted from the laser burn, the nerves in the eye that absorb light were totally damaged, said Androudi, an assistant professor of ophthalmology at the University of Thessaly in Greece. "This means that even if the surgery would be successful, the boy would not be able to see."

The United States Food and Drug Administration restricts the sale of laser pointers with more than [5 milliwatts of power](#) throughout the US. However, the restrictions are not enforced or regulated and pointers are very easy to purchase online.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/20/health/laser-pointer-eye-hole-study/index.html>

Parents often lack amusement-park safety plans

(Reuters Health) - One in five parents don't talk to their kids about safety issues at amusement parks, especially what to do if they get lost, according to a poll by the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

More than 30,000 children are injured each year at amusement parks and carnivals in the U.S., according to the Mott Poll report.

"Parents can take certain actions that can help to keep their children safe," said Dr. Gary Freed of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, who co-directs the poll.

"Parents should have a plan with their child about what to do," Freed told Reuters Health by email. "Parents should make sure their child is properly restrained in any ride, and be aware of any improper actions on the part of ride operators."

The national survey is based on responses from more than 1,200 parents with at least one child between ages 5 and 12 in early 2018. About 82 percent said their child had been to an amusement park or carnival in the past three years, and 85 percent had accompanied their child.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-kids-amusement-parks/parents-often-lack-amusement-park-safety-plans-idUSKBN1J12CA>

**Do you have an unlocked gun in your home?
Why more parents should ask this question**

Read more: <http://www.kentucky.com/news/local/crime/article213654369.html>

Anderson Cooper Special Report: "Finding Hope"
No one is immune to suicide. But there is hope

(CNN)Suicide affects people from all walks of life, sometimes in silence and isolation. It can reach across social, political and economic lines. That was the message Sunday on ["Finding Hope," a CNN special report hosted by Anderson Cooper](#) that featured a panel of guests and audience members affected by suicide.

See and read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/24/health/finding-hope-suicide-anderson-cooper-special-report/index.html>

Washington, D.C.: the Psychopath Capital of America

(Politico) As Washington's shock over winning the Stanley Cup demonstrates, the nation's capital isn't used to being first in anything. As a city, it's not the oldest, nor the biggest, nor the richest, and its sports teams are notoriously snakebitten. But finally, the capital has a claim to No. 1—and unfortunately, it's not just in hockey.

Ryan Murphy, an economist at Southern Methodist University, recently published a [working paper](#) in which he ranked each of the states by the predominance of—there's no nice way to put it—psychopaths. The winner? Washington in a walk. In fact, the capital scored higher on Murphy's scale than the next two runners-up combined.

"The District of Columbia is measured to be far more psychopathic than any individual state in the country," Murphy writes in the paper. The runner-up, Connecticut, registered only 1.89 on Murphy's scale, compared with the overwhelming 3.48 clocked by the District.

The top five habitats for such people, by Murphy's measure, are D.C., Connecticut, California, New Jersey and—tied for fifth—New York and Wyoming. The five least psychopathic states are West Virginia, Vermont, Tennessee, North Carolina and New Mexico. ("This is a rare ranking of states where West Virginia is rated as 'best,'" Murphy points out, "in the sense that psychopathy is generally viewed as a social bad.")

Full story: <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/06/23/washington-dc-the-psychopath-capital-of-america-218892>

How does Kentucky compare to its bordering states?

Kentucky:	Rank 36
Illinois:	Rank 10
Indiana:	Rank 41
Ohio:	Rank 21
Missouri:	Rank 34
Tennessee:	Rank 47
Virginia:	Rank 11
W. Virginia:	Rank 49

Download study: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3185182

**Report For Defense Department Ranks Top Threats
from 'Synthetic Biology'**

(NPR) A committee of experts examined about a dozen different synthetic biology technologies that could be potentially misused. For each, they considered how likely it was to be usable as a weapon. One of the biggest concerns is the ability to recreate known viruses from scratch in the lab. That means a lab could make a deadly virus that is normally kept under lock and key, such as [smallpox](#). Another top danger listed in the report, which was released (last) Tuesday, is making existing bacteria or viruses more dangerous. That could happen, by, say, giving them antibiotic resistance or altering them so that they produce toxins or evade vaccines.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/06/19/621350272/report-for-defense-department-ranks-top-threats-from-synthetic-biology>

Large Methane Leaks Threaten Perception Of 'Clean' Natural Gas

(NPR) A new study finds that oil and gas operations are leaking 60 percent more methane than previously reported by the federal government.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2018/06/23/622727843/large-methane-leaks-threaten-perception-of-clean-natural-gas>

Millions of Baby Monitors, Security Cameras Easy to Hack

We really, really need to stop buying cheap security cameras. The latest chapter of this ongoing saga is a case in point. In a new report, information-security firm [SEC Consult](#) details a vulnerability the snoop might have exploited. If SEC Consult is right, many other baby monitors, security cameras and webcams made by the same manufacturer might be vulnerable to the same attack.

To protect yourself, you should always change the password to one of these devices, as soon as it comes out of the box. If there's no password, or you can't change the password, throw it out and buy something better.

Read more: <https://www.tomsguide.com/us/cheap-security-cameras-poor-passwords.news-27495.html>

<p>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 added or deleted, 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.</p>
