



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 16, 2018

### Louisville Records 5th Hepatitis A Death, 9th Statewide

(LEX 18) — Louisville health officials say another person has died of complication related to a hepatitis A infection. Dave Langdon at Louisville Metro Health says this marks the fifth fatality from the infectious disease in Jefferson County.

The death is the ninth attributed to hepatitis A across the commonwealth since the outbreak took hold last November. The state has also reported more than 1,300 infections and over 750 hospitalizations.

Read more: <http://www.lex18.com/story/38891719/louisville-records-5th-hepatitis-a-death-9th-statewide>

Related C-J story: <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/2018/08/16/hepatitis-fifth-louisville-resident-dies-amid-outbreak/1006250002/>

### 2 arrests after 95 overdose on synthetic marijuana at Connecticut park

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (WABC) -- Two people have been arrested after a rash of overdoses blamed on a suspected bad batch of synthetic marijuana sickened dozens of people in New Haven, Connecticut. New Haven Police Chief Anthony Campbell told WTNH that an additional 19 people overdosed in the city on Thursday, bringing the total to 95 overdoses in the past two days. The victims [started falling ill Wednesday morning](#), mostly on the New Haven Green near Yale University.

Learn more: <https://abc7ny.com/2-arrests-after-95-overdoses-at-connecticut-park/3972678/>

### With Scarce Access To Interpreters, Immigrants Struggle To Understand Doctors' Orders

(NPR) Census data suggest that as many as 1 in 10 working adults in the U.S. has limited English-language proficiency. Meanwhile, the 1964 Civil Rights Act [and subsequent orders and laws](#) require hospitals and other facilities that offer medical services and receive federal funds to provide "meaningful access" to patients, so they can make informed decisions about their health. With few exceptions, this means that providers must offer qualified interpreters, as well as translations for prescriptions and other medical documents.

Previous [research has suggested](#) that such accommodations improve clinical outcomes and reduce persistent disparities in health care overall. And yet, despite the law, and despite the obvious benefits, thousands of hospitals and other medical facilities continue to fall short, leaving patients — if they are lucky — relying on family members and friends to be ad hoc interpreters of maladies and medical care. It's an informal and imperfect form of triage that unfolds in clinics across the country every day, with potentially harrowing consequences should something be lost in translation.

No one really knows how widespread the problem actually is, but even the scattered data that are available paint a bleak picture — and one that has persisted for decades. Just 39 percent of hospitals, for example, reported collecting any kind of data on the language proficiency of patients in a [2004 survey](#) of 272 hospitals.

Last year, [a study published in Health Affairs](#) suggested that little had improved. Despite requirements for data collection on race, ethnicity and language needs outlined in the 2010 Affordable Care Act, the researchers determined that such data availability in commercial, Medicaid and Medicare managed care plans "remained largely incomplete."

A [2016 survey of 4,586 hospitals](#) by the American Hospital Association, meanwhile, suggested that only 56 percent offered some sort of linguistic and translation services, a very slight improvement over the 54 percent recorded five years earlier. Yet, [another survey](#) suggests that 97 percent of physicians see at least some patients who have difficulty understanding English.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/638913165>

## Treating Teen Depression Might Improve Mental Health Of Parents, Too

(NPR) An estimated [12.8 percent](#) of adolescents in the U.S. experience at least one episode of major depression, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. According to previous [studies](#), many of those teens' mental health is linked to depression in their parents. But new research suggests there's a flipside to that parental effect: When teens are treated for depression, their parents' mental health improves, too.

Learn more: -<https://www.npr.org/637886786>

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**John Hopkins: Health Security Headlines**  
**Extracts from [August 16, 2018](#)**

**[41 Deaths from Ebola in Congo; Health Officials 'Worried'](#)** (*CNN*) An ongoing Ebola outbreak is spreading across the Democratic Republic of Congo's North Kivu province, and it has health officials gravely concerned due to conflict in the area along with other factors. The country's Ministry of Health announced Monday that 57 cases of hemorrhagic fever have been reported in the region: 30 confirmed and 27 probable. [Go to article](#)

**See Also: ['This is a Very Dangerous Outbreak': WHO Chief 'Worried' Over Ebola in DRC, as Experimental Treatment Begins](#)** (*The Telegraph*) The head of the WHO says he is increasingly concerned about the current outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). [Go to article](#)

**See Also: [Ebola Outbreak Shaping up as Most Dangerous Test of World's Ability to Respond Since Global Crisis](#)** (*STAT*) The latest Ebola epidemic in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is shaping up to be the most dangerous and difficult test of the world's ability to contain the disease since the catastrophic West African outbreak in 2014 and 2015. [Go to article](#)

**[On-Demand Medical Drone Delivery](#)** (*Stanford Social Innovation Review*) Delivery by drone is not a novelty for Silicon Valley-based startup Zipline -- it's a matter of life and death in the regions that the drone-delivery system serves. In October 2016, the company launched an on-demand service in contract with the government of Rwanda to deliver more than 50 different types of blood products (blood, plasma, and platelets) for immediate medical treatment. [Go to article](#)

**[Number of Faulty Children's Vaccines in China Surges to over 900,000](#)** (*CNN*) Hundreds of thousands of additional vaccines intended for children have been found to be faulty, the Chinese government announced Wednesday, raising the number of known defective vaccines in the country to almost one million. [Go to article](#)

**[FirstNet Board Approves \\$84 Million Budget](#)** (*Homeland Preparedness News*) The First Responder Network Authority's board of directors, an independent authority within the US Department of Commerce, recently approved an \$81 million budget for operations in fiscal year 2019. The budget will be used for the focus on the deployment of the nationwide public safety broadband network and public safety engagement. [Go to article](#)

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**Looking Ahead**

### **National Preparedness Month**

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM). This NPM's official theme is "[Disasters Happen: Prepared Now. Learn How.](#)" Follow HcR on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) as we share resources based on our weekly themes - Rx Preparedness, Readiness, Response, and Resilience - throughout the month.

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**New HRSA Data Warehouse**

The HHS Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is about to officially launch [data.hrsa.gov](http://data.hrsa.gov), the new HRSA website for open data. Data available on the site covers all of HRSA's

programs, including health centers, grants, organ donation, and more. The new site is interactive, easy to use, accessible, and will work on mobile devices.

You can [try out the new site now](#), and provide feedback at [data@hrsa.gov](mailto:data@hrsa.gov).

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**Available Resources from ASPR TRACIE**

**NEW! ASPR TRACIE Bioterrorism and High Consequence Biological Threats:** The 57th ASPR TRACIE Topic Collection focuses on [Bioterrorism and High Consequence Biological Threats](#). The resources in this TC highlight recent research, promising practices, and model procedures for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from an act of bioterror or widespread illness caused by a high consequence biological agent.

**Updated Topic Collections:** ASPR TRACIE recently updated its [Recovery Planning Topic Collection](#) and [Natural Disasters Topic Collection](#) to include additional resources. All TCs can be viewed on the [ASPR TRACIE-Developed Resources page](#).

**ASPR Tranquil Terminus Exercise Video:** Safely moving patients with highly infectious diseases, like Ebola, to regional treatment centers takes teamwork, preparation, skill and training. This [new video](#) from ASPR provides an overview of the largest patient movement exercise in HHS history, tested the nationwide ability to move patients with highly infectious diseases safely and securely to regional treatment centers. This resource can also be found in the [ASPR TRACIE VHF/Ebola Topic Collection](#).

**ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Spotlights: Hospital Decontamination:** ASPR TRACIE receives, on average, over 100 requests for technical assistance (TA) per month. Some of our responses (redacted) are summarized [here](#) and can be found in the [Information Exchange](#) to benefit other stakeholders. In these weekly reports, we will periodically highlight TAs that may be of particular interest to many of our stakeholders. This [ASPR TRACIE TA Response](#) includes comments from ASPR TRACIE Subject Matter Expert Cadre members and information on hospital decontamination incidents, such as data on hospitals that have conducted patient decontamination operations and hazards that prompted the need for decontamination.

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**Emergency Management and Response  
Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC)**

The [EMR-ISAC InfoGram for August 16, 2018](#) contains the following articles:

1. Scenario-based interactive firefighter training
2. National 911 Program requests review of NG911 Roadmap draft
3. Evacuation and shelter-in-place planning considerations
4. EARTH EX 2018 "Black Sky" exercise

[**Register for EEX18:** <https://www.eiscouncil.org/EarthEx.aspx>]

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FYI - for those who have registered for earth Ex 2018, the Situation Manual, and Facilitator Tools, were released overnight.

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](mailto: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.