



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

Kentucky stepping up patrols through Labor Day weekend

(AP) — Transportation and law enforcement officials in Kentucky are participating in a project to encourage safe driving as summer comes to an end. Transportation Secretary Greg Thomas said in a news release that traffic is expected to increase during the Labor Day weekend. The campaign runs through Sept. 3.

Source: http://www.kentuckynewera.com/news/ap/article_ef393aff-a639-54c9-9072-d9db0dac5d48.html

Anthem insurance will cover medical airlifts in some states

Health insurer Anthem now covers emergency medical flights in several states as part of an agreement with helicopter operator Air Methods that went into effect Aug. 15, according to the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#).

The agreement covers plan holders in Missouri, **Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio** and Wisconsin. Anthem also teamed up with another provider, Air Evac Lifeteam, for customers in Missouri and **Kentucky**, in a deal that went into effect July 1.

Full story: <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/payer-issues/anthem-strikes-deal-to-cover-airlifts-in-some-states.html>

Lawmaker says medical marijuana will be legal in Ky. 'within the next year'

Read more: <http://www.wdrb.com/story/38957080/lawmaker-confident-medical-marijuana-will-be-legal-in-ky-within-the-next-year>

There's "no safe level of alcohol," major study concludes

(CBS) While some medical studies — and a great deal of media attention — have focused on possible health benefits of [drinking alcohol](#) in moderation, a large new report warns that the harms of [alcohol](#) greatly outweigh any potential beneficial effects. The authors of the study, which looks at data on 28 million people worldwide, determined that considering the risks, there is "no safe level of alcohol."

Alcohol is associated with 2.8 million deaths worldwide each year, the researchers found in the study, which is published in the journal [The Lancet](#). Just over 2 percent of women and nearly 7 percent of men worldwide die from alcohol-related health problems each year.

Regular [alcohol consumption](#) can have negative impacts on the body's organs and tissues, while [binge drinking](#) can lead to injuries or alcohol poisoning. Alcohol dependence can lead to self-harm or violence.

Video report and read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/alcohol-and-health-no-safe-level-of-drinking-major-new-study-concludes/>

Feds confirm 507 people sick after eating McDonald's salad

(AP/Herald-Leader) Federal health officials say they've confirmed more than 500 cases of people who became sick with an intestinal illness after eating McDonald's salads. The illnesses reported earlier this year are linked to the cyclospora parasite, which can cause diarrhea, intestinal pain, nausea or fatigue.

States with cases include: Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Officials also said people sickened in Connecticut, Florida, New York City, Tennessee, and Virginia had traveled in Illinois and Kentucky.

Read more: <https://www.kentucky.com/latest-news/article217289275.html>

Toxic homes: The invisible threat after Hurricane Harvey

(CBS) One year after [Hurricane Harvey](#) slammed the Gulf Coast, preliminary results of new research suggest public health risks remain for flood victims returning to [waterlogged homes](#).

The preliminary results shared exclusively with CBS News, reveal that air quality in flooded homes matched the outdoor pollution of some of the world's most contaminated cities such as Mumbai and Beijing.

Many of the flood victims participating in the study are still living in their homes while they are being rebuilt since they do not have other long-term housing options. The most dangerous [pollutants](#) are fine airborne particles of less than 2.5 microns in diameter known as PM2.5. These tiny particles can find their way deep into the lungs and cause serious health problems, including asthma, strokes, lung cancer and heart attacks.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hurricane-harvey-houston-toxic-homes-the-invisible-health-threat/>

Raw Water: Should You Drink It?

(Healthline) Raw water is a new buzzword in the hydration world. It's water that has not been treated, filtered or processed and includes groundwater, rainwater and water from infiltration wells or bodies like lakes and rivers.

Raw water fans consider treated tap or bottled water processed, while raw water is touted as all-natural with unique tastes and benefits. Its popularity in the last few years comes from the natural-food movement, which claims that natural food is healthier for you. Yet, in reality, not only can untreated water be pricey if you purchase it online rather than collecting it yourself, it can be downright harmful to your health. Learn more: <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/raw-water>

Blood-sucking 'kissing bugs' spreading dangerous parasitic disease in US

(Fox News) Insects known as triatomines, also known as "kissing bugs," are starting to become more common in the U.S. — but don't let their seemingly affectionate nickname fool you. These blood-suckers spread a dangerous illness called Chagas disease. The disease, which has spread to the U.S., was previously only found in Central and South America and Mexico.



At least 8 million people have been infected in those areas, [according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's](#) most recent report in December 2017. And an estimated 300,000 Americans in the U.S. also have the disease, [a recent news release](#) from the American Heart Association states.

Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/health/2018/08/24/blood-sucking-kissing-bugs-spreading-dangerous-parasitic-disease-in-us-health-officials-warn.html>

New ACIP flu vaccine advice brings up waning-protection issue

(CIDRAP) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released 2018-19 recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on seasonal flu vaccines in the United States, bringing to the forefront the question of how early to get the annual shot or nasal spray.

The recommendations were published in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports*, and several experts said that, although waning protection throughout the season can be an issue, it's probably best not to wait too long to get vaccinated. Both trivalent (three-strain) and quadrivalent (four-strain) vaccines will be available for the upcoming season.

Read more: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2018/08/new-acip-flu-vaccine-advice-brings-waning-protection-issue>

That Anti-Vaccination Message May Be From A Russian Bot or Troll

(Forbes) Don't ever say that no one cares about your health. Apparently Russian bots and trolls do care a lot. [A study published in the American Journal of Public Health](#) showed that Russian bots and trolls seem to be quite active in sending both anti-vaccination and pro-vaccination messages through Twitter.

Read more: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucelee/2018/08/25/that-anti-vaccination-message-may-be-from-a-russian-bot-or-troll/#57f9e4d9ff77>

One step closer to bioengineered replacements for vessels and ducts

(Phys.org) A team of Brigham and Women's Hospital researchers have developed a way to bioprint tubular structures that better mimic native vessels and ducts in the body. The 3-D bioprinting technique allows fine-tuning of the printed tissues' properties, such as number of layers and ability to transport nutrients. These more complex tissues offer potentially viable replacements for damaged tissue. The team describes its new approach and results in a paper published on Aug. 23 in *Advanced Materials*. Read more at: <https://phys.org/news/2018-08-closer-bioengineered-vessels-ducts.html>

John Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [August 24, 2018](#)

[The 'Harvey Homeless'](#) (*Washington Post*) One year after Hurricane Harvey trudged out of the Gulf of Mexico and parked over southern Texas, dropping what seemed like endless rain, thousands of residents throughout the region remain essentially homeless in their own homes. Everything they own is moldy, rotted, dusty, unsafe. [Go to article](#)

[The Hajj is a Perfect Laboratory for Disease Warning Systems](#) (*Wired*) Anywhere there are massive crowds in limited space, disease is likely to spread - and so it has at the hajj, everything from minor respiratory infections to polio. This year, though, a layer of protection has been built into the pilgrimage that never existed before: an electronic early-warning system, created with the help of the WHO that will sound an alarm at the first signal of any kind of outbreak. [Go to article](#)

[Tropical Disease Outbreaks Are Growing Threat in Europe as Temperatures Rise](#) (*The Guardian*) Europe is facing a growing threat of tropical disease outbreaks, as rising temperatures linked to climate change cause illnesses brought by travellers to spread more easily, health experts warned. This summer has seen a sharp spike in West Nile virus infections in Europe, following soaring temperatures, compared with the past four years. [Go to article](#)

[Russian Bots Were Used to Sow Divisions on Vaccines, Researchers Say](#) (*STAT*) In the lead-up to the 2016 US election, Russian bots and trolls took to Twitter and other social media platforms to try to turn Americans against one another. But in addition to spreading false information and interfering in the election, a new study reports, a significant number of these malevolent actors tried to sow discord over vaccines. [Go to article](#)

Up to 2 million T-Mobile accounts were hacked.
Here's how to check yours: <https://news360.com/article/467627774>

Verizon says it will stop throttling emergency responders' data speeds

(The Verge) Earlier this week it was revealed that [Verizon throttled](#) emergency firefighters' data connections while they battled the Mendocino, California wildfire. Today, [Verizon says](#) it'll ensure "that it never happens again." The company says it has since removed all speed cap restrictions for first responders on the West Coast and in Hawaii, with the plan to continue doing so during future disasters. Verizon will also launch a new service plan next week that'll cater to first responders and will feature unlimited data with no caps on mobile solutions. That plan will include priority access.

Read more: <https://www.theverge.com/2018/8/24/17778834/verizon-throttle-data-emergency-fire-response>

FEMA: **Unexpected Opening for 2 Coalitions to Participate in upcoming
Healthcare Response Leadership Course
at Center for Domestic Preparedness, Anniston, AL.**

Dates for this class are Travel Tues, Oct 9; Class Oct 10-12;

Travel Sat, Oct 13, 2018. NOTE: Mon, Oct 8, Columbus Day.

Any coalition may apply. **KY HPP Leadership have been sent the package.**

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY COB, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.

(The original deadline for submissions for 2019 Week 2 HCRL class was August 27).

Course participation is free for non-federal attendees. Travel, lodging, and meals will be provided for non-federal participants who are registered through CDP for the course. Note there are rare exceptions to this.

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.