



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 30, 2018

### Advocacy Group Wants To Stop A Nationwide Sepsis Study Involving UK

(WFPL) A consumer advocacy group is asking the federal government to halt a clinical trial that will involve patients at the University of Kentucky. The nonprofit group Public Citizen sent a letter Tuesday to the federal Office for Human Research Protections, raising concerns about a trial to measure two treatments for sepsis, the tenth leading cause of death in Kentucky. Kentucky has the nation's 5th highest mortality rate from the disease.

Read full story: <http://wfpl.org/an-advocacy-group-is-trying-to-stop-a-nationwide-sepsis-study-that-involves-the-university-of-kentucky/>

### Nerve Agent Information for EMS and Hospitals

(InfoGram) In response to nerve agent attacks overseas, the Departments of Health and Human Services, Transportation, and Homeland Security issued a [refresher on nerve agent recognition, treatment and personal protection for EMS personnel and hospitals](#) (PDF, 216 KB).

The 3-pager briefly covers nerve agent characteristics and methods of exposure, but goes into greater detail listing the physiological and neurological symptoms of nerve agent poisoning. Some of these are drooling, breathing difficulty, confusion, twitching or tremors, watery eyes, pinpoint pupils and gastrointestinal distress.

First responders may see some of these symptoms when treating opioid overdose patients. This document offers a chart comparing and contrasting symptoms of opioid overdose and nerve agent exposure, enabling medical workers to better identify what they are treating for.

This refresher document covers PPE, patient decontamination and treatment and includes information on antidote dosages and pediatric considerations. The document links to more information from a variety of resources.

More comprehensive guidance for law enforcement, fire, EMS and hospital-based first receivers is in production.

### Texas Nurse Loses Job After Apparently Posting About Patient In Anti-Vaxxer Group

(NPR) A hospital in Texas has cut ties with a nurse who apparently posted about a young patient with the measles in a Facebook group dedicated to "anti-vaxxers," people who reject the scientific evidence of the safety and effectiveness of vaccines.

Screenshots show a self-identified nurse saying the sick child's symptoms helped her understand why people vaccinate their children, but that "I'll continue along my little non-vax journey with no regrets."

Texas Children's Hospital tells NPR via email that a nurse "posted protected health information regarding a patient on social media." The hospital did not name the nurse.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2018/08/29/642937977/texas-nurse-loses-job-after-apparently-posting-about-patient-in-anti-vaxxer-grou>

### Is Inmate Labor Modern-Day Slavery?

(NPR-1A) Inmate firefighters from Oak Glen Conservation Camp are transported to a work assignment under the authority of Cal Fire which calls and treats them as firefighters rather than inmates while they are away from the minimum security prison. Are the low wages in prison a violation of the 13th Amendment?

Listen to the story: <https://the1a.org/audio/#/shows/2018-08-27/prison-strike/115344/@00:00>

**New companion training video [Fentanyl: The Real Deal](#)  
For First Responder [Fentanyl Safety Recommendations](#)**

To help first responders and law enforcement protect themselves when the presence of fentanyl is suspected or encountered, a Federal Interagency Working Group coordinated by the National Security Council developed in 2017 the guidance document called [Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for First Responders](#). Informed by expertise from the medical, public health, law enforcement, fire/EMS, and occupational safety and health disciplines, and developed in collaboration 24 other stakeholder associations and organizations, these science-based recommendations include:

- Actions first responders can take to protect themselves from exposure
- Actions first responders can take when exposure occurs
- Actions first responders can take when they or their partners exhibit signs of intoxication

A new training video, [Fentanyl: The Real Deal](#), reinforces the key messages from the **Recommendations**, and is a useful resource for law enforcement and first responders. **View the video at this link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Yc9ISaSKIs&feature=youtu.be>

The **Recommendations** document linked below is a one-page color printable document. There are links below to print it on standard letter-sized paper that would be good for an in-service or roll-call handout, or to include in a policy manual or map book; or a larger ledger-sized paper that could be made into a poster.

Please click [here](#) to access a printable version of the Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for First Responders that is best suited for 8.5" X 11" paper.

Please click [here](#) to access a printable version that is best suited for 11" X 17" and larger.

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**What Sparked An E. Coli Outbreak In Lettuce?  
Scientists Trace A Surprising Source**

(NPR-Morning Edition) The illnesses started appearing in late March. Here and there, across the country, people were checking themselves in to hospitals, sick from toxic E. coli bacteria. At least 200 people got sick. Five of them died.

Investigators quickly identified romaine lettuce as the source of the outbreak, but have had trouble pinpointing the cause for months. Now, the Food and Drug Administration has a theory for how E. coli ended up on that lettuce. According to the FDA, it probably came from a large cattle feedlot at one end of a valley near Yuma, Ariz., which is one of the country's biggest lettuce-growing areas.

Dozens Of Victims Are Still Coping With The E. Coli Outbreak In Romaine Lettuce The Salt  
Dozens Of Victims Are Still Coping With The E. Coli Outbreak In Romaine Lettuce

The finding has put lettuce growers in Yuma in a tough spot. The feedlot has been their neighbor for many years. Some vegetable farmers are wondering whether they can still co-exist with all those cattle nearby.

Listen/learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2018/08/29/642646707/investigators-track-contaminated-lettuce-outbreak-to-a-cattle-feedlot>

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**John Hopkins: Health Security Headlines,  
Extracts from [August 29](#) and [August 30, 2018](#)**

**[Florida Finds Atypical Mad Cow Case, No Human Threat Seen](#)** (*New York Times*) A 6-year-old beef cow in Florida tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, commonly known as mad cow disease, the US Department of Agriculture said on Wednesday. The animal tested positive for atypical H-type BSE on Aug. 26 at the Colorado State University's veterinary diagnostic laboratory, as part of routine surveillance of cattle that are found to be unfit for slaughter, the agency said. [Go to article](#)

**[Battling Ebola in a War Zone in Congo](#)** (*Economist*) Getting vaccines to the centre of this outbreak, the scrubby village of Mangina in the North Kivu province of Eastern Congo, is no easy task. The area is infested with about 40 armed militias, most of which have been hiding in the forests since the end of a war in 2003 that claimed the lives of between 1m and 5m people. [Go to article](#)

**[US Sees Record STD Cases, Rising Gonorrhea Resistance](#)** (*CIDRAP*) Preliminary data released yesterday by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show the number of sexually transmitted diseases diagnosed in the US hit a record high in 2017, marking a fourth straight year of "steep and sustained" increases. [Go to article](#)

**Related: Why STDs Like Gonorrhea and Syphilis Are On the Rise**

(WBUR) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reported sexually transmitted disease rates are at a record high for the fourth year in a row. There were nearly 2.3 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis diagnosed last year. Here & Now's Lisa Mullins speaks with Andrew Joseph (@DrewQJoseph), reporter for STAT, the health and medicine publication, about the new report. Listen: <http://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2018/08/29/sexually-transmitted-disease-rates>

**[Artificial Intelligence Nails Predictions of Earthquake Aftershocks](#)** (*Nature*) A machine-learning study that analysed hundreds of thousands of earthquakes beat the standard method at predicting the location of aftershocks. Scientists say that the work provides a fresh way of exploring how changes in ground stress, such as those that occur during a big earthquake, trigger the quakes that follow. It could also help researchers to develop new methods for assessing seismic risk. [Go to article](#)

**['No Deal' Prep: UK Gov't Tells Pharma to Stockpile Six-Week Supply](#)** (*in-PharmaTechnologist*) Preparations for an "unlikely" 'no deal' Brexit are underway in the UK, with the government instructing pharmaceutical companies to build their medicine reserves before March 2019. [Go to article](#)

**[Cost-Effectiveness of Internet-Based Training for Primary Care Clinicians on Antibiotic Prescribing for Acute Respiratory Tract Infections in Europe](#)** (*Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*) Overprescribing of antibiotics by general practitioners (GPs) is seen as a major driver of antibiotic resistance. Training in communication skills and C-reactive protein (CRP) testing both appear effective in reducing such prescribing. This study assesses the cost-effectiveness (compared with usual care) of: training GPs in the use of CRP testing; training GPs in communication skills; and training GPs in both CRP testing and communication skills. [Go to article](#)

**[US Warns Russia, Syria Against Chemical Weapons Use](#)** (*Military*) Senior US officials are warning the Russian and Syrian governments against chemical weapons use in Syria as forces allied with its President Bashar Assad prepare for an offensive on a rebel stronghold. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert says the US "will respond to any verified chemical weapons use in Idlib or elsewhere in Syria ... in a swift and appropriate manner." [Go to article](#)

**[Russia Ramps up Chemical Weapon Disinformation Leading-up to Idlib Offensive](#)** (*Bellingcat*) As a potential offensive into the remaining Syrian rebel strongholds in Idlib from the Assad government becomes more likely, Russian propaganda outlets like RT (formerly known as Russia Today), their various embassies, and their network of friendly media outlets have started pushing stories of potential chemical attacks in Idlib and Hama. [Go to article](#)

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.