



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for October 6, 2018

### Lexington received a historic rainfall Thursday night. Lightning strike knocked out communications

(Herald-Leader) About 3.5 inches of rain fell in Lexington in 90 minutes Thursday night, setting records and causing flash flooding that quickly cleared up by Friday morning.

Thursday's rainfall of 3.42 inches set a new single-day record for Oct. 4., and the amount made Thursday the second-wettest of any October day in Lexington history, according to the National Weather Service. Much of the rain fell from 10:30 p.m. to 12 a.m.

The rain and subsequent flooding Thursday night into Friday morning led to 10 non-injury crashes and two injury crashes, Lexington police said. Crews also made four water rescues of people trapped in their vehicles.

Lexington's Public Safety Operation Center on Cisco Road received a direct lightning strike around 11:30 p.m., according to Public Safety Commissioner Ken Armstrong. The strike knocked down radio communications between dispatchers and first responders for less than a minute before dispatchers realized and switched to hand-held radios, Armstrong said.

In the minute there was not communication between dispatch and first responders, there were no emergencies. The malfunctioning equipment did not affect calls coming into 911, Armstrong said.

Read more: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/local/counties/fayette-county/article219544120.html>

### Kentucky gets extension to comply with federal ID law

(AP) — [Kentucky](#) has been granted an extension to comply with a federal ID law that affects plane travelers.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reports Kenton County Circuit Court Clerk John Middleton tweeted Monday that Homeland Security granted an extension for REAL IDs compliance.

He said the extension means Kentucky licenses can be used for domestic flights through next July. He says identification cards that comply with the REAL ID Act will be issued early next year.

The newspaper reports Kentucky is one of 18 states that don't comply with the act, which was enacted after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Noncompliant IDs won't be sufficient for boarding airplanes or entering secure federal or military facilities starting in October 2020.

Full story: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/kentucky/articles/2018-10-02/kentucky-gets-extension-to-comply-with-federal-id-law>

### Typhus outbreak reaches 'epidemic levels' in parts of LA

(NBC) Health officials on Friday reported a typhus outbreak in Los Angeles County and say it has reached "epidemic levels" in the city of Pasadena.

Twenty cases have been reported in Pasadena, most in the last two months, health officials told NBC News, noting that a normal year would typically only see five infections. The city of Long Beach, California, has 12 cases so far in 2018 — double the normal annual number, said Emily Holman, the city's infectious disease response coordinator.

The number of cases in the rest of the county since July is nine, which counts as an "outbreak," Los Angeles County Department of Public Health officials said in a statement. Pasadena and Long Beach have their own health departments even though they exist within the county.

The official source of the outbreak is said to be fleas from domestic and wild animals. Some experts, however, say the true culprit is the inhumane conditions the county's expanding homeless population lives in.

Full story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/typhus-reaches-epidemic-levels-parts-los-angeles-area-n917271>

### Military research raises concerns about bioterror attack ... by insects

Read more: <https://news360.com/article/472871650>

### **[CDC investigating multistate listeria outbreak linked to ham products](#)**

A multistate outbreak of listeria infections linked to ready-to-eat deli ham produced by Johnston County Hams Inc is being investigated, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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### **More than 6 million pounds of beef recalled due to possible salmonella**

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/more-than-6-million-pounds-of-beef-recalled-due-to-possible-salmonella/>

### **[Indiana HIV outbreak among drug users may have been avoidable](#)**

A years-long HIV outbreak among intravenous (IV) drug users in Indiana might have been avoided if the state's top medical and political leaders had acted sooner on early warnings that the virus was spreading, a recent study suggests.

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### **Therapy Dogs Can Spread Superbugs To Kids, Hospital Finds**

(AP) — Therapy dogs can bring more than joy and comfort to hospitalized kids. They can also bring stubborn germs. Doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore were suspicious that the dogs might pose an infection risk to patients with weakened immune systems. So they conducted some tests when Pippi, Poppy, Badger and Winnie visited 45 children getting cancer treatment.

They discovered that kids who spent more time with the dogs had a 6 times greater chance of coming away with superbug bacteria than kids who spent less time with the animals. But the study also found that washing the dogs before visits and using special wipes while they're in the hospital took away the risk of spreading that bacteria.

Full story: <https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2018/10/05/therapy-dogs-superbugs/>

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### **Adults Up to Age 45 Can Now Get the HPV Vaccine**

(Time) Adults up to age 45 can now be vaccinated against human papillomavirus (HPV), reducing their chances of getting cervical, oral and other cancers.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [announced Friday](#) that Gardasil 9, a vaccine that works against nine different types of HPV, is now approved for both men and women between the ages of 27 and 45. Previously, it was approved only for those between the ages of nine and 26, and [recommended for all children](#) at age 11 or 12.

The FDA opted to expand the age range after testing the first iteration of the HPV vaccine, which was approved in 2006, in more than 3,000 women between the ages of 27 and 45. Over an average of 3.5 years of follow-up, the vaccine proved to be 88% effective in preventing persistent HPV infection, as well as genital warts, precancerous lesions and cervical cancers associated with the virus.

Full story: <http://time.com/5417493/hpv-vaccine-adults/>

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### **Utah man charged with ricin mail threat against Trump, Mattis**

(Reuters) A U.S. Navy veteran from Utah was charged on Friday with threatening President Donald Trump, Defense Secretary James Mattis, the FBI director and an admiral by mailing them letters containing castor beans, from which the deadly poison ricin is derived.

He is accused of mailing ground-up castor seeds in separate envelopes addressed to Trump, Mattis, FBI Director Christopher Wray and Admiral John Richardson, chief of U.S. naval operations. Each envelope contained a note reading "Jack and the Missile Bean Stock Powder," according to an FBI affidavit filed in the case.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-pentagon-ricin/utah-man-charged-with-ricin-mail-threat-against-trump-mattis-idUSKCN1MF29O>

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### **Bill aiming to protect air ambulance consumers passes Congress**

(EMS1) A bill that would increase transparency in the air ambulance industry and help protect consumers has passed Congress and now awaits a signature from President Trump.

[KY3](#) reported that the Air Ambulance Consumer Protection Act, which was introduced in May by Senator Claire McCaskill, would allow states to regulate costs for air ambulance services and would bring better transparency to the industry.

It was recently announced that key provisions of the legislation have been added to the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act.

"I would say 18 months to two years there should be a noticeable change," Air Evac President Seth Myers said.

Under the new legislation, air ambulance operators would be required to inform patients how they can file a complaint with the government, and a committee would be established to strategize on how to prevent large bills.

Full story: <https://www.ems1.com/air-ambulance/articles/392629048-Bill-aiming-to-protect-air-ambulance-consumers-passes-Congress/>

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**Controversial bill allowing authorities to shoot down private drones heads to the president's desk**

(Mashable) The U.S. government will soon have authority to shoot down private drones considered a threat. Following a House vote in April, the Senate this week passed the [FAA Reauthorization Act](#), which renews funding for the Federal Aviation Administration until 2023. It also aims to modernize aviation rules by making commercial flights more comfortable for disabled passengers and acting against privately owned drones.

Full story: <https://mashable.com/article/new-bill-shoot-down-private-drones/#dCFK8PP7aggT>

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**ICD-10 codes for human trafficking take effect**

(AHA Today) Health care providers can now use any of 29 ICD-10 diagnostic codes to identify and document victims of human trafficking as the new codes went into effect Oct. 1. [Read more](#) and see AHA Chair Nancy Howell Agee's [column](#) on how the new codes can help stop the cycle of human trafficking.

**Senate sends opioid package to president**

(AHA Today) The Senate Oct. 3 passed by a vote of 98-1 the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, the final House and Senate agreement on legislation to address the opioid crisis. Approved by the House last week, the legislation includes an AHA-supported provision that would allow states to receive federal Medicaid matching funds for up to 30 days per year for services provided to adults aged 21-64 for substance use disorders in Institutions for Mental Diseases. [Read more.](#)

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**[Blue Cross of Mass. giving opioid overdose reversal kits to employers](#)**

(Modern Healthcare) Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts is testing out giving large employers opioid-overdose reversal kits and teaching employees how to use them, in hopes of preventing overdose deaths in both public spaces and work environments. [READ MORE](#)

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**John Hopkins: Health Security Headlines  
Extracts from [October 4, 2018](#) & [October 5, 2018](#)**

**[How Worried Should We Be About Ebola in Congo?](#)** (*goats and soda*) More than 2 months since an Ebola outbreak was declared in an eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, health officials are still struggling to end it. So far at least 130 people have been infected. Last week the WHO declared that the risk has gone from "high" to "very high" that the disease will spread to other parts of the country and to neighboring countries. [Go to article](#)

**[Attack on ICRC Ebola Ambulance in Congo Wounds Three Volunteers](#)** (*Reuters*) Three International Committee of the Red Cross volunteers helping with the burial of an Ebola victim in eastern Congo were injured in an attack by villagers, prompting the ICRC to suspend burials in the area, health officials said on Wednesday. [Go to article](#)

**[New Tools in the Ebola Arsenal](#)** (*New England Journal of Medicine*) Human Ebola virus disease can be caused by four viruses: Sudan virus, Tai Forest virus, Bundibugyo virus, and Ebola virus (EBOV, species *Zaire ebolavirus*). The 2014 outbreak of EBOV in West Africa was the worst ever, with more than 28,000 cases and more than 11,000 deaths in Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Mali. [Go to article](#)

**[Supply Chain Resilience and the 2017 Hurricane Season](#)** (*CNA*) Following the 2017 hurricane season, CNA analysts were on the ground with warehouse managers, truckers, water supply engineers, FEMA officials and shopkeepers with one goal: to get a real picture of how supply chains for food, fuel and water react in the aftermath of disaster. This data collection effort took them to Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Their report, produced for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine tells the story in a series of case studies that illustrate how public and private supply network fail and succeed. [Go to article](#)

FEMA EMI Course Info  
[E0289 State Volunteer and Donations Management](#)  
[E0489 Management of Spontaneous Volunteers in Disasters](#)

**[Why Scientists Should Be Tracking a Catastrophic Pig Disease](#)** (*Wired*) Right now, a pig disease called African swine fever is moving across the world. It has caused huge alarm in China and across Europe; more than 300,000 pigs have died of the disease or been culled in attempts to stop the virus spreading. Maybe you missed it. That's understandable: Most experts who track diseases, not to mention the mass audience who enjoy being frightened by them, tend to limit their attention to the ones that make humans sick. [Go to article](#)

**[Swarms of Supersize Mosquitoes Besiege North Carolina](#)** (*Wired*) Two weeks ago, Hurricane Florence slammed into the Carolinas, unleashing 6 months of rain in a matter of hours. In inland Cumberland County, the Cape Fear River rose 40 feet, inundating Fayetteville with the worst flooding the city has seen since 1945. But as the waters receded and citizens returned to their ruined homes, a new plague was just beginning to descend. [Go to article](#)

**[How Should We Deal with a Large-Scale Chemical Attack?](#)** (*BBC News*) Scientists at Loughborough University have developed means of quickly testing possible victims of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear disaster or attack. The tests include breath and saliva analysis and drones that can measure toxic fumes or radiation in the air. [Go to video](#)

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**Proposal: Let's Create A Frozen Noah's Ark For Helpful Germs**

(NPR) On Thursday in *Science*, a team [proposed a plan](#) to collect and safeguard microbiota in one location.

"Immune systems are educated by bacteria," explains [Dominguez-Bello](#), lead author of the proposal and a professor in Rutgers-New Brunswick's Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology and Department of Anthropology. The bacteria help the immune systems learn which microbes are a threat and which ones are healthy — and they may help our bodies ward off disease.

Having a diverse microbiota — a wide variety of these helpful bacteria — might be good for your overall health, some studies suggest. A lack of microbiota diversity has been associated with immune diseases like diabetes, asthma, allergies and more.

But modern life isn't kind to microbiota. As antibiotics become more and more common, as our diets change and as we cluster together in modern cities, our microbiota become less diverse, studies have [found](#). So researchers want to stockpile — and study — the good germs from remote communities that have had limited contact with modern medicine. Read more: <https://www.npr.org/654492203>

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**6 Minnesota kids diagnosed with rare, paralyzing disorder**

(AP) — State health officials are telling doctors to be on the lookout for a rare disorder that causes paralysis after six Minnesota children were diagnosed with the disease in recent weeks.

The disorder is called acute flaccid myelitis, or AFM. It attacks the nervous system and can lead to arm or leg weakness and loss of muscle reflexes.

AFM affects less than one in a million children. Its origins are a mystery, but officials say a virus can cause some cases. Practices such as regular hand-washing are recommended.

Read full AP story: <https://apnews.com/5167aa67bbf74c959bc4eb0145cdd9a9>

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**Outpatient antibiotics widely prescribed without an infection diagnosis**

(CIDRAP) Several studies in recent years have documented a significant amount of inappropriate antibiotic prescribing in outpatient settings for respiratory infections that are generally caused by viruses and don't require antibiotics. In emergency rooms, doctor's offices, and urgent care clinics, anywhere from one-third to nearly half of the antibiotics prescribed for coughs, sore throats, and other respiratory ailments have been found to be unnecessary.

Read more: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2018/10/study-outpatient-antibiotics-widely-prescribed-without-infection-diagnosis>

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**On the other side...**

**Patients Give Doctors High Marks For Prescribing Antibiotics For Common Sniffles**

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/653446952>  
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### **Where Are All the Patients?**

#### **ED Patient Volume Trends and Potential Explanations for the Recent Decline**

(Modern Healthcare) *As a hospital or system executive, one of the key metrics you likely track is the patient volume seen in your emergency department (ED). Like many hospitals, however, you've likely been experiencing patient volume declines over the past several months or quarters. What is behind this trend, and what can you do about it?*

Story: <http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20180925/SPONSORED/180929924>

#### **A supervolcano that could destroy humanity is ready to erupt NASA is trying to figure out how to contain it**

Below Yellowstone National Park, there's a huge magma reservoir that has the potential to destroy humanity. Yellowstone erupts roughly every 600,000 years, and it's about 600,000 years since it last exploded. An eruption at Yellowstone National Park could lead to the end of human civilization. However, NASA has a plan that could prevent such an explosion and could also create a geothermal plant to generate electricity. What images go through your mind when you think of the end of the world?

Full story: <https://www.businessinsider.com/nasa-is-looking-at-how-to-contain-a-volcano-that-may-wipe-out-humanity-2018-10>

#### **KY lawmakers want a hearing on nursing home staffing. Why it might not happen.**

(Herald-Leader) Several state lawmakers say they want a public hearing this fall addressing [the problem of inadequately staffed nursing homes in Kentucky](#), the subject of [a recent Herald-Leader series](#).

Read more: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/politics-government/article219496255.html>

#### **Amendment Would Increase Fuel Testing**

(KSHE/ASHE) ASHE's advocacy team is encouraging members and others in the field to submit comments on a tentative interim amendment (TIA) made to NFPA 110: Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems. [Learn More...](#)

#### **How to make a lab-on-a-chip clear and biocompatible (with less blood splatter)**

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/472825729>

#### **ONC: As a Patient, Are my Health Records Safe?**

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) provides [a series of questions and facts for patients to use to determine a provider's competency pertaining to HIPAA](#). This is meant to educate the patient and better equip them when choosing and receiving care. The questions include "If" and "How" HIPAA protects healthcare information. It also goes a step further by providing insights on technical questions pertaining to mitigating cyberattacks. With personal health information being the focal point; safety of personal identifiable information is covered also. ([Link](#))

#### **Windows 10 October 2018 Update may have a **BIG** problem Here's how to delay it until we learn more**

(C/Net) Microsoft's rollout of the [Windows 10 October 2018 Update](#) has encountered a hiccup. After updating, some users are reporting that [the update deleted many of their personal files](#). Microsoft says that it's "aware of these reports and actively investigating."

But until more information is known, you have good reason to delay the update. Your options to push back the update vary, depending on whether you're running Windows 10 Home or Pro.

Read more: <https://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-delay-windows-10-october-2018-update/>

#### **DHS: #BeCyberSmart Cyber Campaign**

In today's society, it's not just the workplace where you must remain vigilant against cyber threats; the home front too must be safeguarded. From your home internet connection to all the devices that could be powered by it, homes are at risk. DHS has a #BeCyberSmart Campaign that provides easy ways to mitigate threats at home. More information is available at the [DHS #BeCyberSmart website](#). The Campaign outlines five steps for protecting your home:

**Secure your Wi-Fi Network** - Change the default user name and password and don't freely distribute that information

**Enable strong authentication** - Consider multi-factor authentication when securing access to your email and other accounts where sensitive data may reside

**Keep a clean machine** - Keep the software on all your devices updated in an effort to make them less vulnerable to cyber threats

**Know your apps** - Carefully review the permissions applications request such as location and/or personal information. Make sure the App vendor is reputable and take measures to safeguard your personal information

**Consider what you share** - Take precaution when posting personal information online like full name, phone, number, and address. Disable feature that auto-generate your location such as geotag.

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### **What to know about the (potentially) explosive report on Chinese microchips**

(NBC) Cybersecurity experts are reacting with a mix of concern and skepticism after [Bloomberg Magazine published an article](#) on Thursday alleging that China's military had succeeded in placing microchips into widely used computer systems.



The article focused on Super Micro, a U.S. company that makes computer parts used by a variety of major companies as well as government systems. Bloomberg reported that 17 sources, who spoke to the magazine anonymously, found that some of Super Micro's motherboards included previously unidentified microchips that created major security vulnerabilities, which were also difficult to detect.

The Super Micro hardware, Bloomberg reported, was used in computer servers made by Elemental Technologies, which counted Apple, the Department of Defense and major banks among its clients.

While Russia has dominated public concern about cyberattacks in part due to its efforts to meddle in U.S elections, China has quietly become a larger concern for many cybersecurity experts. Concern about the Bloomberg article was tempered by strong denials from Apple and Amazon that gave some pause to cybersecurity journalists and academics

Read more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/concern-caution-why-report-chinese-microchips-has-experts-nervous-n916721>

Link to original Bloomberg story: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2018-10-04/the-big-hack-how-china-used-a-tiny-chip-to-infiltrate-america-s-top-companies?srnd=premium>

### **[UK cyber security agency backs Apple, Amazon China hack denials](#)**

Britain's national cyber security agency said on Friday it had no reason to doubt the assessments made by Apple Inc and [Amazon.com](#) Inc challenging a Bloomberg report that their systems contained malicious computer chips inserted by Chinese intelligence services.

### **DOJ charges 7 Russian operatives in cyberattacks**

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/justice-dept-announces-charges-against-7-russian-operatives-for-cyber-attacks/>

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### **How the Dutch Foiled Russian 'Cyber-Attack' on OPCW**

(BBC News) The Dutch security services say Russia planned a cyber-attack on the Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons in The Hague earlier this year. At a press conference on Thursday, Defence Minister Ank Bijleveld said the plan was thwarted with the help of officials from the UK. Russia has described the allegations as a "diabolical cocktail" and a "rich fantasy". Here is what we know about the alleged plot so far. [Go to article](#)

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### **[Providers lack confidence in medical device cybersecurity](#)**

(Modern Healthcare) Providers said they don't get the support they need from medical device manufacturers, and they also said they struggle with keeping accurate inventories of their devices, according to a survey by KLAS and CHIME. [READ MORE](#)

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### **[Despite holdouts, healthcare working to ditch the fax machine](#)**

(Modern Healthcare) The fax machine has proved to be difficult to remove from the healthcare communication chain, though efforts to do so are increasing. [READ MORE](#)

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## California to Outlaw Weak Password Use in Connected Devices

(PCMag) Starting on Jan. 1 2020, manufacturers of connected devices will need to build in "reasonable security features" into their products, including better password protection, states the new law, which was approved last week.

Read more: <https://www.pcmag.com/news/364267/california-to-outlaw-weak-password-use-in-connected-devices>

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## [U.S. plans to rewrite rules that impede self-driving cars](#)

The Trump administration is moving ahead with plans to revise safety rules that bar fully self-driving cars from the roads without equipment such as steering wheels, pedals and mirrors, according to a document made public on Thursday.

<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 <a href="#">Emergency Preparedness Updates available here</a>. 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 <a href="mailto:rbartlett@kyha.com">rbartlett@kyha.com</a> (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>
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