



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for February 25, 2019

### Warning issued over attacks on internet infrastructure

(Phys.Org) Key parts of the internet infrastructure face large-scale attacks that threaten the global system of web traffic, the internet's address keeper warned Friday. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) declared after an emergency meeting "an ongoing and significant risk" to key parts of the infrastructure that affects the domains on which websites reside. "They are going after the internet infrastructure itself," ICANN chief technology officer David Conrad told AFP.

"There have been targeted attacks in the past, but nothing like this."

The malicious activity targets the Domain Name System or DNS which routes traffic to intended online destinations. Read more at: <https://phys.org/news/2019-02-issued-internet-infrastructure.html>

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### Lake Cumberland rises to record level

(Herald-Leader) Lake Cumberland hit a record late Saturday as heavy rain pushed the giant reservoir to the highest level in its seven-decade history. The surface of the lake rose to an elevation of 751.70 feet above sea level by 11 p.m., just over the old record of 751.69 feet from May 1984, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The water kept rising through the night, [hitting 753.52 by 8 a.m. Sunday](https://www.kentucky.com/news/state/kentucky/article226713109.html). Full story w/video: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/state/kentucky/article226713109.html>

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### Flooding impacts multiple areas in Southern, Eastern Kentucky



(Composite of stories) [WKYT](#) viewers are submitting some jaw-dropping images of flooding in the Southern and Eastern regions of the state. The picture at the left comes from a viewer in Paintsville. [WKYT](#) also reported that Pulaski County Sheriff's deputies rescued a man Sunday morning from rising floodwaters. The sheriff's office said the driver did not turn around after seeing the "Road Closed" sign because

he didn't think the water was that deep.

[WLEX](#) reported that emergency crews had to perform a water rescue in Campbellsville after a driver got stuck on Salem Branch Road. Fire officials say luckily they were able to get to the driver and that person is now safe. A mudslide was reported on the Mountain Parkway in Magoffin County, blocking all lanes outside of Salyersville. The National Weather Service was reporting a water rescue had to be performed on Tates Creek Road in Madison County as well. Some buildings were reportedly flooded in Wolfe County in the town of Campton.



In the Bowling Green area, [WBKO](#) reported a water rescue in Warren County that involved six agencies. The driver was safely rescued.

[WYMT](#) said "Many rivers across the region have either crested or are right at crest this morning. Once they do, they will start to drop fairly quickly today and beyond. We are still waiting on the Red River at Clay City, the Cumberland River at Williamsburg and the Powell and Clinch River in East Tennessee to crest. That should happen sometime later today, most of them this morning."

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### TN flooding leaves 1 dead and prompts a state of emergency

(CNN) Flooding in parts of Tennessee has left one person dead and sparked a state of emergency this weekend. One person died in Knoxville after driving his car into water on a flooded road early Sunday morning, according to Knox County Sheriff's Office. Nashville broke a rainfall record on Saturday making this the city's wettest February in over 100 years. In Chattanooga, a Subway restaurant was flattened by a mudslide caused by rain from the same storm system. The grounds of the Jack Daniel's distillery in Lynchburg flooded on Saturday. Tennessee Emergency Management

Agency (TEMA) declared a state of emergency Saturday due to rising flood waters and "the potential for more severe weather," according to the declaration.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/24/us/tennessee-flooding-wxc/index.html>

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### **'Bomb cyclone' strikes: 600,000 powerless from fierce winds**

(USA Today - Feb 25) Ferocious winds from a potent "bomb cyclone" roared across the eastern U.S. on Monday [last week], leaving 600,000 homes and businesses without power. Nearly 80 million people live where high wind warnings or advisories were in effect Monday across parts of 14 states, according to the National Weather Service. Wind gusts of up to 81 mph have been reported from the storm – the same system that brought snow to Los Angeles and Las Vegas, record snow to Flagstaff, a blizzard and bitter cold to the upper Midwest and floods and deadly tornadoes in the South. The storm is called a bomb cyclone because it rapidly intensified due to a dramatic drop in atmospheric pressure.

More: [What is a bomb cyclone? Winter hurricane explained.](#)

Over the weekend, a woman was killed when a tornado hit Mississippi, and a man died when he drove into floodwaters in Tennessee, officials said.

Read full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/02/25/bomb-cyclone-leaves-600-k-powerless-strong-winds-hit-80-million/2977448002/>

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### **House Bill Would Expand KFW Officers' Powers**

(SurfKY) Kentucky Fish and Wildlife conservation officers would have the same statutory powers as other law enforcement officers in the state under a bill that has passed the state House. Current state law prohibits conservation officers from acting outside of the scope of the work of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources unless called upon by the Kentucky State Police.

Under HB 274 conservation officers would have the authority to enforce all state laws whenever necessary. Additionally, the bill would allow conservation officers to be compensated if they are required to pay damages or other costs as a result of a job-related lawsuit. HB 274 passed the House by a vote of 97-1. It now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Full story: <https://www.surfky.com/index.php/179-news/kentucky/137213-house-bill-would-expand-kfw-officers-powers>

KY LRC link to HB 274: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/19rs/hb274.html>

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### **Kids are paddled in Kentucky schools by the hundreds.**

#### **Lawmakers press to vote on ban.**

(Herald-Leader) A bill banning corporal punishment in Kentucky schools recently got a thorough hearing by a panel of lawmakers who showed plenty of support, but it's unclear whether the legislation will come to a vote in the 2019 General Assembly. Seventeen school districts in Kentucky still permit students to be paddled or spanked. [In 2017-18 there were 452 reported](#) incidents in the state, up from 334 the year before.

Rep. Lisa Willner, D-Louisville, said that allowing teachers to hit students is at odds [with Senate Bill 1](#), a comprehensive bill aimed at making Kentucky schools safer. The House Education committee approved Senate Bill 1 just before hearing testimony on the anti-paddling legislation. Lawmakers from the House and Senate say Senate Bill 1 is a top priority.

Read more: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/local/education/article226504340.html>

KY LRC link to HB 202: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/19rs/hb202.html>

KY LRC link to SB 1: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/19rs/sb1.html>

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### **Kentucky's 'too low and too slow' response to the nation's worst hepatitis A outbreak**

(Courier-Journal & USA Today) - Feb 22 - Last spring, Kentucky's infectious disease chief [was ringing the alarm](#). An outbreak of hepatitis A that already had infected nearly 400 people in Louisville was seeping into Appalachia, where rampant drug addiction provided fuel for the virus to explode across rural Kentucky.

To contain it, the drug users and homeless largely spreading the disease had to be vaccinated – and quickly. But the challenges in impoverished rural Kentucky were huge. Drug users were hard to find

and vaccinate. Thinly staffed county health departments had seen their budgets shrink. And federal vaccine money for Kentucky had run out.

The state ultimately sent \$2.2 million to local departments and declined to declare an emergency. In addition, county health departments added little to no staff to increase efforts to find and vaccinate drug users and homeless people.

Moreover, Kentucky officials never tried strategies used successfully by some of the other 15 states who fought outbreaks with limited budgets. Officials at the CDC and in other states haven't criticized Kentucky's spending decisions. For most states, they said, resources dictate public health responses.

Full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/02/22/kentuckys-response-nations-worst-hepatitis-outbreak/2947263002/>

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**Replacing BioWatch**

**Homeland Security replacing troubled biodefense system with another flawed approach** (LA Times) The Trump administration is quietly moving to replace BioWatch, the nation's problem-plagued system for detecting an airborne attack of anthrax spores or other infectious agents, with technology that also has severe shortcomings, a Times investigation has found.

The first new device was installed without public notice in December and others are being emplaced at 11 other U.S. locations with a goal of supplanting BioWatch "within the next couple of years," James F. McDonnell, an assistant secre

tary of Homeland Security, said in an interview. He said he hopes to put as many as 9,000 new detection devices in place by 2025.

But testing at an Army facility last year and use of the sensing devices in previous military operations identified critical problems with their ability to detect the bacteria, viruses or toxins that might be wielded in an attack, according to scientific experts and official documents.

Read full story: <https://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-biowatch-replacement-20190215-story.html>

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**Part ambulance, part motorhome will hit St. Louis streets to fight opioid epidemic**

(St Louis Post Dispatch) A new, first-ever vehicle will be plying the streets of St. Louis later this year as part of an effort to connect opioid addicts with treatment options. Armed with a [\\$170,000 federal grant](#), the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is seeking bids for a mobile command unit that will travel to the site of overdoses. The vehicle, which could be a cross between an ambulance and a motorhome, will allow public health personnel to rush to the site of an overdose before a victim leaves the scene. The new initiative comes as St. Louis city and county are expected to set [a record for overdose deaths in 2018](#). Final numbers are not yet available.

In addition to offering counseling and other services to people who overdose, the unit will offer transportation to individuals who have been stabilized. In some cases, overdose victims refuse transport by fire department ambulances because of the cost. The vehicle also will offer health care services, such as rapid Hepatitis C and HIV testing, and vaccinations for Hepatitis A and B. Williams said the vehicle could eventually offer job training, food assistance, child support, child care and energy assistance.

Story link: [https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/part-ambulance-part-motorhome-will-hit-st-louis-streets-to/article\\_fb0a0979-90da-53d6-b057-f0fab256c41.html](https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/part-ambulance-part-motorhome-will-hit-st-louis-streets-to/article_fb0a0979-90da-53d6-b057-f0fab256c41.html)



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(Newser) – Washington state may have passed a gun-control law, but will it be enforced? Not by at least 20 sheriffs—over half of those in the state—while some county governments are resisting the resolution and at least one state lawmaker wants a separate state, the [Guardian](#) reports. Ballot Initiative 1639, which passed in November with over 60% of the vote, is mostly about restricting semiautomatic rifles. It adds background checks, waiting periods, storage requirements, and raises the minimum purchasing age from 18 to 21.

Full story: <http://www.newser.com/story/271668/over-50-of-sheriffs-ignore-new-gun-law.html>

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### **Louisville doctors warn parents about recent increase in children hanging themselves**

(WDRB) -- Doctors in Louisville have noticed a disturbing trend: an increase in cases of children hanging themselves. Dr. Amy Hanson, a pediatric emergency room doctor at Norton Children's Hospital, is warning parents about a recent spike in children, as young as elementary school, hanging themselves.

"We've actually seen three deaths in the last month and a half from pediatric hangings, and it's something that we really want to warn people about," said Hanson, who's also a pediatric emergency medicine professor at the University of Louisville. "It's disturbingly young."

That's why Hanson urges parents to open dialogue about suicide. Some warning signs include watching or searching for violent content on computers, drawing violent pictures and aggressive or withdrawn behavior.

For more warning signs and ways to talk to your child about suicide, [click here](#).

Read more: [https://www.wdrb.com/news/louisville-doctors-warn-parents-about-recent-increase-in-children-hanging/article\\_3d2b1374-3711-11e9-be03-5781ef31d168.html](https://www.wdrb.com/news/louisville-doctors-warn-parents-about-recent-increase-in-children-hanging/article_3d2b1374-3711-11e9-be03-5781ef31d168.html)

### **Related - *Warning!***

#### **You tube for kids included suicide instructions**

(CBS) Video promoting self-harm tips -- spliced between clips of a popular video game — has surfaced at least twice on YouTube and YouTube Kids since July, according to a pediatrician and mom who discovered the video.

The suicide instructions are sandwiched between clips from the popular Nintendo game Splatoon and delivered by a man speaking in front of what appears to be a green screen — an apparent effort to have him blend in with the rest of the animated video.

"Remember kids, sideways for attention, longways for results," the man says, miming cutting motions on his forearm. "End it."

The man featured is YouTuber [Filthy Frank](#), who has over 6.2 million subscribers and calls himself "the embodiment of everything a person should not be," although there is no evidence that Frank, whose real name is George Miller, was involved in creating the doctored video. He did not immediately respond to CBS News' request for comment.

When [Dr.] Hess found [the video on YouTube](#) last week, she posted it on [her blog](#) -- warning other parents to take control over what their kids may be watching.

"Looking at the comments, it had been up for a while, and people had even reported it eight months prior," Hess told CBS News on Friday.

Shortly after she published her blog post, YouTube took the video down, saying it violated the site's community guidelines, according to Hess.

Hess said she spotted another version of the same video on YouTube Kids in [July last year](#). She said she and many other parents from Facebook groups came together to report it, and the video was eventually taken down after one parent directly contacted an employee at Google.

Hess said after seeing higher rates of suicide in children in her own emergency room over the last few years, she made it her mission to bring awareness to disturbing and violent content being consumed by children on social media. She said she's reported hundreds of unsettling videos to YouTube, with some success. On Friday, she found and reported [seven more disturbing videos](#) on YouTube Kids, and said they were just the tip of the iceberg.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/youtube-kids-inappropriate-horrified-mom-discovers-suicide-instructions-in-video-on-youtube-and-youtube-kids/>

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### **Integrating security officers into the clinical team to prevent violence**

(Modern Healthcare) Considering the prevalence of workplace violence in healthcare facilities, leaders at St. Louis-based SSM Health felt they could be doing more to protect employees, patients and their families. Statistics from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration [show](#) that hospital employees are more prone to injuries that lead to missed days of work than those in

construction and manufacturing. While 48% of the injuries are caused by overexertion, 9% are caused by violence, according to OSHA. Those kind of statistics spurred SSM into action.

Full story: <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20190216/TRANSFORMATION02/190219975>

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**Families accuse Ohio hospital, doctor of giving "lethal" doses of fentanyl to loved ones**

(CBS News) - Columbus, OH - A former Ohio doctor is under investigation for allegedly prescribing "significantly excessive and potentially fatal" doses of a highly potent drug, fentanyl, to dozens of patients who later died. [Dr. William Husel](#) was fired in December, and Mount Carmel Hospital reported at least 27 of the patients were near death and receiving intensive care. Twenty-three caregivers, including 14 nurses, six pharmacists, and three managers were placed on leave.

Full story link: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mount-carmel-hospital-ohio-doctor-william-husel-accused-lethal-doses-fentanyl/>

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**Scientists Release Controversial Genetically Modified Mosquitoes in High-Security Lab**

(NPR) The insects were created, using CRISPR, to carry a powerful "gene drive." The mosquitoes could provide a potent weapon against malaria, but they raise fears about unpredictable environmental effects.

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2019/02/20/693735499/scientists-release-controversial-genetically-modified-mosquitoes-in-high-security>

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**OH child dies shortly after flu diagnosis**

(CBS - Feb 22) In a tragic story that's making headlines across the country: A fourth-grade girl from Ohio [died just one day after being diagnosed](#) with strep throat and influenza. According to a Facebook post from Mason City Schools, Sable Gibson was diagnosed Tuesday morning, went into cardiac arrest Tuesday afternoon and died Wednesday evening.

Also last week, reports came in of a [New Jersey toddler who died from the flu](#) earlier this month.

While this year's flu season has been milder overall than last year's, to date 41 children have died across the country from flu-related causes. The influenza virus itself can lead to death if it leads to serious breathing problems and severe dehydration. However, the more common scenario is a complication from the infection, explains Dr. Claire Bocchini, an infectious disease specialist at Texas Children's Hospital. She says bacterial pneumonia is the most common complication from the flu that leads to death. Full story link: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/can-you-die-from-the-flu/>

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**More Ebola in DRC as nurse's murder halts efforts**

(CIDRAP) The Ebola outbreak in North Kivu and Ituri provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) grew by 5 cases today, according to the daily update from the country's ministry of health. There are now 853 cases (788 confirmed and 65 probable), including 531 deaths, and 177 cases are still under investigation.

The ministry of health also detailed the temporary halting of surveillance activities in Vuhovi, after a nurse from the Bisongo health center was abducted and murdered. Officials said a group of unidentified people carried out the attack.

*"Contrary to certain information that has circulated, the patients of the Vuhovi General Reference Hospital have not been hunted, and they continue to be cared for on site,"* the health ministry said, adding that it is encouraging health workers to resume outbreak activities.

Front-line workers in the Lolwa health zone, which lies between Komanda and Rwampara on the road connecting Beni to Bunia, were vaccinated in a preventive effort, the ministry said. Since August, 82,144 people in the DRC and surrounding countries have been vaccinated with Merck's rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine.

Full article: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2019/02/more-ebola-drc-nurses-murder-halts-efforts-vuhovi>

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**Boston Market pork may contain glass**

(Herald-Leader) 173,000 pounds of frozen pork patties have no bones, but might have glass or plastic. Read more: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/nation-world/national/article226713089.html>

**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines**  
Extracts from [February 21, 2019](#) & [February 22, 2019](#)

**[FDA Chief: Federal Government Might Step in If States Don't Change Lax Vaccine Laws](#)** (CNM) The head of the US Food and Drug Administration says that if states don't require more schoolchildren to get vaccinated, the federal government might have to step in. Nearly all states allow children to attend school even if their parents opt out of vaccines. These vaccine exemptions are especially popular in Washington state, where a measles outbreak started last month that has now sickened at least 67 people in four states. And New York has been working to contain its largest outbreak in decades, which began in October and has sickened more than 200 people. [Go to article](#)

**[Facebook, Facing Lawmaker Questions, Says It May Remove Anti-vaccine Recommendations](#)** (Bloomberg) Facebook Inc., under pressure to reduce harmful, misleading and fake content, said it is exploring removing anti-vaccine information from software systems that recommend other things to read on its social network. [Go to article](#)

**[New HHS-Sponsored Research Provides New Tool and Updated Guidance on Mass Chemical Decontamination](#)** (HHS.gov) More than a million first responders and emergency managers in the United States now have a science-based chemical decontamination decision tool and updated guidance on how best to decontaminate a massive number of people after chemical exposure. The decision-support tool and guidance, as well as the scientific studies on which they are based, were completed under a contract between the University of Hertfordshire in the United Kingdom and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response within the US Department of Health and Human Services. [Go to article](#)

**[Sepsis Test Could Show Results 'in Minutes'](#)** (BBC News) The device, which has been tested in a laboratory, may be capable of producing results in two-and-a-half minutes, the Biosensors and Bioelectronics journal study suggests. [Go to article](#)

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**Verizon to launch mobile 5G service in 30 markets this year**

(Fierce Wireless) The sprint to 5G in the United States is entering a new phase. On Friday, Verizon announced plans to deploy standards-based 5G services in more than 30 U.S. cities this year. The move into mobile 5G is a first for Verizon, which launched a 5G Home service in October with limited availability in four cities. While the plans mark an escalation in deployment on the mobile front for Verizon, the carrier missed its chance to be the first carrier with standards-based mobile 5G in the United States. AT&T has already launched a mobile 5G network in 12 cities and plans to expand to nine more markets in the next few months. The second-largest U.S. operator claims it will have nationwide 5G coverage in the first half of 2020 and T-Mobile has publicly stated it plans to have nationwide 5G coverage in 2020.

Full story: <https://www.fiercewireless.com/wireless/verizon-to-launch-mobile-5g-service-30-markets-year>

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**Data breach at Louisville health provider compromises data of 16,000 patients**

(Business First) - Feb 22 - A Louisville-based counseling and psychiatric services provider has reported a data breach that affects thousands of patients to the federal government. The Kentucky Counseling Center, or KCC, reported to the Department of Health and Human Services on Feb. 11 that the data for 16,400 patients were exposed in an unauthorized disclosure, according to [HHS.org](#). The company said in a statement on its website that it mailed letters to inform patients whose information was compromised.

Full story: <https://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/news/2019/02/22/data-breach-at-louisville-health-provider.html>

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**Microsoft will end Windows 7 support in July**

(Gizbot) Microsoft has confirmed to end the support for Windows 7 OS by 2020. However, if users of the OS do not install the update that will be rolled out in March, the [support will come to an end](#) in July 2019 itself. This update will mark the shift to leverage more reliable encryption algorithm and will be released on March 12.

Full story: <https://www.gizbot.com/computer/news/microsoft-windows-7-support-end-july-057859.html>

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.