



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for February 25, 2019 - **Update 1**

## Gov. Bevin Declares State of Emergency in Response to Continued Heavy Rainfall across Kentucky

*Declaration allows emergency management to utilize vital resources*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (Feb. 25, 2019 @ 3:30 PM ET)** – Gov. Matt Bevin has declared a statewide emergency in response to continued heavy rainfall which has caused widespread flooding and critical infrastructure damage across the Commonwealth.

The Governor's executive order enables the mobilization of state resources to be to be utilized in support of cities and counties as needed.

Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KYEM) activated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) on Friday, Feb. 22, at a Level 4. To date, KYEM has received 36 county and 11 city state of emergency declarations. The Division is in daily contact with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assisting in mitigation efforts in response to record level water releases at Wolf Creek Dam and flood fighting efforts at Smithland.

Kentucky has experienced prolonged episodes of severe storms producing heavy rain, strong and gusting wind, flooding, flash flooding, landslides and mudslides across the Commonwealth. This has resulted in increased water levels at major dams in central and western Kentucky, requiring record levels of water discharge, creating flooding conditions with enhanced threats to citizens and major impacts on infrastructure, governmental properties, commercial properties, agricultural production and private properties.

"Enhanced communication remains the highest priority in the current flood fight," said Michael Dossett, director for KYEM. "The Division is in coordination with local, state and federal officials daily. Communities are reminded to check that flood plan and be ready to activate the plan if required."

To report weather-related damage, please contact your local emergency management office. For information about KYEM operations, please contact Monica French at 502-607-5721.

To download a copy of Gov. Bevin's State of Emergency executive order, [click here](#).

### ----- **KDPH SHOC Activated**

The Kentucky Department for Public Health's (KDPH) State Health Operations Center (SHOC) is currently activated to Level 3 – Limited Activation (ICS from the Desk), to provide support for the below listed incidents, through coordination with the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management. Jim House is the SHOC Manager and can be reached via cell at (502) 330-5950 or email [chfsdphdoc@ky.gov](mailto:chfsdphdoc@ky.gov) if state-level Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8 assistance is needed.

- *Severe weather and related flooding (February Weather in WebEOC) - State Warning Point (SWP) Incident # 20190652*
- *Vaccine Administration Adverse Event (VAAR) – SWP Incident # 20190178/KDPH Outbreak # KY18-096*
- *Hepatitis A Outbreak – SWP Incident # 20176132, KDPH Outbreak # KY17-089*
- *Note: You can access WebEOC to obtain additional information on the February Weather Incident and Hepatitis A Outbreak incident.*

### ----- **Public Health Issues Guidelines Related to Severe Flooding** *Flooding can create health, safety concerns*

(Feb. 25, 2019) - The Department for Public Health (DPH), within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), reminds Kentuckians to follow safety guidelines following severe flooding and water run-off events from recent rainfall across the state.

The following precautions are recommended by DPH:

### **Flood Waters**

- During flood cleanup, the risk of incurring wounds may be increased. For this reason, cleanup workers should be sure that they are up-to-date with tetanus vaccination, ideally before starting cleanup activities. Adults need a tetanus booster shot every 10 years. Td or Tdap can be used; getting the Tdap instead of Td for one tetanus booster during adulthood is recommended to maintain protection against pertussis. Being up-to-date for tetanus vaccine can greatly simplify the treatment for any wound that might occur. Contact your regular health care provider or your local health department if you believe you may need a tetanus shot.
- Flood-related drowning is also a danger, and often occurs when people become trapped by rising flood waters or when they voluntarily enter flooded areas. Never enter flood waters unless you are escaping immediate danger. Do not attempt to drive a vehicle through flood waters. Carefully monitor the weather conditions and water levels to avoid becoming surrounded by water.
- Floods can damage utilities, leading to downed power lines and a risk of electrocution. Stay clear of damaged power lines. Natural gas and propane systems can produce dangerous gas leaks. If you smell gas, open doors and windows and evacuate the area.

### **Home Clean-up and Mold Removal**

- Use caution during clean-up activities. Wear proper safety equipment, such as work gloves, boots, helmets, eye and ear protection, and chainsaw chaps when operating power tools or machinery. Ensure all electrical tools are properly grounded and use ground fault interrupters (GFI) if available. Never use electrically powered tools in or near standing water.
- Homeowners whose homes sustained water damage are urged to follow recommendations to limit mold growth. Mold fungi can be found indoors and outside and can accumulate in homes affected by flood/water damage. Mold grows best in warm, damp and humid conditions.
- Signs of mold include discolored walls possibly showing water damage, or green or black spots apparent on walls. Mold also has a musty, earthy smell or a foul stench. Allergy sufferers tend to be most affected by mold exposure.
- If mold is growing in your home, you will need to clean up the mold and fix the moisture problem. Mold growth can be removed from hard surfaces with commercial products, soap and water, or a bleach solution of no more than 1 cup of bleach in 1 gallon of water. Severe mold cases may require an expert to clean up.
- DPH recommends that doors and windows be open while cleaning affected areas. Use protective glasses or goggles, rubber boots and waterproof gloves and wash clothing afterwards. If there is heavy mold growth, use a respirator or suitable mask to prevent breathing the mold. Remove all wet items that have been wet for more than 48 hours and cannot be cleaned and dried.

### **Food Safety**

- DPH also cautions people to think about food safety if they have been affected by power outages. This includes keeping freezers closed to maintain the proper temperature for frozen foods. A freezer will hold its appropriate temperature for approximately 48 hours when full and for 24 hours when half full. If you have power outages, it is best to keep freezers closed to help keep frozen food from going bad.
- Refrigerated foods should be safe as long as power is out for no more than four hours. Throw away any perishable food in your refrigerator, such as meat, poultry, lunchmeats, fish, dairy products, eggs and any prepared or cooked foods that have been above 40 degrees Fahrenheit for two hours.

For more information about public health issues related to flooding, visit  
<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/index.html> or <https://healthalerts.ky.gov/Pages/FloodSafety.aspx>.

### **CMS call tomorrow on interoperability proposed rule**

(AHA Today) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will host a [Special Open Door Forum](#) Feb. 26 at 2 p.m. ET on its [proposed rule](#) to promote electronic health information exchange. On Feb. 11, the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and CMS both [proposed](#) new rules to promote the secure exchange and use of electronic health information.

## **“Trauma Survivors Network (TSN) - “EMS Community Conversations”**

*How one TSN Site United EMS Responders and Trauma Patients in the Name of Healing.*

The American Trauma Society cordially invites EMS attendees to a special session on the integration of EMS responders and community services available for trauma survivors.

**THIS THURSDAY, February 28, 2019 at 1 pm ET.**

Join Shira Rothberg, LCSW, the TSN Coordinator at Inova Trauma Center in Fairfax, Virginia, for an ATS Special Webinar on Thursday, February 28, 2019, 1:00p.m. EST and learn how she has successfully engaged her regions EMS responder’s in their hospitals TSN program. Shira’s work includes bringing her team of peer visitors to participate in community presentations, uniting first responders and the trauma patients they took care of. The Inova Trauma Center program was highlighted in an EMS1 editorial (2/27/2018) “*Not Just Traumas, But Human Beings*”. Shira will be joined by some TSN peer visitors for this special ATS webinar.

NASEMSO has partnered with the ATS to provide free registration for EMS responders on this important dialogue. Simply enter EMSWebinar2019 on the registration page at

<https://www.amtrauma.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1203779&group=>

Please feel free to share this info with your colleagues!

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Reminder - CMS Webinar Wednesday at 1PM ET

### ***Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3) Model***

They invite EMS providers, payers, beneficiaries and other interested stakeholders to attend this webinar on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. EST. Sign up for the webinar at the registration link below.

[Registration is open.](#)

If you have any further questions, please refer to the [ET3 Model webpage](#) or send your inquiries to the ET3 model inbox at [ET3Model@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:ET3Model@cms.hhs.gov).

### **Nursing Home Evacuated in Salyersville**

*(by Gina Porter, HPP Region 10/11 HPP Coordinator)*



At approximately 3:15 am Sunday February 24, 2019, Gina received a call from Terry Music with Trans Star Ambulance Service that the nursing home in Salyersville was being evacuated. The Salyersville Emergency Manager had deployed the cot trailer and supplies he houses at the Salyersville Fire Department. Additionally, he was letting me know that they may need the Med/Surge trailer to be deployed once they determined the extent of damage to the nursing home, how long the patients would be displaced.

Around 11:30 am Gina spoke with the facility manager at *Salyersville Healthcare* (Salyersville Nursing and Rehab), and he advised that they anticipated patients would be returned that evening - but no later than Monday morning.

At around 5 pm (Sunday) she was contacted about sending the region's Ambu-Bus to the Magoffin County Middle School in Salyersville to return the patients to the nursing home. All 118 of the patients were returned to the facility by 11:00pm Sunday, February 24, 2019.

According to a story on [WKYT](#), high water was prevalent on major roads and downtown in Salyersville overnight. The Salyersville Community Center was opened up for people who could not make it to their homes.

Full story: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Nursing-home-evacuated-in-Magoffin-County-after-flooding-506290371.html>

### **Johns Hopkins Health Security Headlines**

Extracts from [February 25, 2019](#)

#### **Man Fined \$20,000 for Taking Dangerous Pathogens on Commercial Flight** (*Food Safety News*)

Gang Li of Guelph, Ontario, was convicted on Feb. 20 in the Ontario Court of Justice of violating Canada's Health of Animals Act and the associated Health of Animals Regulations. He was ordered to

pay fines totaling \$20,000. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency brought the legal action against Li. According to court documents, Li arrived at the Lester B. Pearson International Airport in Mississauga, Ontario, on Jan.24, 2017. [Go to article](#)

**[Attackers Torch MSF Ebola Treatment Center in Congo, Patients Evacuated](#)** (*H5N1*) Attackers set fire to an Ebola treatment center run by Medecins Sans Frontieres in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo late on Sunday, forcing staff to evacuate patients, the charity said. There were no immediate details on the identity or motive of the people who torched the center in the district of Katwa, at the heart of the country's worst outbreak of the deadly disease. [Go to article](#)

**[Researchers Update Guidance for First Responders on Treating Chemical Exposure](#)** (*Homeland Preparedness News*) Researchers have developed a new tool and updated guidance to help first responders and emergency managers determine how best to decontaminate a massive number of people after chemical exposure. [Go to article](#)

**[Fighting C Diff Contamination with a Different Cleaning Approach](#)** (*Contagion Live*) *Clostridium difficile* (*C diff*) infections are pretty much a nightmare for infection preventionists. They cause horrible illness in patients and the spore is environmentally hardy, which makes disinfection efforts extremely challenging. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that, in the US, half a million cases of *C diff* occur every year, and roughly 15,000 people die due to the infection. As a result of the severity of these infections and the challenges for infection control, it's not surprising that surveillance and reporting is required not only by many state laws, but also reimbursement regulations through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. All of these factors make *C diff* prevention a major focus for hospitals. [Go to article](#)

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#### **USDA, HHS partner to create recovery housing in rural communities**

(AHA Today) The U.S. Department of Agriculture and Department of Health and Human Services will partner to create addiction recovery transitional housing in rural communities, the agencies [announced](#) recently. Under the memorandum of understanding, USDA Rural Development and HHS' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration will coordinate efforts to sell USDA's Real Estate Owned single-family housing properties at a discount to non-profit organizations that provide housing, treatment, job training and other key services for people in substance misuse treatment and recovery, the agencies said. "We know that the opioid crisis has hit rural communities hard, and we need to leverage all possible partnerships to support these communities," said HHS Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Elinore McCance-Katz, M.D. "Housing plays a vital part in the recovery process for those living with opioid use disorders."

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.