



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for February 26, 2019

Lawmaker calls for a review of Kentucky's 'poor response' to deadly hepatitis A outbreak (Courier-Journal) A key Kentucky lawmaker is calling for a review of the state's "poor response" to a hepatitis A outbreak that has grown into the nation's largest, with more than 4,100 sickened and 43 dead. State Sen. Morgan McGarvey, D-Louisville, said he's looking into filing a concurrent resolution "to direct the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to examine why we have had such a poor response to the hepatitis A outbreak and offer recommendations to make it better."
Story link: <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/politics/ky-legislature/2019/02/25/kentucky-lawmaker-calls-review-deadly-hepatitis-outbreak/2981050002/>

Follow-up story on Lessons Learned from other states: <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/investigations/2019/02/21/hepatitis-outbreak-kentucky-lessons-other-states/2777770002/>

Link to USA Today/CJ story from 2/22/19: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/02/22/kentuckys-response-nations-worst-hepatitis-outbreak/2947263002/>

----- **Drug used to treat ADHD being abused**

(WKYT) The number of college and high school students who take a stimulant that treats ADHD is hitting alarming levels for some medical experts. In the past year, about 35 percent of college students have used prescription drug Adderall without a prescription. As many as nine percent of high school students use Adderall without a prescription as well.

Read more: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Drug-used-to-treat-ADHD-being-abused-in-dramatic-amounts-506344411.html>

----- ***Exhaustion in the ED and Beyond***

Managing Supply Shortages and Staff Fatigue in Healthcare Facilities

(ASPR) The next time you face a supply shortage – from saline to syringes – brace yourself. Another shortage may be on the way: staffing. As we discussed in the [first blog in this series](#), hospitals and healthcare facilities face supply shortages every day, and these shortages require staff to dedicate more time and resources so they can continue providing patient care.

These extra demands can be hard enough to meet during normal operations, but they are especially common and difficult to handle during a disaster. Long after Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico, saline IV bags, cancer drugs, and other critical pharmaceuticals and medical supplies remained in short supply. When the added stress of a disaster meets increased demands caused by a prolonged supply shortage, your staff may not be able to cope if you don't have a plan in place.

Full blog link: <https://www.phe.gov/ASPRBlog/pages/BlogArticlePage.aspx?PostID=333>

In case you missed it...

New HHS-Sponsored Research Provides New Tool and Updated Guidance on Mass Chemical Decontamination

Link: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/02/21/new-hhs-sponsored-research-provides-new-tool-and-updated-guidance-mass-chemical-decontamination.html>

----- **Rise of drug-resistant superbugs rings alarm bells in Europe**

(Reuters) - The spread of superbugs resistant to antimicrobial drugs shows no sign of slowing in Europe, health officials said on Tuesday, making food poisoning and other infections more difficult to treat. Releasing data on the growth of antimicrobial resistance, the European Union's commissioner for health and food safety said it should "ring alarm bells" across the region.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-europe-superbugs/rise-of-drug-resistant-superbugs-rings-alarm-bells-in-europe-idUSKCN1QF12V>

----- **[KY Pediatric Emergency Care Coalition Meeting March 6th](#)**

Tomorrow is the last day to register!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BG993LB) - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BG993LB>

The world's healthiest countries, ranked



(CBS) Spain just surpassed Italy as the world's healthiest nation. That's according to this year's edition of the Bloomberg Healthiest Country Index, which ranks 169 countries based on factors that contribute to overall health.

Six of the top 10 countries were in Europe, with Italy ranking second. In contrast, the United States didn't even break into the top 30, ranking at number 35, one notch worse than last year.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-worlds-healthiest-countries-ranked/>

Teen returns from cruise with 'terrifying' mystery illness that's left her permanently blind

(WDAF/CNN) - A Missouri teen is fighting a life-changing medical condition, and she doesn't even know what it is. Neither do her doctors. The mystery has stumped medical professionals and left the 15-year-old blind. Just last summer, Jordyn Walker enjoyed a cruise with her family. But when she came back, her medical nightmare began. It started with stomach pain and bloody stools.

Full story: <http://www.wave3.com/2019/01/02/graphic-teen-returns-cruise-with-terrifying-mystery-illness-thats-left-her-permanently-blind/>

Here's what puts teen drivers at greatest risk of a crash



Car wrecks are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens. In fact, adolescents are twice as likely as adults are to get into a wreck. The first 18 months after teens get their license are the most dangerous. During that time, new drivers are *four* times more likely than adults to get into an accident. The reason: inexperience and a tendency to get distracted, studies now show. Those crashes claimed the lives of 1,972 U.S. teens in 2015 alone. Car accidents

injured another 99,000 more.

Full story: <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/heres-what-puts-teen-drivers-greatest-risk-crash>

FDA unveils new imported food safety strategy

(CIDRAP) The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) yesterday unveiled a new strategy for ensuring the safety of imported foods, part of a comprehensive food safety overhaul in the wake of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act of 2011. The FDA aid the United States imports about 15% of its food supply from more than 200 countries or territories, and that the quantity of imported foods is rising. Full story: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2019/02/fda-unveils-new-imported-food-safety-strategy>

Consumer watchdog finds traces of Roundup weed killer in beer and wine

(CBS) As more lawsuits claiming a link between Roundup and cancer move forward, a new report claims the main ingredient found in the weed killer is showing up in organic beer and wine.

U.S. PIRG [tested](#) samples of popular beer and wine brands and found the chemical, called glyphosate, in 19 out of 20 brands. Glyphosate is the main ingredient in Roundup, produced by agrochemical giant Monsanto.

PIRG's investigation also found traces of the weed killer in some organic brands, which are forbidden from using most chemicals in food production. That doesn't mean these producers were circumventing the rules, but rather that glyphosate is so prevalent in the environment it can be hard to avoid.

Your favorite on the top of the list? <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/glyphosate-in-beer-wine-pirg-finds-traces-of-weed-killer-in-19-of-20-brands/>

Study: Tick bite meat allergy trigger risk higher than thought

([CIDRAP News Scan](#)) The risk of experiencing an allergic reaction to red meat after a tick bite could be higher than previously thought, researchers from the University North Carolina (UNC) School of Medicine reported at the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology annual meeting in San Francisco. Allergy to alpha-gal, a complex sugar found in most mammal blood but not in humans, can occur following a tick bite, with the

response leading to a red meat allergy called alpha-gal syndrome (AGS). *Feb 23 UNC Health Care [news release](#)*

FEMA Webinar Wednesday 1-2 PM ET

Resilience Starts with Financial Preparedness: *Save For the Unexpected*

(FEMA) During America Saves Week, the Association for Financial Counseling & Planning Education® (AFCPE®) and FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division are conducting a Webinar on the importance of financial preparedness for emergencies and the best ways to prepare.

Join top financial preparedness experts Rebecca Wiggins, Executive Director, AFCPE® and Sara Croymans, AFC® Professional, AFCPE® on **Wednesday, February 27th from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EST**

Register by using this [link](#).

- Make sure to [test your Adobe Connect](#) before the meeting.
- This event will include captioning.
- To learn more, contact FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov.

Informational flyer: [Resilience Starts with Financial Preparedness Webinar.pdf](#)

**InfraGard Webinar - "Be a Good Neighbor" series
Thursday, February 28, 1:30 PM ET**

This series will be held quarterly during 2019 and address four different topics related to threats/incidents that impact your workplace - or the workplace of those around you - your neighbors. It's important to not only be prepared for active threats, weather, theft, etc. in your own commercial facility, but how can you be a good neighbor to those commercial facilities in your area when they are experiencing the same?

To launch this series, we'll host 3 subject matter experts on Thursday, 2/28/19 at 130p EST. Our speakers include FBI Special Agent John Souvlis; Mike O'Neill, CEO for MSA Security and former NYPD; and Joe Donovan, Senior VP for Beacon Capital Partners and director of operational risk.

This webinar will explore responding to suspicious packages/mail threats and bomb threats. Whether happening in your building/facility - or a neighbor's building/facility, awareness of the threat environment, having a response plan and knowing best practices help to ensure you are able to protect your building, personnel and assets. You'll hear about the current threat environment, how the FBI responds to these kinds of threats, having a robust screening program and other industry best practices

Register for the webinar here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I431ABm2SIioA4q54TgHRw

**NIMS Alert 01-19:
NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT PERIOD: PROPOSED UPDATES
TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is seeking feedback on proposed [updates to the National Emergency Communications Plan \(NECP\)](#)—the Nation's strategic plan to improve emergency communications.

CISA is leading a national effort to update the NECP, which was last revised in 2014. The updated NECP aligns with the Communications and Information Management component in NIMS (National Incident Management System) and strives to prepare stakeholders for a rapidly evolving emergency communications landscape. Proposed updates reflect the expanding ecosystem of people, technologies, and functions involved in supporting emergency communications to aid public safety entities with addressing today's challenges while also planning for future advancements.

Informed by stakeholder input and a nationwide emergency communications survey, the NECP provides guidance to those that plan for, coordinate, invest in, and use communications to support response and recovery operations. This includes traditional emergency responder disciplines (e.g., law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, dispatch) and other entities that share information during emergencies, such as medical facilities, utilities, nongovernmental organizations, as well as the media and private citizens.

To provide comments on the updated NECP, complete the feedback form on the [DHS website](#) and submit it to OECNECP@hq.dhs.gov by **March 22, 2019**.

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 added or deleted, 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.