



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for February 27, 2019

KY Flood Rollup as of February 27 @ noon

(KyEM - Frankfort) A State of Emergency remains in place as flooding continues to be a concern for many communities along major rivers and tributaries in Kentucky; including the Ohio, Cumberland, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Green Rivers. The Kentucky SEOC remains at Level 4. KYEM is in close coordination with the USACE on water discharge rates at the Wolf Creek Dam, Lake Barkley Dam, and the Kentucky Lake Dam to mitigate flooding to downstream communities.

The Ohio River remains at major flood stage at Smithland, Paducah, and Cairo. KYEM, in partnership with the USACE, the Kentucky National Guard, and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, provided flood fighting equipment and personnel to assist Livingston County in increasing the levee height at Smithland, Kentucky to protect the city from the forecasted Ohio River crest of 52.5'.

A total of 43 counties and 17 cities have declared a local State of Emergency and approximately 70 counties are reporting some degree of impacts (closed roads, flooded structures, damaged infrastructure) from the flooding and severe weather. Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) has identified 188 locations across the State that are still being impacted by slides, rock-falls, flooded roads, and other rainfall associated issues.

There are currently no critical impacts to lifelines that exceed local or state capabilities.

- County Declarations: 43
- City Declarations: 17
- Fatalities: None; Injuries: 1; SAR member was injured during a water rescue
- Rescues: There were 14 rescues conducted for this event.
- Power: 1,036 customers statewide
- Communications: No issues.
- Food, Water, & Sheltering: 1 county shelter open in McCracken; 180 customers out of water in SE KY.
- Resource Requests: 36 requests for seven counties
- Roads: Per KY Transportation Cabinet, 188 state roads are flooded or closed due to damage throughout the State. Over 185 county roads and bridges are flooded or closed due to damage

For more info:

KyEM SEOC Operations

Desk: 502-607-6601

e-mail: ky.seoc.operations@kyemweb.com

RNs plan 10-day March strike in California

(Becker Hospital Review) Registered nurses at Pacifica Hospital of the Valley in Sun Valley, Calif., plan to strike beginning March 5 and ending March 15. Union officials said nurses have tried to preserve patient services during labor negotiations, but they have seen hospital services decline over the decades, including last year's closure of the hospital's labor and delivery department.

Read full story: <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/human-capital-and-risk/rns-plan-10-day-march-strike-in-california.html>

FDA previews 2019 plans to address opioid epidemic

(AHA Today) Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D., yesterday [announced](#) the agency's 2019 agenda to address the opioid epidemic. Among other actions, the agency is considering using its authority under the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act of 2018 to mandate short-duration packaging for outpatient dispensing of certain solid, oral dosage forms of immediate-release opioid analgesics to treat acute pain, and require manufacturers to develop technologies such as mail-back pouches to dispose of unused opioid medications. FDA also plans to announce changes to strengthen the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy for transmucosal immediate-release fentanyl medicines, and issue updated guidance to promote the development of non-opioid drugs to treat pain.

CDC link <https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm632067.htm>

Funding for portable RNA printer for vaccine production

([CIDRAP News Scan](#)) Today the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) announced a \$34 million contract and new partnership with CureVac AG, a biopharmaceutical company developing mRNA-based vaccines, to create a transportable RNA printer that could be used to develop vaccines in outbreak scenarios.

"This innovative platform will provide a rapid supply of lipid-nanoparticle (LNP)-formulated mRNA vaccine candidates that can target known pathogens (including Lassa Fever, Yellow Fever, and Rabies) and prepare for rapid response to new and previously unknown pathogens (referred to by [the World Health Organization] as "Disease X")," CEPI said in a press release.

The device would be able to produce several grams of LNP-formulated mRNA—enough for more than 100,000 doses—within weeks of an outbreak, CEPI said. The technology could be encoded for multiple proteins and antigens, targeting different viruses.

The project is set to begin next month. CEPI is a partnership among public and private organizations that was launched in Davos, Switzerland, in 2017 to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics. It has committed to investing more than \$350 million in 12 vaccine candidates and three vaccine platforms. Feb 27 CEPI [press release](#)

Heat-related illness affects ethnic groups disproportionately

(Reuters Health) Health conditions related to heat are sharply rising and may affect ethnic populations disproportionately, California statistics suggest. The data were compiled by the California Environmental Health Tracking Program, which tracks emergency room visits and hospitalizations due to heat-related medical conditions such as exhaustion and heat stroke.

Over the course of a decade, emergency room visits for heat-related illness increased across California by 35 percent, researchers found. The increase was higher in minority groups such as African Americans and Hispanics than in the population overall.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-temperature/heat-related-illness-affects-ethnic-groups-disproportionately-idUSKCN1QF2J5>

HHS sets release date for interoperability rule *3 things to know!*

(Becker Hospital Review) HHS will formally [publish](#) CMS and ONC guidelines to the 21st Century Cures Act: Interoperability, Information Blocking and the ONC Health IT Certification Program March 4. Three things to know:

1. The rules include a 60-day comment period, open to responses from the public until May 3. The comment period will begin March 4.
2. Within the guidelines, CMS [proposed](#) requirements to expand patient access to medical records and other health information electronically by 2020.
3. CMS also [proposed](#) that the healthcare industry adopt standardized application programming interfaces to provide patients with easier access to their electronic health information.

To view HHS' public inspection document, click [here](#).

Source: <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/healthcare-information-technology/hhs-sets-release-date-for-interoperability-rule-3-things-to-know.html>

Johns Hoskins Health Security Headlines Extracts from [February 26, 2019](#) & [February 27, 2019](#)

[Vaccine Skepticism Grows in Line with Rise of Populism - Study](#) (*The Guardian*) Scepticism about the use of vaccines for children has risen across Europe in line with votes for populists, according to a study, which proposes that public health officials should track populist parties in opinion polls as a proxy signal for vaccine hesitancy. Big surges in the number of measles cases and deaths map to countries where populist parties have become prominent - in particular, Greece, Italy and France. [Go to article](#)

[Using 1 germ to Fight another When Today's Antibiotics Fail](#) (AP) Bacteria lodged deep in Ella Balasa's lungs were impervious to most antibiotics. At 26, gasping for breath, she sought out a dramatic experiment - deliberately inhaling a virus culled from sewage to attack her superbug. [Go to article](#)

[Polio is Nearly Wiped Out - Unless Some Lab Tech Screws Up](#) (Wired) IN 1979, A photographer named Janet Parker got a disease that wasn't supposed to exist anymore. At first she thought she had the flu, but then she kept getting sicker, got a rash, and went to the hospital, where doctors-in disbelief-diagnosed her with smallpox. Just a year earlier, the World Health Organization had declared that "mankind probably had seen its last case of smallpox," according to The New York Times. That should have been true. [Go to article](#)

[FDA, CDC, and CMS Launch Task Force to Help Facilitate Rapid Availability of Diagnostic Tests during Public Health Emergencies](#) (FDA) Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the launch of the Tri-Agency Task Force for Emergency Diagnostics. This task force has been created to help leverage the expertise of each agency to advance rapid development and deployment of diagnostic tests in clinical and public health laboratories during public health emergencies. [Go to article](#)

[Human Error in High-Biocontainment Labs: A Likely Pandemic Threat](#) (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists) Incidents causing potential exposures to pathogens occur frequently in the high security laboratories often known by their acronyms, BSL3 (Biosafety Level 3) and BSL4. Lab incidents that lead to undetected or unreported laboratory-acquired infections can lead to the release of a disease into the community outside the lab; lab workers with such infections will leave work carrying the pathogen with them. If the agent involved were a potential pandemic pathogen, such a community release could lead to a worldwide pandemic with many fatalities. [Go to article](#)

[This Viral Therapy Could Help Us Survive the Superbug Era](#) (Wired) In November 2015, infectious disease epidemiologist Steffanie Strathdee and her husband, evolutionary psychologist Tom Patterson, were spending the week of Thanksgiving exploring pyramids and pharaoh's tombs in Egypt when Patterson came down with what seemed like a nasty bout of food poisoning aboard their cruise ship. But as his condition rapidly deteriorated and he had to be emergency medevac'd, first to Germany and then to the medical center at UC San Diego, where both scientists were on staff, blood and imaging tests revealed why Patterson's body was failing. A soccer-ball-sized cyst in his abdomen was infected-teeming with one of the most dangerous, antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the world. [Go to article](#)

Google Translate in ER for Spanish, Chinese discharge orders better than nothing, UCSF researchers say

Although Google Translate was less than 100 percent accurate in translating English emergency discharge instructions for patients who speak Spanish and Chinese, researchers are cautiously supporting its use, a study published in [JAMA Internal Medicine](#) found.

The researchers, from the University of California San Francisco, analyzed 100 sets of emergency discharge instructions translated by Google's new machine learning algorithm, released in 2017. They found the algorithm was 92 percent accurate for Spanish and 81 percent accurate for Chinese.

Only a small percentage of the inaccurate translations — 2 percent in Spanish and 8 percent in Chinese — had the potential to cause clinically significant harm, the study found.

Read full story: <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/patient-engagement/google-translate-in-er-for-spanish-chinese-discharge-orders-better-than-nothing-ucsf-researchers-say.html>

JAMA source: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/article-abstract/2725080>

A compassionate couple helped quell the city's hepatitis A outbreak

(Insider Louisville) After nearly 30 years of marriage and decades of volunteer work, Nancy and Paul Kern could have spent their free time kicking back on the couch in recent years.



Instead, the couple has devoted countless hours to the homeless, passing out essential goods and acting as a secret weapon against hepatitis A during a time when the liver disease was a [growing concern](#) in the Louisville area.

Dr. Sarah Moyer, director of the *Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness*, said the couple “almost single-handedly vaccinated almost all of the homeless that weren’t in shelters.” This was a “vital” service to the community, from late 2017 through summer 2018.

Nancy Kern, an advanced practice registered nurse, is among nearly a dozen people who will receive a *Commitment to Compassion Award* Wednesday morning from Insider Louisville. She was nominated through *Spalding University*, where she is interim chair of the School of Nursing and also an associate professor.

Paul Kern is interim public health preparedness administrator for *Public Health and Wellness*, where he was in charge of coordinating outreach to the homeless camps and homeless shelters.

Full story: <https://insiderlouisville.com/health/a-compassionate-couple-helped-quell-the-citys-hepatitis-a-outbreak/>

ATS Injury Prevention Course

The American Trauma Society (ATS) is holding an Injury Prevention Coordinators course in **Lexington, Kentucky, March 30 – 31, 2019, 8:00p.m. – 5:00p.m.**

This will be a workshop at the Society of Trauma Nurses (STN) annual conference.

The link below has detailed course information:

<https://www.amtrauma.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1189180&group=>

Midway University Hosts 4th Annual Nursing CE Program

Midway University is hosting its 4th Annual Nursing Continuing Education Program and Alumni Luncheon on Thursday, May 2. *Health Care Issues in Vulnerable Populations* will feature topics such as human trafficking, intimate partner violence/domestic violence, homelessness and veterans.

Registration is available online at <https://secure.ggiv.com/for/mncl2>. Cost is \$55 for RNs; \$35 for Midway University Alumni; and \$20 for Nursing Students/Midway Faculty. Five contact hours will be awarded.

If you have questions, please contact Carrie Boling at Midway University (cboling@midway.edu or 859-846-5326).

Innovations in Cardiac Resuscitation Symposium

April 4, 8 am - 4:30 PM CT - Memphis, TN

Sessions will feature new data and strategies on improving *CPR quality, defibrillation, ventilation, post-arrest care, team dynamics, and ECPR.*

More information and registration link:

<https://www.cvent.com/c/express/bda30153-43f5-41bd-8046-c6b7960f0689>

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 (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.