



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 1, 2019

## Organ donation bill passes in Frankfort, heads to governor's desk

(Insider Louisville) A bill to expand organ donor registration in Kentucky has successfully made it through the state House of Representatives and now awaits Gov. Matt Bevin's signature. It is expected to take effect next year. The legislation, backed by Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates and Kentucky Circuit Court Clerks' Trust for Life, was approved by the House on Tuesday after being passed by the Senate earlier this month.

Senate Bill 77 will make it possible to register for organ donation through the Kentucky Online Gateway, a single sign-on system for accessing various government programs. The public also can continue to use old methods, such as signing up when getting a driver's license or by going online to [donatelife.ky.org](http://donatelife.ky.org).

Read more: <https://insiderlouisville.com/government/organ-donation-bill-passes-in-frankfort-heads-to-governors-desk/>

## Retirement Community in PA 'deeply distressed' by report that main sprinkler valve appears to have been off during fatal 2017 fire

(McKnights) The executive director of a Pennsylvania continuing care retirement community where four residents died in a November 2017 fire said the provider was "deeply distressed" that investigators, according to a report issued last week, believe that the building's main sprinkler valve was off during the blaze.

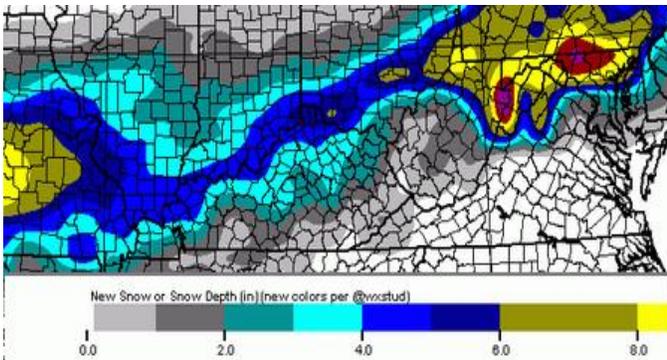
"This information confirms our worst fears, and we have taken steps to make sure this can never happen again," Barclay Friends Executive Director Linda Sterthous wrote in an open letter posted on the CCRC's website.

The cause of the five-alarm fire has been ruled "undetermined," the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Chester County Fire Marshal's Office said, adding that "investigators were unable to determine definitively when the [main sprinkler] valve was turned off." The blaze does not appear to have been intentionally set, they said.

The CCRC's skilled nursing building, called the Cotter building, was protected by a system of firewalls during the fire and sustained only water damage, according to Barclay Friends. It was closed after the fire until April 2018, however, so that equipment could be replaced, utilities could be rebuilt and repairs and renovations could be made.

Story source: <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/ccrc-deeply-distressed-that-main-sprinkler-valve-appears-to-have-been-off-during-fatal-fire/>

## Weekend Update



Accum Snow (in) -- GFS 81hFcst VT: 03:00Z MON 04 MAR 2019

The graphic is from a Global Forecast System (GFS) model run, using the 10:1 snow to rainfall guide, and gives you an idea of what may have accumulated as of 10 PM ET Sunday morning. Seems to start mid-day Sunday, and continues into early Monday morning.

Keep in that the GFS models tend to a little "generous", and what actually occurs may come in a little earlier than modeled, but it does give a general "worse case" look ahead - based on this run late on Feb 29th.

Here is the link if you would like to run it yourself over the next few days:

[https://wxcaster4.com/gfs/CONUS2\\_GFS0P5\\_SFC\\_ACCUM-SNOW\\_10-1\\_81HR.gif](https://wxcaster4.com/gfs/CONUS2_GFS0P5_SFC_ACCUM-SNOW_10-1_81HR.gif)

NWS Weather Watches, Warnings and Advisories for KY: <https://alerts.weather.gov/cap/ky.php?x=1>

NWS Weather Watches, Warnings and Advisories for USA: <https://www.weather.gov>

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**Johns Hopkins Health Security Headlines**  
Extracts from [February 28, 2019](#)

**[From Trailers to Tents: What Happens to Leftover Aid Supplies?](#)** (*NPR Goats and Soda*) FEMA is planning to sell off thousands of leftover trailer homes in Texas. The Federal Emergency Management Agency sent the trailers for temporarily homeless families after Hurricane Harvey struck in August 2017. But not all of them were used. Now FEMA is auctioning the leftovers online to the public with a minimum bid of \$100 for trailers that range from 1 bedroom units, valued at \$57,354, to 3-bedroom units with a value of \$70,965. [Go to article](#)

**[Critical Infrastructure Protection: Progress and Challenges in DHS's Management of Its Chemical Facility Security Program](#)** (GAO) Thousands of US facilities handle hazardous chemicals and could be targets for terrorists-e.g., the chemicals could be stolen and used to build explosive devices. The Department of Homeland Security identifies and assesses the security risk of these facilities. We've made a number of recommendations in the past to help DHS address challenges it faces in doing so. [Go to article](#)

**[The US Is Funding Dangerous Experiments It Doesn't Want You to Know About](#)** (*Washington Post - Opinion, Subscription Required*) In 2014, US officials imposed a moratorium on experiments to enhance some of the world's most lethal viruses by making them transmissible by air, responding to widespread concerns that a lab accident could spark a global pandemic. [Go to article](#)

**[Senators Urge DOE, DHS to Ban Inverters Made by Huawei](#)** (*Homeland Preparedness News*) A bipartisan group of senators recently sent a letter to Energy Secretary Rick Perry and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen urging them to ban the use of inverters made by the Chinese-owned company, Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd, citing cybersecurity concerns. [Go to article](#)

**[North Korea's Silent Health Crisis](#)** (*H5N1*) North Korea is frequently portrayed as an unknowable, impenetrable land. However, a substantial amount of data on health indicators is readily available. While it must be treated with caution - malnutrition figures, for example, don't include political prisoners languishing in camps - the data can be useful for showing longer-term trends. [Go to article](#)

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**FBI: Doctor shot by patient in wheelchair in Florida VA hospital**

(NBC) A doctor at a Florida hospital for veterans was shot by a patient, a double amputee in a wheelchair, as the patient was taken to the emergency room Wednesday evening, officials said. The doctor was struck while attempting to subdue the man.

Full story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/doctor-shot-patient-wheelchair-florida-va-hospital-fbi-says-n977506>

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**US House hearing highlights bill to protect health care workers from violence**

(AHA Today) The House Education and Labor Committee's Subcommittee on Workforce Protections yesterday held a [hearing](#) on protecting health care and social service workers from violence in the workplace. The focus of the hearing was a bill ([H.R. 1309](#)) introduced by Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Conn., that would require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue a workplace violence prevention standard within a year and health care and social service employers to comply with the standard to participate in Medicare. The bill has 33 Democratic co-sponsors, including Committee Chairman Bobby Scott, D-Va., and Subcommittee Chairwoman Alma Adams, D-N.C. OSHA currently provides voluntary guidelines for workplace violence prevention and may cite employers who fail to provide a workplace free from recognized serious hazards.

## The Momo challenge...

***What is it? Is it real?***

***What is the advice for parents?***



(CNN) There are plenty of reasons for parents to be leery about what their kids can find on social media.

TikTok, a popular music video app, [was just fined millions for collecting data on kids under 13](#). YouTube [has been trying to pull down suicide videos aimed at teens](#) while [dealing with advertiser backlash](#) after [allegations that pedophiles were using the platform](#) to trade information and draw attention to clips of young girls.

But the Momo Challenge, the experts will tell you, is probably not something to worry about.

The challenge is the latest viral concern /social media fad/urban legend going around Facebook parenting groups and schools. It's described as a "suicide game" which combines shock imagery and hidden messaging, and it supposedly encourages kids to attempt dangerous stunts, including suicide.

Earlier this week, "Momo" was the top new trending search term on Google for the US, Australia, Canada and the UK.

However, to the best of everyone's knowledge, ***there's almost no evidence to prove it's actually a real thing.***

***Read a lot more:*** <https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/28/health/momo-challenge-youtube-trnd/index.html>

**Wikipedia on Momo Challenge History:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Momo\\_Challenge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Momo_Challenge)

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](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.