



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 3, 2019

Seven years ago, a deadly tornado hit Indiana and Kentucky

(WAVE) - Seven years ago, the lives and the landscape of southern Indiana and Kentucky changed after tornadoes tore through the area.

It took just a few minutes to forever change the lives of thousands in its path. Those who lived through the March 2, 2012 tornado will never forget how their lives were impacted.

The twister brought winds of 175 miles per hour, straight to the centerpiece of a Henryville school.

Chelsea, Indiana also suffered heavy damage, as did Milton, Kentucky. In all, including the tornado in West Liberty Kentucky -- three dozen people lost their lives in storms that day.

West Liberty's Mayor says the town has never been the same. Some parts still haven't been completely repaired. The town even lost 30% of its population following that tragedy.

Read more: <http://www.wave3.com/2019/03/02/seven-years-ago-deadly-tornado-hit-indiana-kentucky/>

Kentucky lawmakers approve NRA-backed concealed carry bill

(WFPL) Kentucky lawmakers have approved a bill to allow people to carry a concealed handgun without a permit or training.

The bill, backed by the National Rifle Association, won final House passage Friday and now goes to Gov. Matt Bevin.

Under the measure, Kentuckians able to lawfully possess a firearm could conceal their weapons without a license. A gun-carrying permit now carries a fee and training requirement.

More: <https://wfpl.org/kentucky-lawmakers-approve-nra-backed-concealed-carry-bill/>

Bluegrass Weapons Depot stockpile destruction will start this summer

WDKY — RICHMOND, Ky. - The Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant is set to "safely and efficiently" destroy a stockpile of chemical weapons in storage, according to a release Friday.

Those weapons are in storage at the Blue Grass Army Depot. Mustard munitions and nerve agents are among the chemicals at the facility.

The destruction process will begin in June 2019 with the mustard stockpile. In fall 2019, the nerve agents will be destroyed.

Source: <https://foxlexington.com/news/local/chemical-weapons-stockpile-at-blue-grass-army-depot-to-be-destroyed>

Ky. General Assembly Passes School Safety Bill *Question remains — Who Will Pay For It?*

(WFPL) The Kentucky General Assembly has passed a comprehensive bill to improve safety in public schools, but funding for the measure is still uncertain.

Leaders of the legislature have said the school safety bill — or Senate Bill 1 — was the General Assembly's number one priority this session. It passed the Senate unanimously, and the House passed it with broad bipartisan support and a standing ovation.

Kentucky lawmakers started taking a closer look at school safety after a deadly shooting at Marshall County High School last January. The Parkland Florida shooting followed, and many other states began to write new school safety laws. Meanwhile, Kentucky lawmakers took their time.

The bill affects all levels of school administration. Public schools would have to secure their entryways with electronic locks and intercoms. School districts would need to appoint safety coordinators. A new state school safety marshal would check in on progress. And the bill directs the Kentucky Department of Education to manage a tip-line for students to report threats.

And — perhaps most ambitiously — the bill seeks to put one trained school resource officer in every school and one guidance counselor for every 250 students.

As of now, the bill has no funding attached to it. Some stakeholders say they worry the cost to implement the bill will fall in part on school districts, and hit less-wealthy, rural districts the hardest.

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/kentucky-general-assembly-passes-school-safety-bill-but-who-will-pay-for-it/>

KY CHFS Discusses Public Health Response to Hepatitis A Outbreak

(CHFS Press Release) – Friday, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services announced its support for a legislative resolution calling for an examination of the public health response to Kentucky's hepatitis A outbreak. Department for Public Health leaders welcome the opportunity to explain the situation to legislators and work collaboratively to identify best practices, service delivery gaps, and other attributes of the response in order to strengthen the public health system's ability to respond to current and future outbreaks.

The cabinet also took exception to a series of newspaper reports from the Courier-Journal, which highlighted the negative, while ignoring many of the positive, aspects of the state's response. A number of local health department leaders voiced support for the state's leadership and response at today's press conference.

You can watch the entire press conference on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/kychfs>. Several supporting documents were also released to the media at today's event are posted online: <https://chfs.ky.gov/News/Documents/hepadocs.pdf>.

Measles Cases "Alarming" Surge Worldwide

(CBS) Cases of measles are surging to alarmingly high levels around the globe, a new report from UNICEF warns. Ten countries account for more than 74 percent of the total increase, and the disease has reemerged in several nations that had previously been declared measles-free.

Worldwide, 98 countries saw more cases of measles in 2018 than in 2017, reversing progress made against the highly preventable, but potentially deadly disease.

The U.N. agency says the countries with the 10 highest increases in cases between 2017 and 2018 are:

- Ukraine
- Philippines
- Brazil
- Yemen
- Venezuela
- Serbia
- Madagascar
- Sudan
- Thailand
- France

In Ukraine alone, there were more than 35,000 cases of measles in 2018 and government officials say another 24,042 people were infected just in the first two months of 2019.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/measles-alarming-surge-in-outbreaks-in-98-countries/>

----- Related -----

State lawmakers pushing for laxer vaccine rules despite measles outbreaks

(Politico) Measles is spreading from New York to Texas to Washington state in the worst outbreak in years, but some state lawmakers want to take the vaccination debate in the opposite direction: Loosening rules covering whether kids get inoculated.

In Oregon, state lawmakers will consider a so-called transparency bill favored by the "vaccine hesitant." New York is simultaneously considering eliminating and expanding exemptions that allow parents to opt out. One bill in Texas would prohibit the state from even tracking exemptions.

The push to loosen the rules is occurring even as the U.S. has experienced more than 160 measles cases in 10 states since Jan. 1, including 74 in [Washington](#) state and [Oregon](#) linked to the outbreak in the Pacific Northwest, according to the states and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

Learn more: <https://www.politico.com/story/2019/03/03/measles-outbreak-vaccination-1192887>

**Measles Outbreak: Amazon Pulls Slate of Anti-Vax Documentaries
Amid Outcry, but Other Content Remains**

<https://news360.com/article/489489625>

**Johns Hopkins Health Security Headlines
Extracts from March 1, 2019**

[Congressional Hearing on Measles Outbreak Highlighted by Anger, Disruptions](#) (MSNBC) As cases of measles continue to rise across the United States, lawmakers met Wednesday to confront the growing public health threat. The sometimes raucous hearing, held by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, laid out one of the main challenges: stopping the spread of conspiracy theories and misinformation about the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine that have contributed to vaccine-hesitancy in many communities. At least twice, Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo., stopped the hearing when audience members, both for and against immunization, shouted down speakers over vaccine safety. [Go to article](#)

More BP Medicines Recalled

(CBS) [More blood pressure drugs](#) are being recalled after being found to contain trace amounts of a potentially cancer-causing ingredient, one of a slew of recalls of medications to treat hypertension.

Since last summer, drug companies have recalled hundreds of lots of [blood pressure and heart medication](#) drugs after tests showed small levels of [potentially cancer-causing impurities](#).

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration weighed in on the recalls of multiple generic angiotensin II receptor blocker, or ARB, drugs, on Friday, saying the impurities may be the result of chemical reactions that occur in the drugmaking process or from the reuse of materials, such as solvents.

Torrent Pharmaceuticals widened its [recall](#) to include 114 additional lots of losartan potassium and losartan potassium/hydrochlorothiazide combination tablets, the company announced late Friday. Earlier in the day, Aurobindo Pharma added 38 lots of Valsartan and Amlodipine and Valsartan tablets to a recall that started with 80 lots at the end of December. The recalled products have expiration dates ranging from October 2019 to July 2020. [Click here](#) for an updated list of Losartan products under recall.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/blood-pressure-medication-recall-another-blood-pressure-drug-recalled-due-to-cancer-risk/>

FDA issues warning about prescription drug provider

(AHA Today) The Food and Drug Administration yesterday issued a [warning letter](#) to CanaRx, a company that contracts with employers to provide select prescription drugs to employees, for facilitating the distribution of unapproved and misbranded drugs. "In this scheme, CanaRx facilitates foreign physicians rewriting the employee's U.S. prescription, and then supplies the employee with unapproved versions of FDA-approved drugs purportedly sourced from Canada, the United Kingdom or Australia that are represented to have undergone review from those countries' drug regulatory systems," FDA [said](#). "This is particularly troublesome, as employees are likely inclined to trust that they will receive safe and effective drugs through their employer's 'insurance' plan and may not question their legitimacy." The letter lists more than 150 websites affiliated with the company. FDA said health care providers and consumers should report any adverse events related to drugs provided by CanaRx to its [MedWatch](#) program.

Opioid crisis - Since when does the government write prescriptions?

(Fox) [Opioid-related deaths nationwide](#) jumped four-fold in the last two decades, and the epidemic has made major inroads in the Eastern states, according to a new study by a U.S.- Canadian research team. The team found that "the life expectancy lost at age 15 years from [opioids](#) is now greater than that lost from deaths due to firearms or motor vehicle crashes in most of the United States."

Clearly, something must be done, but federal and state agencies are focusing on the wrong target – legitimate prescribing of opioids – and have insinuated themselves into the [doctor-patient relationship](#) as never before. Our governments are taking prescription pads out of the hands of physicians and dictating which, and how much, prescription pain medication may be prescribed for patients. This is chilling and unprecedented. As of last October, 33 states had instituted laws that restrict opioid prescriptions in some way.

Read more: <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/since-when-does-the-government-write-prescriptions>

DEA finds enough fentanyl to kill nearly 2 million people in drug bust, investigators say

(CNN) Authorities said they found a combined 11 kilos of heroin and fentanyl in a big drug bust in New York State.

Investigators discovered enough fentanyl to kill millions of people, police said.

The fentanyl and heroin mill was uncovered operating inside a home in a quiet neighborhood in Ardsley, NY, where the Drug Enforcement Administration executed a search warrant Friday morning.

Full story: <http://www.wave3.com/2019/03/03/dea-finds-enough-fentanyl-kill-nearly-million-people-drug-bust-investigators-say/>

The happiest and healthiest states in the U.S., ranked

(Today) It's the seventh time this beautiful state has topped Gallup's well-being list since the rankings began in 2008.

Top 5 happiest states:

1. Hawaii
2. Wyoming
3. Alaska
4. Montana
5. Utah

Top 5 unhappiest states:

50. West Virginia <<
49. Arkansas
- 48. Kentucky <<<<<**
47. Mississippi
46. Tennessee <<

Learn more: <https://www.today.com/health/happiest-healthiest-states-us-ranked-t149455>

In 10 Years, US Pedestrian Deaths Jumped 35%

(Newser) – The number of pedestrians killed on US roads last year was the highest in 28 years, according to a report from a safety organization. Using data reported by states, the Governors Highway Safety Association estimates that 6,227 pedestrians were killed last year. Night crashes accounted for more than 90% of the increased deaths over the past decade.

Full story: <http://newser.com/s271935>

Are Soccer Pros at Higher Risk for ALS?

(HealthDay News) -- Professional soccer players may be vulnerable to [amyotrophic lateral sclerosis \(ALS\)](#), a new study suggests. The Italian researchers also found that soccer players may develop the neurodegenerative disease at a much younger age than people in the general population.

ALS, also known as [Lou Gehrig's disease](#), affects nerve cells that control voluntary muscle movement such as [walking](#) or talking. There is no cure for the disease, which eventually leads to death, most often from respiratory failure.

The scientists looked at nearly 25,000 men who played professional soccer in Italy between 1959 and 2000. The research found that 33 soccer players developed ALS, an average of 3.2 cases per 100,000 people every year. The rate of ALS in the general population in Italy was an average of 1.7 cases per 100,000 people every year. That means that soccer players were nearly twice as likely to develop ALS.

Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=219108>

When diagnosing a patient's ills, there's strength in numbers

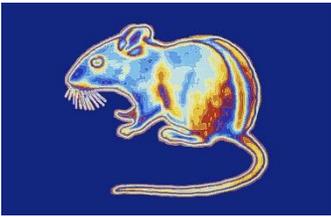
(Reuters Health) When multiple doctors are on the job, there's a higher likelihood that a correct diagnosis will be made, a new study suggests. Researchers found that diagnoses were far more accurate if they were the result of online physician crowdsourcing, according to a report in JAMA Network Open.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-diagnosis-crowdsourcing/when-diagnosing-a-patients-ills-theres-strength-in-numbers-idUSKCN1QI5O6>

Scientists create mice that can see in the dark.

Here's what that means for humans.

(NBC) No one is ditching the night-vision goggles just yet, but scientists working in the United States and China have developed a technique that they say could one day give humans the ability to see in the dark.



The technique involves injecting the eyes with particles that act like tiny antennae that take infrared light — wavelengths that are invisible to humans and other mammals — and convert it to visible wavelengths. Mammals can see wavelengths in just a sliver of the [electromagnetic spectrum](#), and the new technique is designed to widen that sliver.

The nanoparticle injections haven't been tried on humans, but experiments on mice show that [they confer the ability to see infrared light](#) without interfering with the perception of light in the visible range. The effect worked during the day and at night and lasted for several weeks. The rodents were left unharmed once it wore off.

More: <https://www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/scientists-create-super-mice-can-see-dark-here-s-what-ncna977966>

Carbon monoxide is killing public housing residents, but HUD doesn't require detectors

Residents of a South Carolina public housing complex are demanding answers after two of their neighbors died from the gas. After the two residents were found dead on Jan. 17, inspectors found high levels of carbon monoxide and natural gas inside all 26 buildings at the complex, as well as missing and broken smoke alarms, exposed wires, roach infestations, damaged ceilings and a “high volume of rodent droppings,” according to a [letter](#) from the fire department obtained by NBC News.

None of the apartments had carbon monoxide detectors, local authorities found. In fact, public housing is not required to have them under federal law: While all rental housing subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development must have smoke detectors, the federal government does not have the same requirement for carbon monoxide detectors.

Full story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/carbon-monoxide-killing-public-housing-residents-hud-doesn-t-require-n977896>

Walmart Recalls Veggies over Listeria

(CBS) A Florida company is voluntarily recalling certain bags of Marketside brand green beans and butternut squash sold at retailers in several states — including some Walmart stores — due to possible contamination with [listeria monocytogenes](#). The dangerous bacteria can cause severe and sometimes fatal illnesses in young children, older adults, and others with weakened immune systems. The affected items may have been shipped to select stores in nine states, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. [Walmart lists the products on its website](#) as having been sold at select stores.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/walmart-green-beans-squash-recall-over-possible-listeria/>

Prognosis for Health Care IoT: Six Predictions For 2019

(Forbes) There will be an estimated [14.2 billion](#) connected devices in use this year, and roughly [161 million devices](#) will be cropping up in hospitals, clinics and medical offices by 2020. While security

issues with any connected device are concerning, they are particularly troubling for an industry that has such a direct impact on patient safety and lives. In fact, patient safety was the top medical device security concern in the [2018 HIMSS Cybersecurity Survey](#).

We've seen a number of attacks targeting health care, including the [Orangeworm](#) group, which installed backdoors in health care organizations around the world last year, and the [WannaCry and NotPetya](#) ransomware, which [shut down hospital computers](#) and diverted ambulances around the world.

The article includes six security predictions that the author predicts will impact health care environments and their connected devices. Read more: <https://news360.com/article/489381723>

Momo is a hoax, but the culture that made it seem feasible is truly scary

(NBC) Nasty YouTube videos aren't solely the work of child-hating malcontents. They're a result of capitalist contempt for the vulnerable.



Please note: Momo does not tell teenagers to kill themselves on YouTube (or on WhatsApp). Lots of bad things happen to kids, and some of them happen on the internet, but Momo is not one of them. The reports of a "Momo challenge," in which Momo — who, I want to stress, cannot talk and is not a computer-generated image but a static picture of a sculpture — "tells" young daredevils to do progressively more dangerous things, ending in an appeal to suicide, appear to be exclusively the product of adult minds that can't tell fact from fiction.

First, YouTube's product for children — in front of which tired parents plunk their kids in exactly the same way the last generation did with Nickelodeon — is a cesspool.

Secondly, adults and older kids who enjoy being cruel are not fictional.

Read the full story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/momo-challenge-hoax-online-culture-financial-rewards-made-it-seem-ncna978226>

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.