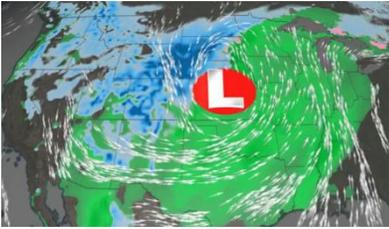




Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 13, 2019

Winds near hurricane strength are set to whip the central US White-outs, floods and tornadoes possible



(CNN) Spring may be just a week away, but Old Man Winter isn't going quietly. A "bomb cyclone," an intense and ferocious winter storm, will [strike the nation's midsection today](#). It'll bring blizzard conditions and the risk of flooding and hurricane-force winds to the Rockies, Upper Midwest and central-northern Plains. Some 70 million people are in this storm's path, including about 45 million facing a high wind threat and 15 million facing a flood threat.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/12/us/winter-storm-blizzard-snow-rain-wxc/index.html>

----- *What is in store for Kentucky?* -----

NWS Louisville: A strengthening storm system in the Plains will bring windy conditions to the area this afternoon. Areas west of Interstate 65 can expect wind gusts of 30 to 40 MPH this afternoon. Sporadic wind gusts over 40 MPH are possible tonight along with scattered thunderstorms.

Thursday through Tuesday, showers and storms are expected ahead of a strong cold front from a round early Thursday morning to another round in the afternoon and evening hours. If the atmosphere is able to destabilize some, a few strong to severe storms would be possible Thursday afternoon and evening. Additionally, heavy rainfall in spots could cause localized flooding concerns. Outside of strong storms, south and southwest winds could gust as high as 40 to 45 mph at times in the afternoon and evening. Winds of this magnitude could blow around small items, topple weakly rooted trees, and make travel difficult on east to west oriented roads.



NWS Paducah: Wind gusts of 40 to 45 mph are expected across southeast Missouri, southern Illinois, and *far western Kentucky* today. A chance of thunderstorms spreads into southeast Missouri late this afternoon, then across the entire region tonight. There is a slight risk of severe thunderstorms across far southern Missouri into the Purchase area of *western Kentucky*, with a marginal risk elsewhere. Should severe storms develop, damaging winds will be the greatest concern.

Thursday through Tuesday, very strong southwest winds will gust 40 to 50 mph on Thursday. Even higher gusts are possible, especially across portions of southeast Missouri and southern Illinois,

where a High Wind Watch or Warning may become necessary. In addition, the chance of thunderstorms continues into Thursday across most of the area. There is a slight risk of severe storms across southwest Indiana and much of *western Kentucky*, with a marginal risk generally east of the Mississippi River. Damaging winds and even tornadoes are possible on Thursday, especially in the slight risk area. Flooding will continue on several rivers and their tributaries.

----- **Kentucky mother continues to push for bike helmet bill**

(WKYT) A Kentucky teenager is doing things doctors never thought he would. TJ Floyd was severely injured in a bicycle accident almost nine years ago. His mom says these feats don't mean a fairytale ending and that's why, for years, she's been trying to change Kentucky law. TJ was just a kid when he and his brother were riding bikes. He went over the front handlebars of his bike. He was in a coma and had emergency open brain surgery. Doctors didn't know if TJ would survive his injuries. His mother wants Kentucky law to be a teaching tool to prevent another Kentucky kid from this kind of traumatic brain injury.

House Bill 280 would require children under the age of 12 to wear a helmet while riding their bicycle. This past week it passed the House. *[As of Tuesday afternoon, HB 280 had passed the House, was received in the Senate and sent to Health and Welfare. It was reported favorably out of the Senate H&W Committee, and has been placed on the Senate's regular calendar for a vote today.]*

See WKYT report and read more: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Kentucky-mother-continues-to-push-for-bike-helmet-bill-506963241.html>

KY LRC site for HB 290: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/19rs/hb280.html>

Deadly school attack in Brazil; two former students were the shooters

(BBC) Two gunmen have opened fire at a school in south-eastern Brazil, killing at least six students and two employees, officials say. The shooting happened at about 09:30 local time (12:30 GMT) when the students were on a break at the state school in Suzano, near São Paulo. The gunmen, who were wearing masks, killed themselves after the attack, police say. While gun crime is common in Brazil, shootings of this nature are not. The alleged attackers - who were said to be former students at the school aged between 20 and 25. Police say they found a revolver, a bow and arrow and items that appeared to be explosives. The school has some 1,000 primary and secondary students, aged between six and 18. Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-47558141>

Teen hookah users run risk of heart disease, poisoning

(Reuters Health) - A growing number of American teens and young adults are using hookah, or water pipes, and many of them may be under the mistaken impression that it's risk-free and non-addictive, U.S. heart doctors warn.

In a new policy statement, the American Heart Association warns that hookah use is gaining in popularity among young people, aided by the marketing of flavored tobacco as well as social media marketing targeted to teens and young adults. The trend is troubling because even though teens may perceive hookah as harmless, there's mounting evidence that it affects heart rate, blood pressure, and blood vessel function even with short-term use, the AHA notes.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-hookah/teen-hookah-users-run-risk-of-heart-disease-poisoning-idUSKBN1QT2YG>

Babies may get better hospital care when parents say thanks

(Reuters Health) - Critically ill infants may receive better care in the hospital when their parents take the time to thank doctors and nurses than when families don't express any gratitude, a small study suggests. It's also possible that expressions of gratitude might ignite regions of the brain associated with positive emotions and shift awareness in ways that facilitate better collaboration and relationships among members of medical teams.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-gratitude-icu/babies-may-get-better-hospital-care-when-parents-say-thanks-idUSKBN1QT2TV>

California man learns he's dying from doctor on robot video

(AP) — Ernest Quintana's family knew he was dying of chronic lung disease when he was taken by ambulance to a hospital, unable to breathe.

But they were devastated when a robot machine rolled into his room in the intensive care unit that night and a doctor told the 78-year-old patient by video call he would likely die within days.

Curious? <https://apnews.com/a13a6811157b412fb79909b36146d646>

Nursing student with cancer gets a surprise pinning ceremony at her bedside



(CNN) A Kentucky nursing student with cancer is not expected to live to see her graduation in May 2020. So her classmates [held a surprise pinning ceremony](#) for her at Ashland Community and Technical College.

Her classmates learned she was not expected to live to their graduation in May 2020. So, they decided to bring the honor to her bedside. A crowd of more than 100 people had a surprise pinning ceremony at Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital in Ashland on Wednesday. Nursing students traditionally receive a pin to wear on their uniforms when they graduate.

Full story w/more pix: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/08/us/nurse-gets-surprise-pinning-ceremony/index.html>

Critical condition: The crisis of rural medical care

(CBS) A whole cross-section of America is now facing the very real risk of having no local hospital to turn to. The causes are varied; the population in some of those towns has dwindled to a size that can't support a hospital anymore.

In others, the hospitals are either mismanaged or they end up as table scraps in mega-mergers. Medicaid expansion would have helped some stay open, Holmes says, but not all, and even so reimbursement rates are often too low for hospitals to break even. Whatever the cause, the impact on the community is almost always the same:

"The hospital closes, the emergency room dries up, all the other services that went with that – home health, pharmacy, hospice, EMS – they leave town as well, and now you're left with a medical desert," said Mark Holmes, a professor of health policy and management at the University of North Carolina, who has been studying the decline for more than a decade.

And last year, in response to the need for medical care, a massive free health clinic popped up at a fairgrounds in Gray, Tennessee, set up by a non-profit called Remote Area Medical – originally founded to serve third-world countries.



But Chris Hall, the charity's COO, says a rural hospital closure back in 1992 forced the organization to address the medical needs of the underserved here at home, too.

"Today alone, there's seven states' worth of patients that have come to this event," Hall said. "People have gotten in their car and driven 200 miles to get here today just to be able to get a service that they couldn't get in their local area, or [couldn't] afford in their local

area."

Patients came to a clinic set up in Tennessee last year by Remote Area Medical to obtain care they could not obtain or afford back home. CBS News

Some who lined up overnight in the cold did in fact have a hospital; they just didn't have the insurance to access it. But for others, like Leanna Steele, this is the closest thing they have to an emergency room. Her local hospital, which she used to go to when she got debilitating migraines, also closed.

Read and see lots more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/critical-condition-the-crisis-of-rural-medical-care/>

Struggling rural Missouri hospital booted from Medicare

CMS cited "serious deficiencies threatening patient health and safety."

(AP) — A rural Missouri hospital has been cut off from the federal Medicare program after the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services found serious deficiencies threatening patient health and safety. The 15-bed facility about 65 miles east of Kansas City closed and voluntarily suspended its license in February after state regulators found that it was "out of regulatory compliance."

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/3969a5c8c1dd44fcb46d3b2b6ab3b8ab>

Black Chicago Neighborhoods Farther From Trauma Care Than White Areas, Though New U. Of C. Trauma Center Helped

(Chicago Tribune) Chicagoans in mostly black neighborhoods are still more likely to live far from hospital trauma centers than those in white neighborhoods — though the gap has shrunk dramatically since University of Chicago Medicine opened its trauma center last year, according to a new study. Before the trauma center opened — after years of campaigning by activists — Chicagoans in mostly black neighborhoods were 8.5 times more likely than people in mostly white neighborhoods to live in “trauma deserts,” according to the study, published in the journal JAMA Network Open on Friday. (Schencker, 3/11)

Trust for America's Health Update on Funding & ASPR

This week, the [President's Budget Request for FY20](#) was released. Although we will have to wait until individual agency congressional justifications are released in the next week or so to see individual program levels, the [HHS Budget In Brief](#) provides some details. TFAH's released [this statement](#) on the budget request. Among the proposed funding levels for preparedness programs:

- \$620 million for the Strategic National Stockpile (ASPR, +\$10M over FY19)
- \$258 million for the Hospital Preparedness Program (ASPR, -\$7M)
- \$562 million for BARDA (ASPR, level funding)
- \$735 million for Project BioShield (ASPR, level funding)
- \$260 million for pandemic flu (level funding)
- \$825 million for CDC's Public Health Preparedness and Response (-\$30M), including \$675 million for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (level funding) (CDC)
- \$100 million for global health security (CDC, level funding)

Changes Coming to the Healthcare Preparedness Program

Attention healthcare coalitions: ASPR's Division of National Healthcare Preparedness Programs (NHPP) is working with [ASPR TRACIE](#) on the development of various templates and guidance documents to support the implementation of the *2017-2022 Health Care Preparedness and Response Capabilities* and FOA. In order to support the development of these resources, NHPP and TRACIE are actively seeking examples of plans and templates from Healthcare Coalitions (HCC) specific to the following areas for review:

- HCC (regional-level) pediatric response plans and/or templates
- HCC (regional-level) burn mass casualty response/ burn surge plans and/or templates
- HCC (regional-level) infectious disease response plans and/or templates
- HCC (regional-level) radiological, nuclear, and/or chemical incident response plans and/or templates
- HCC (regional-level) or facility based surge discharge plans and/or templates
- Other HCC plans, templates, guidance, and/or policies and protocols that you would like to share.

As you identify documents for review by the NHPP and ASPR TRACIE teams, please email them directly to askasprtracie@hhs.gov and copy your HPP Field Project Officer by March 29.

The latest issue of ASPR TRACIE *Exchange* focuses on [Supporting Hospital Surge--Meeting Patient and Staff Needs](#). Subscribe to this and other healthcare preparedness resources [here](#).

More than 2,000 people in ICE custody quarantined for contagious diseases

More than 2,000 people in Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody are being quarantined amid an outbreak of mumps and other diseases. The numbers of immigrants in custody with a contagious diseases has spiked in the past year. For the previous two years, the agency has not encountered a single case of mumps among its detainees.

In the past 12 months, there have been health investigations at 51 ICE detention facilities for mumps, chickenpox and influenza, according to an ICE spokesperson. There have been 236 reported cases of mumps, with another 16 suspected cases during this time period.

Last year, there were 423 people documented with influenza and 461 people with chickenpox in ICE custody, according to the agency. But from January 2016 to February 2018, there were zero notifications of mumps, and only 73 of chickenpox and 34 of influenza.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/11/politics/ice-custody-disease-quarantine-health/index.html>

**Reuters Exclusive: China's "Cloudhopper" campaign hacked HP & IBM
and then attacked clients**

Hackers working on behalf of China's Ministry of State Security breached the networks of Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co and IBM, then used the access to hack into their clients' computers, according to five sources familiar with the attacks.

The attacks were part of a Chinese campaign known as *Cloudhopper*, which the United States and Britain on Thursday said infected technology service providers in order to steal secrets from their clients. While cybersecurity firms and government agencies have issued multiple warnings about the *Cloudhopper* threat since 2017, they have not disclosed the identity of technology companies whose networks were compromised

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-cyber-hpe-ibm-exclusive/exclusive-china-hacked-hpe-ibm-and-then-attacked-clients-sources-idUSKCN1OJ2OY>

Medical IoT Devices with Outdated Operating Systems Exposed to Hacking

Medical IoT (IoMT) devices are left exposed to attacks because of outdated or legacy operating systems which, in many cases, are very easy to hack into and expose a trove of sensitive patient data, highly sought over on the black market.

In one instance, researchers from Check Point Research were able to find an ultrasound machine running a Windows 2000 OS which no longer receives security patches, leaving the machine vulnerable to a multitude of attacks. The researchers demonstrated that, after infiltrating the ultrasound device by exploiting one of the vulnerabilities that impacted it, potential attackers could download the patient records stored within, edit and replace data on the machine, as well as infect it with ransomware allowing them to request a ransom to be paid to restore the medical data.

Want to learn more? <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/medical-iot-devices-with-outdated-operating-systems-exposed-to-hacking/>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [March 12, 2019](#)

[Doctors Pray for Sick as Blackout Batters Venezuelan Hospitals](#) (*Reuters*) Maria Rodriguez's daughter has spent a month in Caracas's J.M. de los Rios children's hospital with hydrocephalus, a buildup of spinal fluid in the brain, but staff there have faced an uphill battle treating the girl because of a nationwide power outage. [Go to article](#)

[Should genetic test results be used to determine insurance coverage? Debate is on.](#) (*Miami Herald*) As interest in commercially available genetic testing kits continues to rise, Florida senators are considering a proposal that would ban genetic test results from being used to deny or limit someone's life, disability or long-term care insurance coverage. [Go to article](#)

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.