



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 22, 2019

Kentucky health officials aim to eliminate new HIV cases

(AP) — Health officials plan to announce a new, collaborative effort to eliminate new HIV infections in Kentucky. A statement from the Northern Kentucky Health Department says the University of Kentucky and the state Department for Public Health are set to announce details of the initiative on Wednesday at the Northern Kentucky Health Department in Florence. Along with eliminating HIV infections, the Kentucky Income Reinvestment Program's goals include expanding education and care for persons living the virus.

Story link: <https://apnews.com/a104bcafd0c24d8096715921a45ae5b6>

Kentucky governor says he exposed his children to chickenpox

[Read the full story](#)

[Anti-vaxxers trolled a Doctor's Office. Here's What Scientists Learned from the Attack.](#)

(*Washington Post*) Just before school started in the summer of 2017, Kids Plus Pediatrics of Pittsburgh posted a video on its Facebook page urging parents to vaccinate their children against human papillomavirus, or HPV, which can cause a variety of cancers. Three weeks later, communications director Chad Hermann noticed “something new happening” online. [Go to article](#)

CDC: One-third of uninsured skimped on prescriptions because of cost

(AHA Today - March 19) About 34 percent of uninsured U.S. adults did not take their medication as prescribed in 2017 in order to reduce their prescription drug costs, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [report](#) released today. According to the report, among U.S. adults aged 18-64 who were prescribed medication in the past 12 months, the percentage who did not take their medication as prescribed, asked their doctor for a lower-cost medication, or used alternative therapies to reduce prescription drug costs decreased from 2013 through 2015, and then remained relatively constant from 2015 through 2017. In 2017, strategies for reducing prescription drug costs were most commonly practiced among those who were uninsured, as 39.5 percent asked their doctor for a lower-cost medication and 13.9 percent used alternative therapies. Women were more likely than men to use these strategies, according to the report.

AHA has recommended a number of [policy solutions](#) to restrain drug prices, from addressing anticompetitive actions by brand-name drug manufacturers to speeding up generic drug approvals and passing the CREATES Act

[Report: UPS plans to test new service to deliver vaccines in patients' homes](#)

(Reuters) LOUISVILLE, Ky. - United Parcel Service wants to get beyond U.S. doorsteps with a new push into healthcare. [UPS is preparing to test a service in the U.S. later this year that would send nurses to vaccinate adults in their homes](#), Reuters reported on Thursday. While UPS didn't say which vaccine it would be using in the project, the news organization confirmed with pharma giant Merck that it is looking at participating in the initiative.

Here is how the test, slated to launch later this year, will operate: Workers in UPS' 1.7 million-square-foot healthcare complex at Worldport [inside Louisville International Airport] will package and ship the vaccine to one of the more 4,700 franchised U.S. UPS stores. A home health nurse contracted by UPS' clinical trial logistics unit known as Marken will collect the insulated package, transport it the “last mile” to the patient's home and administer the vaccine, which will target a viral illness in adults.

The aim of the test is to “see if we can connect all these dots,” said Wes Wheeler, chief executive at Marken, which was purchased by UPS in 2016 and is overseeing the vaccine project.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ups-healthcare-focus/ups-eyes-in-home-health-services-with-u-s-vaccine-project-idUSKCN1R30EC>

CMS State Operations Manual Changes in COP Rules for Preparedness

(ASHE) The American Society for Health Care Engineering (ASHE)/HFM newsletter contains information about changes in the Appendix Z of the CMS State Operations Manual regarding the emergency preparedness conditions of participation.

See: <https://www.hfmmagazine.com/articles/3563-cms-updates-its-emergency-preparedness-rule>

Below is a brief summary from their review:

- Added Emerging Infectious Diseases to the All-Hazards Approach.
 - Provided additional clarification on safe temperatures (HVAC) in areas deemed necessary to protect patients
 - Note LTC certified after Oct 1, 1990 have additional requirements.
 - Provides elaboration on use of portable generators.
 - Note portable generator requirements per NEC (2011) and E-Tag 0015 (see attached ASHE E-Tag Crosswalk for additional info).
 - Note additional requirements for LTC, CAHs and Hospitals per CMS E-Tag E0041 (see attached ASHE E-Tag Crosswalk for additional info)
 - Clarification on emergency preparedness training for contract-based employees.
- Inclusion of statement allowing facilities that activate their emergency plan twice in one year to exempt out of both annual exercise requirements.
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People live far shorter lives in some Kentucky counties.

See how your county ranks

<https://www.kentucky.com/news/state/kentucky/article228075619.html>

ASPR Blog: Preparing for a Potential Domestic Ebola Outbreak

This post from the ASPR blog is the latest in the series on [battling the Ebola epidemic](#) from Dr. Robert Kadlec. An excerpt is included below:

An Ebola outbreak that began more than seven months ago continues to claim lives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Although international response efforts are underway to contain the outbreak at its source and prevent the spread of the disease to other countries, we must always be prepared for the possibility of an Ebola case in the United States.

To read the rest of the post, please [visit the ASPR blog](#).

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines

Extracts from [March 20](#), [March 21](#), and [March 22, 2019](#)

[Spike in Ebola Cases Continues in DRC](#) (CIDRAP) According to the World Health Organization's Ebola dashboard, officials today recorded 12 new Ebola cases in the ongoing outbreak in North Kivu and Ituri provinces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The cases bring the outbreak's total to 980 cases, including 606 deaths. [Go to article](#)

[What Needs to Be Done to End Congo's Ebola Crisis](#) (npr) Now there's growing concern that the very steps the government and the World Health Organization are taking to curb the rising violence from organized groups — for instance, bringing in military, police and U.N. peacekeepers to provide protection — could sow further mistrust and fuel additional resistance from ordinary people. [Go to article](#)

[Intradermal Syncon® Ebola GP DNA Vaccine Is Temperature Stable and Safely Demonstrates Cellular and Humoral Immunogenicity Advantages in Healthy Volunteers](#) (Journal of Infectious Diseases) Non-live vaccine approaches that are simple to deliver and stable at room temperature or 2-8°C could be advantageous in controlling future Ebola virus (EBOV) outbreaks. Using an immunopotent DNA vaccine that generates protection from lethal EBOV challenge in small animals and NHPs, we performed a clinical study to evaluate both intramuscular (IM) and novel intradermal (ID) DNA delivery. [Go to article](#)

[New Index Offers Tool to Monitor Global Disease Outlook](#) (Homeland Security News) A new global index offers an original way to monitor national-level preparedness for infectious disease, providing a holistic view of a country's capacity to mitigate the spread of illness and pandemics. [Go to article](#)

[Reworked Nasal Flu Vaccine Looks Good for Kids, Pediatricians' Group Says](#) (*US News & World Report*) Good news for kids: Next flu season, you can avoid a painful needle jab and get the nasal vaccine spray instead, according to a leading US pediatricians' group. [Go to article](#)

[Victims of Chemical Terrorism, a Family of Four Who Were Exposed to Sulfur Mustard](#). (*Toxicol Lett*) Sulfur mustard was responsible for more than 80% of all documented chemical casualties during the Great War. Recent literature on clinic picture of SM exposure remained so limited with the sporadic cases who were accidentally exposed to SM especially either in Western Europe or China. We reported a Syrian family of four who became victims of chemical terrorism due to SM exposure and we described the detailed clinical course of the family including the medical history, initial symptomatology, clinical examination, hematological data, and initial treatment in the first 48 hours after exposure at Kilis State Hospital, Turkey. [Go to article](#)

[How Deadly Pathogens Have Escaped the Lab — over and over Again](#) (*Vox*) In 1977, the last case of smallpox was diagnosed in the wild. The victim was Ali Maow Maalin of Somalia. The World Health Organization tracked down every person he'd been in face-to-face contact with to vaccinate everyone at risk and find anyone who might have caught the virus already. Thankfully, they found no one had. Maalin recovered, and smallpox appeared to be over forever. That moment came at the end of a decades-long campaign to eradicate smallpox — a deadly infectious disease that killed about 30 percent of those who contracted it — from the face of the earth. Around 500 million people died of smallpox in the century before it was annihilated. But in 1978, the disease cropped back up — in Birmingham, in the United Kingdom. Janet Parker was a photographer at Birmingham Medical School. When she developed a horrifying rash, doctors initially brushed it off as chicken pox. After all, everyone knew that smallpox had been chased out of the world — right? [Go to article](#)

TB in US at all-time low, but global decline small

(CIDRAP) The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new numbers today about tuberculosis (TB) in the United States in advance of World TB Day, which takes place on Mar 24, noting that cases have reached an all-time low.

In 2018 the CDC noted a total of 9,029 new TB cases in the United States, representing a 0.7% decrease from 2017. The incidence in 2018 was 2.8 per 100,000 persons, which is the lowest number recorded since the CDC began tracking TB in 1953. As has been the case for more than 20 years, California, Florida, New York, and Texas reported half of all TB cases in 2018. The findings were published today in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*.

Full story: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2019/03/tb-us-all-time-low-global-decline-small>

March 24 is World TB Day!

More information about TB as well as Kentucky's efforts to track and prevent the spread of the disease can be found at <http://www.chfs.ky.gov/dph/epi/tb.htm>.

Sepsis treatment costs shoot up \$1.5 billion for hospitals over three years

(Modern Healthcare) Fewer patients are developing sepsis during their hospital stay, but those who do get the condition are 20% more costly to treat compared with three years ago. The cost of treating patients who develop sepsis in the hospital rose by 20% in just three years, with hospitals spending \$1.5 billion more last year than in 2015, according to a new analysis.

The report, published Thursday by Premier, found that although the number of patients who developed sepsis during their hospital stay declined by 15% from 2015 to 2018, those patients were more likely to get septic shock—the most severe form of sepsis—and therefore cost more to treat.

Read More : <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/safety-quality/sepsis-treatment-costs-shoot-up-15-billion-hospitals-over-three-years>

Roundup weed killer major factor in man's cancer

(AP) - A jury in federal court in San Francisco has concluded that Roundup weed killer was a substantial factor in a California man's cancer.

The unanimous verdict on Tuesday came in a trial that plaintiffs' attorneys said could help determine the fate of hundreds of similar lawsuits against Roundup's manufacturer, agribusiness giant Monsanto. It was the second jury verdict to find that Roundup caused non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Learn more: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Jury-Roundup-weed-killer-major-factor-in-mans-cancer-507374451.html>

Poll: More and More, Everybody Wants to Get (Legally) Stoned

Growing majority across all age groups now favor legal marijuana

Read more: <http://www.newser.com/story/272811/poll-support-for-legalizing-pot-is-up-in-all-age-groups.html>

Daily Marijuana Use and Highly Potent Weed Linked To Psychosis

(NPR) Weed use is taking off as more states move to legalize it. And with all the buzz over medical marijuana, it's starting to gain an aura of healthfulness. But there are some serious health risks associated with frequent use. One of the more troubling ones is the risk of having a psychotic episode.

- *The study found that those who used pot daily were three times more likely to have a psychotic episode compared with someone who never used the drug.*
- *Those who started using cannabis at 15 or younger had a slightly more elevated risk than those who started using in later years.*

Several past studies have found that more frequent use of pot is associated with a higher risk of psychosis — that is, when someone loses touch with reality. Now a new study [published Tuesday](#) in the *The Lancet Psychiatry* shows that consuming pot on a daily basis and especially using high-potency cannabis increases the odds of having a psychotic episode later.

Read more:- <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/03/19/704948217/daily-marijuana-use-and-highly-potent-weed-linked-to-psychosis>

CDC Clinician Call

Guidance on Treating Severe Malaria in US

Thursday, March 28, 2-3 PM ET

View details: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCDC/bulletins/2384c6d>

Aspiring Doctors Seek Advanced Training In Addiction Medicine

(NPR) The U.S. surgeon general's office [estimates that more than 20 million](#) people have a substance-use disorder. Meanwhile, the nation's drug overdose crisis shows no sign of slowing.

Yet, by all accounts, there aren't nearly enough physicians who specialize in treating addiction — doctors with extensive clinical training who are board certified in addiction medicine.

The opioid epidemic has made this doctor deficit painfully apparent. And it's spurring medical institutions across the United States to create fellowships for aspiring doctors who want to treat substance-use disorders with the same precision and science as other diseases.

[For One Rural Community, Fighting Addiction Started With Recruiting The Right Doctor](#)

Now numbering more than 60, these fellowship programs offer physicians a year or two of postgraduate training in clinics and hospitals where they learn evidence-based approaches for treating addiction.

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/695690652>

GAO: Emergency air transport firms hiked prices 60% while adding bases

(Modern Healthcare) A new government watchdog report notes that air ambulance transport companies—a market increasingly backed by private equity—continued to add bases even as they raised their charges for transporting patients about 60% within five years. [Read More](#)

GAO Report Link: <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-19-292>

White Nationalist Groups Increase Recruiting and Propaganda Across The West

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/704586335>

Civil Rights and Faith Leaders to FBI: Take White Nationalist Violence Seriously

(NPR) A group of civil rights and faith leaders are demanding a meeting with FBI Director Christopher Wray in the wake of the [New Zealand terror attacks that killed at least 50 people](#) as they prayed in mosques. The killer was a white nationalist who named President Trump as an inspiration in his online racist screed.

The groups want the FBI to address "the threat to public safety" and to their communities "by white nationalist violence." Read more: <https://www.npr.org/705123229>

White Nationalist Groups Increase Recruiting and Propaganda Across The West

(NPR) Authorities are looking into whether the suspect in last week's terror attack on two mosques in New Zealand was inspired by an emerging, European-based breed of white nationalism. The identitarian movement, formed in France in 2016, broadly believes that white people in Europe and North America are being displaced by non-European immigrants.

Over the past few months, groups affiliated with similar ideas have protested and put up posters across college campuses in California, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado and Montana. Their members are mostly anonymous, and they espouse racism and hate online.

Full story: <https://www.npr.org/2019/03/19/704586335/white-nationalist-groups-increase-recruiting-and-propaganda-across-the-west>

Half Hour Passed Before NZ Shooter's Livestream Was Flagged

(Newser) – Few people watched the live broadcast of helmet cam footage showing the Friday shooting at one of two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, according to Facebook. The 17-minute livestream had fewer than 200 views at its end, and no one reported it during that time. Facebook says the first user report came in 12 minutes later, by which time the stream had about 4,000 views. But though it was deleted by Facebook within minutes, copies quickly spread, reports [USA Today](#). Within 24 hours, Facebook had removed 300,000 videos and blocked another 1.2 million at upload. YouTube was in a similar boat. A team of "incident commanders" worked through Friday night removing tens of thousands of videos with original shooting footage as they were uploaded sometimes as quickly as "one per second," reports the [Washington Post](#).

Read more: <http://www.newser.com/story/272782/half-hour-passed-before-shooters-livestream-was-flagged.html>

IKMA Quarterly Chapter Meeting - 03/28/2019

The next quarterly Indiana-Kentucky InfraGard chapter meeting is scheduled for 3/28/2018 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at YUM Brands/KFC Corporation, 1900 Colonel Sanders Lane, Louisville, Kentucky 40213. ALL attendees, to include speakers, board members, members, and guests should register since the venue capacity is 60 (so first come, first serve). Follow-up information will go out to registered attendees.

Click to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ikma-chapter-meeting-03282019-registration-59237744689>

About InfraGard: *This is a partnership between the FBI and members of the private sector. The InfraGard program provides a vehicle for seamless public-private collaboration with government that expedites the timely exchange of information and promotes mutual learning opportunities relevant to the protection of Critical Infrastructure. With thousands of vetted members nationally, InfraGard's membership includes business executives, entrepreneurs, military and government officials, computer professionals, academia and state and local law enforcement; each dedicated to contributing industry specific insight and advancing national security.*

InfraGard Brochure: https://www.infragard.org/Files/InfraGard_Brochure_10-11-2018.pdf

Flooding continues to imperil Midwestern states

(Mercury News) KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Frigid Missouri River floodwaters were expected to crest in northwestern Missouri on Friday, threatening more towns and cities after causing death and ruins and drowning livestock across the U.S. Midwest's farmland. Police issued voluntary evacuation orders in the small riverfront city of St. Joseph, Missouri, where on Friday North America's longest river was at 32.02 feet (9.76 meters), less than an inch below its record level.

Officials said they expect levees to contain the debris-laden floodwaters as they head toward Kansas City, Missouri, about 55 miles south of St. Joseph, and then other population centers in Kansas and Missouri downstream. If the temperature rises a few degrees, melting more ice and snow, that could quickly push the estimated river crest higher, said David Roth of the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland. The river could top levees or breach weak spots, he said.

Missouri River flooding was triggered by last week's "bomb cyclone" storm, which has already killed at least four people in Nebraska and Iowa, left a man missing below Nebraska's collapsed Spencer Dam and inflicted damage estimated at nearly \$1.5 billion in Nebraska.

"This is shaping up to be a potentially unprecedented flood season, with more than 200 million people at risk," Ed Clark, director of NOAA's National Water Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, said in the agency's spring outlook.

Learn more: <https://www.mercurynews.com/2019/03/22/flooding-continues-to-imperil-midwestern-states/>

Returning Home After a Flood



([CDC EPIC Insider: Flood](#)) When local authorities tell you it is safe to return home, follow these steps:

- Stay away from any damaged buildings or structures until a building inspector or other government authority has had a chance to examine them and certify that they are safe.
- [Protect yourself and others from any electrical hazards.](#)
- Protect your skin, eyes, mouth, and nose by wearing [personal protective equipment](#).
- [Clean up and dry your home](#) quickly after a flood to avoid mold growth.
- [Throw away food that may have come in contact with floodwater.](#)
- [Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.](#) Use generators outside and at least 20 feet from any doors, windows, or vents.
- For more safety messages, visit [CDC's Preparedness and Safety Messaging for Hurricanes, Flooding, and Similar Disasters.](#)

The KHEREF 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 KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.