



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

*'It scared the hell out of people'*

### Looking back at Three Mile Island 40 years ago tomorrow

(USA Today) The day was [March 28, 1979](#), a date etched in the memories of those who lived through what would transpire in the following days, weeks and years, [the date of the worst accident in the history of nuclear power in the United States.](#)



The short version of events that resulted in the partial meltdown of a reactor is that mechanical malfunctions, coupled with human error, led to the reactor being starved of coolant, causing the radioactive fuel in the reactor to begin melting.

The fear was that once the fuel began melting, nothing could contain it, and it would melt through the steel vessel housing the reactor and not stop until it hit the groundwater table, causing an explosion of radioactive steam. This was the so-called China Syndrome, a fanciful way of saying that the molten material would pass through the earth all the way to China.

Coincidentally, just 12 days before, a movie thriller titled ["The China Syndrome,"](#) featuring a fictitious accident at a California nuclear power plant, was released. At

one point in the film, a character intones that a meltdown could "render an area the size of Pennsylvania uninhabitable."

Learn more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/03/23/three-mile-island-nuclear-power-plant-accident-partial-meltdown/3259204002/> [*Related article on Preparedness for Nuclear Incident below.*]

### New York County Bans Unvaccinated Kids From Public Places

(Newser) – Measles cases [are spiking in the US](#), and one area is taking a big stand: New York's Rockland County has declared a state of emergency over an outbreak that has seen 153 cases since October, and is banning unvaccinated minors from public places. Anyone under 18 who has not received the measles vaccine is barred from public spaces unless they possess a medical exemption, the [Journal News](#) reports. Per [ABC 7](#), public places are defined in the ban as places where more than 10 people are intended to congregate; recreation and shopping areas, as well as restaurants, schools, daycares, and places of worship, are included, as are public transportation vehicles.

Read more: <http://www.newser.com/story/273092/new-york-county-bans-unvaccinated-kids-from-public-places.html>

### The measles virus was down and out. Now it's primed for a comeback

(STAT) Back near the start of this century, before the full damage of Andrew Wakefield's debunked study linking measles vaccine and autism became clear and social networking sites turbo-charged the disruptive power of vaccine opponents, some experts believed the world was ready to rid itself of measles once and for all.

These days, with massive outbreaks in the Philippines and Ukraine, more than 80,000 cases in the past year in Europe, and ongoing epidemics in New York, Washington, Texas, Illinois, and California, measles does not feel like an endangered virus. In fact, projections about the future of measles are much more somber now than they were in the early aughts. More measles, not less, appear to be on the horizon, at least in the near term, experts glumly admit.

Read more: <https://www.statnews.com/2019/03/26/measles-virus-comeback-outbreaks/>

### One Kentucky health department warns public about increasing number of syphilis cases

(Herald-Leader) With cases of syphilis on the rise across the country, one Kentucky county is warning the public. The Montgomery County Health Department said it has seen an increase in syphilis cases in recent months.

Learn more: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/state/kentucky/article228312149.html>

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### **Marijuana ER visits climb in Denver hospital study**

(Modern Healthcare) Five years after Colorado first legalized marijuana, a new study shows pot's bad effects are sending more people to the emergency room. Inhaled marijuana caused the most severe problems at one large Denver area hospital. Marijuana-infused foods and candies, called edibles, also led to trouble. Patients came to the ER with symptoms such as repeated vomiting, racing hearts and psychotic episodes.

The study, published Monday in Annals of Internal Medicine, stemmed from tales of tourists needing emergency care after gobbling too many marijuana gummies.

Read More: <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/safety-quality/marijuana-er-visits-climb-denver-hospital-study>

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### **Ford Explorer Owners Say Their SUVs Are Making Them Sick**

(Bloomberg) More than 3,000 Ford Explorer owners have complained to Ford or federal regulators that they suspect exhaust fumes have seeped into their sport-utility vehicles' cabins. Many fear carbon monoxide gas may have made them ill, and dozens of drivers have complained to regulators that the company's recommended fix wasn't effective. Explorer owners have filed more than 50 legal claims nationwide against Ford. And some police departments in the U.S. said in 2017 that Explorers used as cruisers were exposing officers to carbon monoxide. The complaints, which cover vehicles built between 2010 and 2018, carry high stakes for the second-largest U.S. automaker.

The leaks were mostly found in the exhaust manifold and the catalytic converter, which in the Explorer are welded together to form a single part. Problems identified in the records included porous welds, cracks and poor fits with other components that allowed exhaust to escape before exiting the tailpipe. The reports indicate that installing new parts resolved owners' complaints.

Full detailed story: <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2019-ford-explorer-owners-say-suvs-making-them-sick/>

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### **12-Year-Old Boy in Coma After Being Attacked on Bike by Pack of Dogs**

(People) A 12-year-old Mississippi boy is in a coma after he was attacked by a pack of dogs while riding his bike on Friday. The dogs ran out from a yard and dragged him off his bike and into the ditch, biting his arms and legs. Three passersby first saw the boy's abandoned bike and soon spotted him being attacked. They fought off the dogs with hammers and sticks. He was airlifted to the University of Mississippi Medical Center and underwent surgery on Sunday before being placed in a medically induced coma on Monday.

Read more: <https://people.com/human-interest/aden-green-coma-attacked-dogs-mississippi/>

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### **Firearm deaths of US school-age children at 'epidemic' levels, study says**

(USA Today) Calling it an "epidemic," scientists announced an alarming increase in the number of firearm deaths of school-age children in the USA: 38,942 in those 5 to 18 years old from 1999 to 2017, according to a study released last Thursday.

Read more: <https://news360.com/article/491329266>

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### **HHS Provides Additional Funding To Expand Addiction Treatment**

(WFPL) The Ohio Valley has received nearly \$60 million in additional federal funds to help combat the opioid epidemic. Kentucky received \$16,431,436, Ohio \$29,122,692 and West Virginia \$14,630,361. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the funds as a supplement to the first-year State Opioid Response, or SOR, grant awards. Nationally, the agency disbursed \$487 million as part of the supplement.

"This funding will expand access to treatment that works, especially to [medication-assisted treatment](#) with appropriate social supports," according to [an HHS press release](#).

Read more: <https://wfpl.org/hhs-provides-additional-funding-to-expand-addiction-treatment/>

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**Related: Hundreds of cities, counties and Native American tribes file federal lawsuit against Sackler family over opioid crisis**

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/24/health/sackler-lawsuit/index.html>

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## Experts warn Midwest flood risk may persist for months

(ABC) Flooding concerns are starting to ease in hard-hit places along the Missouri River, but experts warn that with plenty of snow still left to melt to the north, the threat could persist for months.

Learn more: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/experts-warn-midwest-flood-risk-persist-months-61892826>

## Baby cough syrup recalled for infant vomiting, diarrhea risk

*DG/health Naturals baby Cough Syrup + Mucus may have a bacteria that, in rare cases, could be deadly.*

Read more: <https://www.whas11.com/mobile/article/news/nation-world/baby-cough-syrup-recalled-for-infant-vomiting-diarrhea-risk/507-f12b8a81-96f2-4fba-be99-60a7e5b2c5fe>

## Exploring Medical and Public Health Preparedness for a Nuclear Incident: Proceedings of a Workshop

(March 26) The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies hosted a two-day public workshop on August 22-23, 2018 called *Exploring Medical and Public Health Preparedness for a Nuclear Incident*. Through the workshop, participants from government, NGO and private sector organizations explored current assumptions behind and the status of medical and public health preparedness for a nuclear incident, examined potential changes in assumptions and approach, and discussed challenges and opportunities for capacity building in the current threat environment. Particular topics of interest included the implications of potential communication, education, and information challenges posed by a nuclear incident, and opportunities to address them; workforce issues, including willingness and ability to respond; and health concerns, including assessment, short-term treatment, and long-term recovery and surveillance among survivors.

Download the Publication: [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=25372](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=25372)

Read the publication on-line for free: [http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?record\\_id=25372](http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=25372)

Source: <http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/reports/2019/exploring-medical-public-health-preparedness-nuclear-incident-proceedings.aspx>

## Tax sugary drinks, urge pediatricians and Heart Association

(CBS) American children consume what amounts to a bathtub full of sugary beverages a year -- more than 30 gallons of sports drinks, soda and fruit juice. The imagery comes from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Heart Association, which on Monday called for taxes and limits on marketing to children to curtail drinking sugar.

- *Teens who get more than 10 percent of their daily calories from added sugars are more likely to have abnormal cholesterol levels, including higher "bad" LDL cholesterol, higher triglycerides and lower heart-protective HDL cholesterol.*
- *Children and teens now consume 17 percent of their calories from added sugars, nearly half of which comes from drinks alone.*
- *Recent [research](#) in the journal Science found sugary beverages with high-fructose corn syrup fed colon tumors in mice.*

CBS story link: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/tax-sugary-drinks-urge-pediatricians-and-heart-association/>

AAP & AHA on Policy proposals: <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2019/03/21/peds.2019-0282>

AHA Statement: <https://newsroom.heart.org/news/american-academy-of-pediatrics-and-american-heart-association-endorse-suite-of-policies-to-reduce-kids-consumption-of-sugary-drinks>

## Centene to purchase WellCare for \$17B, creating massive ACA insurer

(Modern Healthcare) Centene Corp. on Wednesday said it will buy Affordable Care Act exchange rival WellCare Health Plans in an estimated \$17.3 billion deal, even as the Trump administration looks to abolish the landmark healthcare law. All in all, the two insurers would cover 22 million people in Medicare, Medicaid and the ACA exchanges. Centene CEO Michael Neidorff will serve as chairman and CEO of the merged company.

Read More: <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/finance/centene-purchase-wellcare-17b-creating-massive-aca-insurer>

**CDC Clinicians Call:  
"Using Intravenous Artesunate for Treating Severe Malaria"**

Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019

Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm (ET)

A few minutes before the webinar begins, please click the link below to join: <https://zoom.us/j/275324866>

Or iPhone one-tap: US: +16468769923,,275324866# or +16699006833,,275324866#

Or Telephone: US: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: **275 324 866**

International numbers available here: <https://zoom.us/u/anixAVgIV>

The recordings (audio, slides, and transcript) for this call will be posted on the [webpage](#) soon after the COCA Call.

Free [Continuing Education \(CE\)](#) is available for most COCA Calls. Please see below for instructions on how to receive CE.

View the full announcement: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCDC/bulletins/239d606>

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**FEMA Emergency Management Institute  
Training Opportunities**

The programs highlighted below are related to FEMA's HAZUS mapping tool. For those who don't know about it, HAZUS is a Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping program. HAZUS is used to support risk-informed decision making efforts by estimating potential losses from earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, and tsunamis and visualizing the effects of such hazards.

Here is a link to the FEMA HAZUS site: <https://www.fema.gov/hazus>

Read about the courses below: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSFEMA/bulletins/239892e>

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*Planning Resource for Shaken Fury or EarthEx 2019 Exercises*

**Resilient Hospitals Handbook:  
Strengthening Healthcare and Public Health Resilience  
in Advance of a Prolonged and Widespread Power Outage**

*Author:* Manto, C., Motzer, E., and Terbush, J.

Date Published: 2017

*ASPR TRACIE Annotation:* This handbook can help healthcare facility managers and planners increase resilience, plan for extended power outages, and create and store enough power on-site to operate in "island mode" for a prolonged period of time without outside sources of power or fuel. [\[Read More\]](#)

*URL:* [https://www.empcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CF\\_Resilient\\_Hospitals\\_Handbook\\_edits-cm\\_Version3b2.pdf](https://www.empcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CF_Resilient_Hospitals_Handbook_edits-cm_Version3b2.pdf)

*ID:* 5609 *Topic Collection:* [Utility Failures](#)

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**Facebook Succeeded In Killing Cybersecurity Like It Did Privacy**

(Forbes) One of Facebook's most notable successes over the past decade and a half is the way in which it has so completely upended how we see privacy, teaching an entire planet that privacy is an outdated concept of no relevance to our modern age. Today a quarter of the earth's population hands their most intimate details over in realtime to a private company to commercialize. Most importantly, those two billion users no longer care when that company shares their data with myriad companies all over the world to misuse or when it loses their data through breach after breach after breach after breach. It seems that like privacy, Facebook has taught the world to no longer care about cybersecurity.

As Facebook acknowledged its latest security breach this week, this time affecting up to a quarter of its users and stretching back for half of the company's existence.

Read more: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kalevleetaru/2019/03/23/facebook-succeeded-in-killing-cybersecurity-like-it-did-privacy/#69c5b0f34549>

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](mailto: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.