



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for March 28, 2019

President orders steps to protect against electromagnetic pulses

(AHA Today) President Trump this week signed an [executive order](#) to federal agencies on coordinating national resilience to electromagnetic pulses, which can disrupt, degrade and damage technology and critical infrastructure systems. Among other actions, the order calls for federal agencies to work with private sector partners to protect the nation's critical infrastructure, which includes hospitals and health systems. In 2017, the Department of Health and Human Services' Technical Resources Assistance Center & Information Exchange published a [guide](#) to help hospitals maintain resilience through a prolonged and widespread power outage caused by an attack on the power grid, extreme space weather, electromagnetic pulse or other event.

CDC HAN 419: Influenza Season Continues with an Increase in Influenza A (H3N2) Activity

Summary The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this health advisory to notify clinicians that influenza activity remains high in the United States, with an increasing proportion of activity due to influenza A(H3N2) viruses, continued circulation of influenza A(H1N1) viruses, and low levels of influenza B viruses. Influenza should be considered as a possible diagnosis for patients with respiratory illness while local influenza activity remains elevated. Because influenza A(H3N2) viruses may be associated with severe disease in older adults, this health advisory serves as a reminder that early empiric treatment with influenza antiviral medications is recommended for hospitalized and high-risk patients, especially those 65 years and older. Antiviral treatment should be started as soon as possible after illness onset and should not wait for laboratory confirmation.

READ FULL CDC HAN 419: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00419.asp>

CDC urges providers to vaccinate at-risk patients for hepatitis A

(AHA Today) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this week [reported](#) more than 15,000 U.S. cases of hepatitis A since 2016, including 8,500 hospitalizations and 140 deaths. "For many states, this has resulted in an unprecedented number of hepatitis A cases among unvaccinated adults since hepatitis A vaccine became available in 1996, and has led to prolonged community outbreaks that have been challenging and costly to control," CDC said. The agency recommends that health care facilities screen patients for risk factors such as drug use and homelessness, vaccinate at-risk patients, and quickly report all cases to their public health department.

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [March 28, 2019](#)

[What Makes a Catastrophic Flood? And Is Climate Change Causing More of Them?](#) (*New York Times*) Each flood is its own phenomenon, tied to the specific circumstances in the area. "Flooding is complex," Deke Arndt, a climate scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said Thursday in a briefing on the potentially dire flood season. "It has to do with precipitation falling to the ground," Mr. Arndt said, "but also with the way that water is managed and the surface hydrology — how it flows across the land and is collected and runs off." [Go to article](#)

[US Air Force: We Need \\$5 Billion to Fix Weather-Damaged Bases](#) (*One Defense*) The US Air Force says it needs nearly \$5 billion over the next three years to rebuild bases in Florida and Nebraska severely damaged by weather in the past six months. If it does not receive \$1.2 billion of those funds by June for repairs at Tyndall Air Force Base and Offutt Air Force Base, service officials warned they would be forced to cut projects at bases in 18 states (here's the list) and cancel 18,000 pilot training hours. [Go to article](#)

[Britain's Spy Agency Delivers a Scathing Assessment of the Security Risks Posed by Huawei to the Country's Telecom Networks](#) (*Washington Post*) The British government on Thursday released a scathing assessment of the security risks posed by the Chinese telecom company Huawei to Britain's telecom networks, as London weighs whether to heed US calls to bar the firm from the

next-generation 5G network over fears it will enable spying by the Chinese government and potential cyberattacks. This is the second consecutive year the Government Communications Headquarters, or GCHQ — the British spy agency equivalent to the US National Security Agency — has identified serious problems. [Go to article](#)

3M shares "A Partner in Preparedness: Guide"

3M has created a document with a variety of topics including things like "Management of Patients with Confirmed Infection or Persons Under Investigation (PUI)", and "Management of Hazardous Drug Handling Concerns in Healthcare". There is a discussion about compliance with the new CMS rules "Patient Decontamination/First Receiver Programs", and guidance on selecting a mask, regular respirator or Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR). *[Thanks to Gina Porter, HPP Region 10/11 Coordinator, for sharing this information.]*

Link for the 3M Handbook: <https://engage.3m.com/emergencyhandbook>

Information on general emergency preparedness site: https://www.3m.com/3M/en_US/worker-health-safety-us/solutions/industrial-safety-products/emergency-preparedness-ppe/

Shelf life (Two articles):

- <https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/10158530/faq-3m-filtering-facepiece-disposable-respirator-storage-conditions-and-shelf-life.pdf>
- <https://workersafety.3m.com/why-do-disposable-respirators-have-a-defined-shelf-life/>

<p>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.</p>
