'I want to save this man's life.'
Lexington student working at Taco Bell gave customer CPR

(Herald-Leader) Tates Creek High School senior Barack Aziz was at his part-time job at a Lexington Taco Bell when he saw a customer lying in the grass unresponsive and turning blue, he would later tell firefighters. Barack handed his eyeglasses to a co-worker, knelt and began cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Barack said he performed CPR "for about 2½ minutes, but it felt like a long time." He said his arms were cramping, but "my whole mind was like, 'I want to save this man's life.'" Lexington Fire Major Jordan Saas told the Herald-Leader Wednesday Barack —who had received CPR training from the fire department at his school's medical academy about a month before.

Read more here: https://www.kentucky.com/news/local/education/article228487574.html

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Six hospitalized following Kentucky E. Coli outbreak.
Is fast food the culprit?

(Herald-Leader) Fast food may be a cause for a recent "sharp increase" in E. Coli infections in children, teens and some adults in Kentucky, according to the state public health department.

From March 5 to March 25, twenty Kentuckians have tested positive for a strain of E. Coli and six people have been hospitalized, according to the health department. Ages of those hospitalized were not released. No deaths have been linked to the outbreak, but E. coli can cause life-threatening complications.

Read more: https://www.kentucky.com/news/state/kentucky/article228579304.html

Additional from KY Public Health

The Kentucky Department for Public Health is investigating an outbreak of shiga-toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) O103. The number of cases being identified statewide is growing rapidly.

To assist in the timely identification and management of potential cases, they wanted to send several resources for professionals to use. Please see documents below and helpful links:

1.   Lab result flowchart: **Key Take-aways:**

a.   For any preliminary positive ***shiga-toxin producing E. coli (STEC)*** result, report to DPH, investigate (see #2 below), and obtain and ship specimens to DLS immediately. *We do not need this level of response for other non-STEC E. coli-positive results*.

b.   Shigella-positive lab results are not STEC and should be reported and tested as Shigella. This includes Shigella/Enteroinvasive E. coli (EIEC), which is NOT STEC.

2.   National Hypothesis Generating Questionnaire (NHGQ) – For counties collecting patient-level data, please use this questionnaire now for all STEC interviews.
https://cifor.us/downloads/clearinghouse/NHGQ_v2_OMB0920_0997.pdf

Helpful links:
a.   https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/ecoli-prevention.html
b.   https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/stec.aspx
c.   https://www.cdc.gov/features/ecoliinfection/index.html
d.   ***CDC E Coli Fact Sheet***: https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/pdfs/cdc-e.-coli-factsheet.pdf

Address questions to the KY Epidemiology On-Call number: 888-9-REPORT (888-973-7678).

UPS launches drone service to deliver medical samples in North Carolina

(WDRB) -- UPS has a new way of delivering medical samples to people who need it. According to a news release, the logistics giant will begin using drones to transport medical samples in Releigh, North Carolina. The company says the partnership with Matternet, an automated drone technology company, has been approved by the FAA. UPS is calling it, the "first FAA sanctioned use of a drone for routine revenue flights involving the transport of a product under a contractual delivery agreement."

Full story: https://www.wdrb.com/news/images-ups-launches-drone-service-to-deliver-medical-samples-in/article_730f72ce-4ff2-11e9-9631-83ffee3ce287.html

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KY Summit looks at Pharmacist-Approach to Treating Opioid Addiction

(WKYT) Health care providers from across the state gathered in Lexington Saturday for the first ever Kentucky Opioid Summit. The purpose of the event was to show pharmacists and other medical prescribers how they can better treat addiction. Those who attended the event at the Four Points Sheraton in Lexington learned about various drugs used to treat addiction. They also learned about alternative pain treatments, such as physical therapy, acupuncture, massages, and recovery programs. The Kentucky Pharmacy Board sponsored the event.

Read more: https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Summit-looks-at-pharmacist-approach-to-treating-opioid-addiction-507884351.html

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New Part D Policies Address Opioid Epidemic

(CMS blog) Early last year, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published a roadmap outlining our efforts to address the national opioid epidemic. The roadmap details our three-pronged approach, including **prevention** of new cases of opioid use disorder (OUD), expanding access to **treatment** for patients who have already developed OUD, and using **data** from across the country to better target our prevention and treatment activities.

While illicit opioid use is part of the epidemic, prescription opioids provided by physicians can also contribute to the crisis when not used carefully. As Medicare pays for a significant amount of prescription opioids, we strive to ensure appropriate stewardship of these medications that can provide a medical benefit but also carry a risk for our beneficiaries.

As part of our prevention efforts, we've introduced new Medicare Part D opioid safety policies to reduce prescription opioid misuse while preserving medically necessary access to these medications. The new opioid policies include **improved safety alerts at the pharmacy** for Part D beneficiaries who are filling their initial opioid prescription or who are receiving high doses of prescription opioids. Medicare drug plans will perform additional safety checks by sending pharmacies an alert to review certain opioid prescriptions before they are filled.

For more information on the new Part D opioid safety policies, visit https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE18016.pdf.

Read more of the original CMS announcement: https://www.cms.gov/blog/new-part-d-policies-address-opioid-epidemic

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Hospitals owning SNFs is a 'viable strategy' to manage care costs, researchers say

(Knights) Hospitals pushing to acquire skilled nursing facilities may be on a solid path to success under new payment models. That's according to a recent analysis out of the University of Alabama-Birmingham, published in the journal *Health Care Management Review.* Researchers note that hospitals are increasingly moving toward ownership of post-acute providers in a bid to control the total cost of care, and that seems to be paying off. About 33% of hospitals owned a SNF out of the more than 2,000 in the sample. Another 58% owned a home health agency and 54% owned a inpatient rehab facility.

Full story: https://www.mcknights.com/news/hospitals-owning-snfs-is-a-viable-strategy-to-manage-care-costs-researchers-say/

It Only Takes a Plane Ride to Transport the Influenza Virus Around the Globe:
How is HHS Preparing?

The very word 'pandemic' conjures images of global disease and death. Educational campaigns highlighting the centennial of the 1918 Influenza pandemic are a jarring reminder that more than 50 million people died due to a previously unknown influenza strain against which very few people had immunity. However, few people today understand that every year over one billion people worldwide are infected by seasonal influenza viruses resulting in as many as 650,000 deaths. This global threat requires a global response. Two weeks ago, the World Health organization released the Global Influenza Strategy 2019-2030. Learn how this Strategy leverages expertise from across HHS, including ASPR, to strengthen national capacities to detect, prevent, and respond to seasonal and pandemic influenzas on a global scale, and to capitalize on recent influenza preparedness gains. Learn more: https://www.hhs.gov/blog/2019/03/14/a-global-response-to-a-global-threat.html

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Battling the Ebola Outbreak:
Containing the Outbreak, Preparing for
a Potential Domestic Incident

ASPR BLOG SERIES:
https://www.phe.gov/ASPRBlog/pages/BlogArticlePage.aspx?PostID=336

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from March 29, 2019

In a Religious NY Community, an Unprecedented Response to Measles Puts Trust in Government to the Test (*STAT*) It began with a voyage from the Holy Land.
The visitors arrived from Israel in October at the end of Sukkot, a Jewish holiday during which religious congregations gather for meals, prayer, and dance. They brought with them, inadvertently, a case of measles. One exploded into dozens, and over the past six months, health workers have tracked 156 individuals who contracted the disease — the "vast majority," officials say, impacting the tight-knit community of at least 50,000 Orthodox Jews here. *Go to article*

As Ebola Rages in Drc, Survey Highlights Wide Mistrust (*CIDRAP*) The Ebola total in the Democratic Republic of the Congo grew by 14 today, amid a fragile security situation in an outbreak region that is still experiencing sporadic violence and pockets of mistrust, according to the latest updates. *Go to article*

Research Provides Framework for Developing Ebola Virus Therapeutic Under Animal Rule (*Medical Press*) The US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases today announced that, for the first time, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has provided formal regulatory agreement for use of an animal model to support development of a drug candidate, remdesivir, for treating deadly Ebola virus infections. *Go to article*

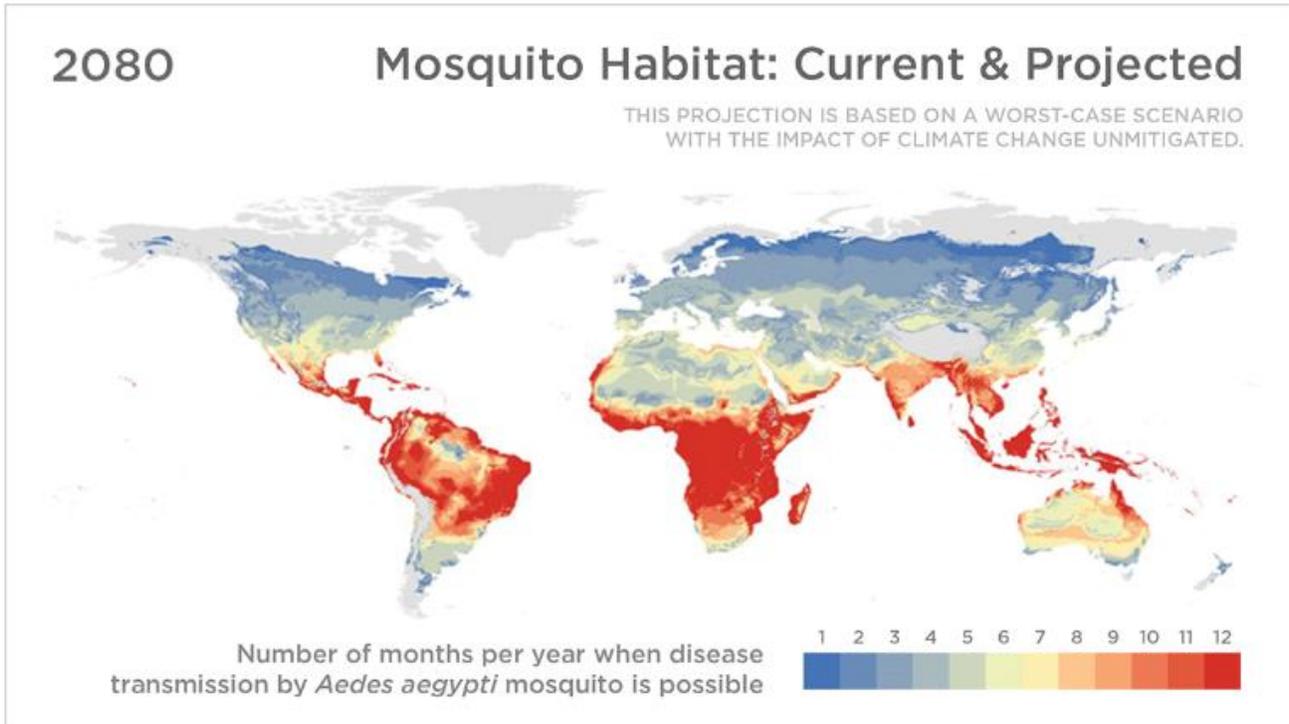**Eating Bad Pork Gave Teen Deadly Tapeworms in the Brain**

(Newser) – A teenager who went into the hospital with groin pain died because of a tapeworm infestation in his brain. The 18-year-old had gone to an Indian hospital with swelling over his right eye, and was experiencing regular seizures that caused him to fall unconscious, reports CNN. An MRI revealed cysts all over his cerebral cortex and brain stem that were caused by parasitic tapeworm larvae that crawled out of eggs and embedded into his brain tissue. The tapeworm likely came from the man having ingested infected pork, reports Live Science. This sort of infection is commonplace in developing countries, though this case was particularly severe.

Full story: http://www.newser.com/story/273210/teen-dies-from-tapeworms-in-the-brain.html

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CHART: Where Disease-Carrying Mosquitoes Will Go In The Future

(NPR) Disease-bearing mosquitoes are on the move. Scientists have been pretty sure of that for decades. As temperatures rise in certain parts of the world, warmth-seeking mosquitoes will invade, making themselves at home in previously inhospitable patches of the globe. Now researchers are trying to figure out exactly how far north these mosquitoes will migrate.

Based on estimates of future temperatures across the world, the authors of a [study](#) published this week in PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases mapped where the mosquitoes that transmit diseases like dengue and Zika might travel if climate change continues unchecked.

Based on their worst-case scenario projections, the researchers believe as many as a billion people could be newly exposed to these illnesses within the century.

Read more: https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2019/03/28/707604928/chart-where-disease-carrying-mosquitoes-will-go-in-the-future

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How Mosquitoes Sniff Out Human Sweat To Find Us
(NPR) Female mosquitoes searching for a meal of blood detect people partly by using a special olfactory receptor to home in on our sweat. The finding could lead to new approaches for better repellents. Full story: https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/03/28/706838786/how-mosquitoes-sniff-out-human-sweat-to-find-us

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FDA: Closure of medical device sterilization facility could prompt shortages
(AHA Today) The Food and Drug Administration is working to prevent potential medical device shortages due to the closing of a Willowbrook, Ill., facility that sterilizes medical devices, the agency [announced](#) yesterday. Sterigenics processed nearly 600 types of medical devices at the facility, including products such as sutures, clamps, knives, stents and needles. "At this time, the FDA isn't aware of any device shortages attributable to the Willowbrook facility closure," said FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D. "We're closely monitoring the situation and will continue to provide updates." FDA also expects a sterilizing facility operated by Viant in Grand Rapids, Mich., to close later this year. The agency is encouraging medical device manufacturers to consider alternative contract sterilizers that can process their devices. Among other actions, FDA has established an email address for reporting anticipated device shortages or distribution delays at deviceshortages@fda.hhs.gov.

Swatting is a dangerous prank with potentially deadly consequences.
Here's what you need to know

(CNN) Picture this. You're sitting at home, enjoying a quiet afternoon, when you hear a knock at your door. Strange. You're not expecting anyone, but maybe it's a neighbor or that package you've been waiting for from Amazon. But when you open the door, a troop of SWAT officers outfitted in specialized gear swarm your home and order you to get on the ground. They go room to room,

shouting commands and training their rifles on anyone they come across..... You've just been swatted.

It's a dangerous prank that's found it's way into the public eye in recent years

Click the link to find out what you should know about swatting.

Full story: https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/30/us/swatting-what-is-explained/index.html

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Strengthening & Streamlining Federal Response Efforts

(DomPrepJournal) In a world of increasingly complex and dangerous threats facing the United States – threats such as emerging infectious diseases, terrorist organizations, state actors, and extreme weather events – the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) stands tall as a robust and reliable federal resource ready to respond. On 1 October 2018, in an effort to better align the stockpile with other federal medical countermeasure response efforts, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shifted oversight and operational control of the SNS from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). << Read full story: https://www.domesticpreparedness.com/journals/march-2019/ >>

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5 Essential Cybersecurity Best Practices To Follow As A Remote Employee
Check it out! https://news360.com/article/492170950

How startup "RapidSOS" is quietly transforming our antiquated 911 system

(CBS) More than 600,000 people call 911 every day. But the 911 network often falls short when it's needed most because it was built some 70 years ago for landlines. Today, about 80 percent of calls come from cellphones. Now, a small start-up company is quietly revolutionizing the emergency response system to address the flaws. The FCC estimates over 10,000 lives a year could be saved if we were able to more accurately locate people in an emergency.

Partnering with companies like Apple, Google and Uber allows RapidSOS to offer location data enhancement to all emergency call centers for free.

Read more: https://www.cbsnews.com/news/startup-rapidsos-aims-to-transform-911-calls/

Honda says 16th U.S. death confirmed in air bag rupture

Honda Motor Co said on Friday it had confirmed a 16th U.S. death has been tied to a faulty Takata air bag inflator. The defect, which leads in rare instances to air bag inflators rupturing and sending metal fragments flying, has prompted the largest automotive recall in U.S. history and is tied to 14 U.S. deaths in Honda vehicles and two in Ford Motor Co vehicles since 2009. The most recent confirmed death in the United States was the July 2017 death of a 34-year-old Florida woman.

Full story: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-honda-takata/honda-says-16th-u-s-death-confirmed-in-air-bag-rupture-idUSKCN1RA2JZ

Why Pedestrian Deaths Are At A 30-Year High

(NPR) Across the U.S., 6,227 pedestrians died in traffic accidents in 2018, the highest number in nearly 30 years. The findings from a Governors Highway Safety Association report show that many of these deaths occurred in big cities like Houston and Miami.

The signs are all over most cities — stretches of road without crosswalks and people needing to walk on roads built for rush-hour traffic. But the real increase, experts say, comes from larger trends: drivers and pedestrians distracted by their phones and a growth of larger vehicles on the road.

Full story: https://www.npr.org/2019/03/28/706481382/why-pedestrian-deaths-are-at-a-30-year-high

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HHS Health Sector Cybersecurity Coordination Center
Threat Briefing on APT40 and the Health Silk Road

The HHS Health Sector Cybersecurity Coordination Center (HC3) released the following TLP: white threat intelligence briefing report with an update on APT40 and the Health Silk Road.

For questions on the report, contact HC3@hhs.gov. More information on the Traffic Light Protocol (TLP) designations is available via the US-CERT website.

HICP Five Threats Webinar Series: Loss or Theft of Equipment or Data

The *HICP: Five Threats Weekly Series* hosted by the 405(d) Initiative presents the third threat in a series of five, *Loss or Theft of Equipment or Data*. Loss or Theft of Equipment or Data, is defined in the HICP Publication.

Every day, mobile devices such as laptops, tablets, smartphones, and USB/thumb drives are lost or stolen, and they end up in the hands of hackers. Theft of equipment and data is an ever-present and ongoing threat for all organizations. From January 1, 2018, to August 31, 2018, the Office for Civil Rights received reports of 192 theft cases affecting 2,041,668 individuals. Although the value of the device represents one loss, far greater are the consequences of losing a device that contains sensitive data. Loss of sensitive data may lead to a clear case of patient identity theft, and, with thousands of records potentially stolen, the health organization's reputation could be at stake if all the patient records make it to the dark web for sale.

The intent of this series is to provide continued education leveraging the recently released publication. This *90 minute presentation* will allow the community to dive deeper into this threat individually and corresponding mitigation practices.

Date: Tuesday, April 2 and Thursday, April 4
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET
To join: Use this link
Dial: 202-774-2300
Passcode: 998 898 726 followed by two '#' signs

If you have any additional questions or comments, please email us at CISA405d@hhs.gov.

For more information on this effort and to download a copy of the publication, please visit the 405(d) website at www.phe.gov/405d.

...and finally, bet you haven't come across this one!
104-year-old nursing home resident gets herself arrested to fulfill bucket list

(McKnights) Police slapped handcuffs on a 104-year-old nursing home resident this week, and she's ecstatic about it.

The arrest was actually on the bucket list of Anne Brokenbrow, who is a resident of the Stokeleigh Care Home, located in a suburb of Bristol in the UK. She's lived by the law her whole life and only wanted a quick peek into society's darker side, Bristol Live reported.

Police this week handcuffed Brokenbrow, charged her with being an "upstanding citizen" and took her away in a police car with sirens blazing. She found the whole encounter "exciting," according to reports.

Full story: https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/i-want-arrested-104-year-2645279