



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 3, 2019

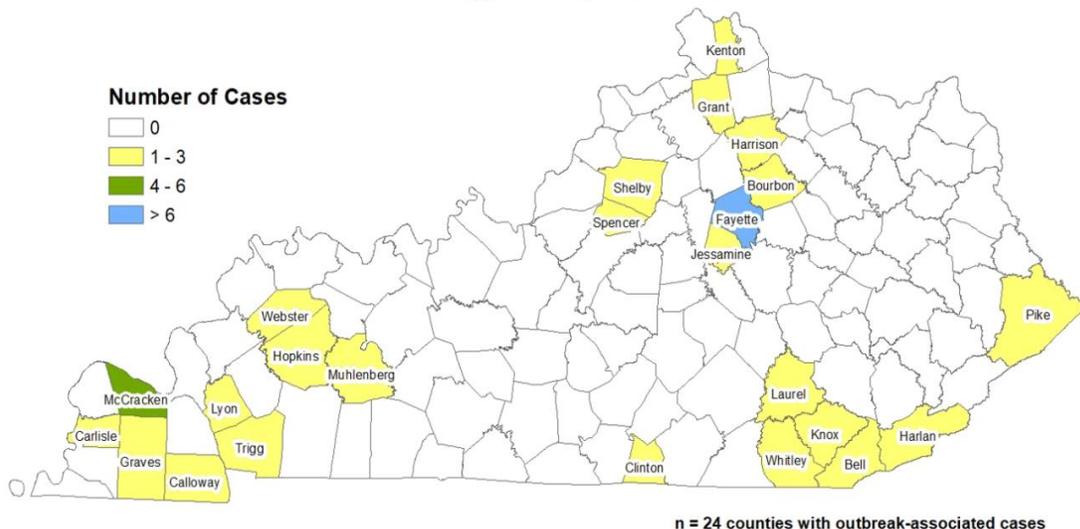
E. coli Cases in KY Growing - Source Still Unknown

(Frankfort) Over the weekend the *Emergency Preparedness Update* provided information based on media and KY Public Health information that there was a sharp increase of *E. coli* in Kentucky. A Kentucky Public Health press release noted that as of March 29 there had been twenty people who had tested positive with the strain *E. coli* O103. The release went on to say that public health investigators had not yet identified the source for this outbreak, but they noted that some sort of food distribution is the likely mechanism. Cases involved children and adults, and seemed to be focused in Central Kentucky, with no deaths reported.

In an update conducted this morning for Public Health and healthcare providers Dr. Doug Thoroughman, Acting KY State Epidemiologist, said that there are now 44 lab-confirmed cases spread over 24 counties, and 23 more specimens pending at the state lab. At this point they still do not have a definitive source identified, and are still looking for definitive patterns, but hamburger and fast food are showing up frequently in the interviews. It was also noted that while Kentucky is apparently the "epicenter" of the outbreak, there are cases being reported in Tennessee and Ohio.

Epidemiology Update – Case Distribution

KY19-017 Distribution of Shiga-toxin type 1-producing *E. Coli*,
Serotype O103, March 2019



Symptoms of *E. coli* O103 illness typically include stomach cramps and diarrhea, including bloody diarrhea, and people generally become ill two to five days after consuming contaminated food. *E. coli* O103 disease sometimes leads to hemolytic-uremic syndrome (HUS), a serious complication that can cause kidney failure and can occur a week or more after the onset of diarrhea.

According to the CHFS Press Release, the public can help prevent *E. coli* infections by:

- Washing hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water, especially before eating, after going to the bathroom, handling raw meat and eggs, and after handling or petting animals;
- Thoroughly washing produce before eating;
- Thoroughly cooking meat;
- Cleaning and sanitizing food preparation areas;

- Avoiding swallowing lake or pool water;
- Drinking only pasteurized milk;
- Frequently cleaning and sanitizing restrooms, including door knobs and faucets; and
- Reporting diarrheal illnesses to your physician.

CDC E. coli Fact Sheet: <https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/pdfs/cdc-e.-coli-factsheet.pdf>

Judge upholds Kentucky school's ban on unvaccinated student

(USA Today) A Kentucky high school student [lost his lawsuit challenging an order that barred him from school](#) because he refuses to obtain the chickenpox vaccine. The senior at Assumption Academy in Boone County sued the Northern Kentucky Independent District Board of Health after it banned students without chickenpox immunity from attending school and extracurricular activities during an outbreak. Jerome Kunkel, 18, is not against all vaccines, he told The Enquirer earlier, but he is opposed to those that use aborted fetal cells in their manufacture, including the chickenpox vaccine.

Jeff Mando of Covington, who represented the health department, said the ruling "upheld the health department's mission to protect public health and the welfare of folks in Northern Kentucky."

Video report and full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2019/04/02/judge-ruling-due-kentucky-youths-suit-against-chickenpox-vaccine-boone-county-catholic-abortion/3348359002/>

Hospitals are rationing lifesaving meds amid shortages, study finds

A majority of hospital pharmacists in the U.S. deal with at least 50 drug shortages each year, which often results in rationing lifesaving medications, a new study published in *JAMA* found.

For the 2018 study cited in an article by [Reuters](#), researchers asked 719 pharmacists at small and large hospitals and academic medical centers across the nation about shortages at their organizations.

Every pharmacist reported at least one drug shortage in the last year, while 69 percent had dealt with at least 50.

More than 30 percent of pharmacists said their hospital had to ration drugs or deny medication to some patients who needed them in the last year. Eighty percent of pharmacists said they have hoarded a medicine in short supply in the last year.

Most often, pharmacists said they had less than a month to prepare for dwindling supplies before an active shortage. About 33 percent of them said their hospitals had no procedure in place to help them respond to a shortage.

Currently, 226 medicines ranging from cancer drugs to heart medications are in short supply, according to the report.

Read full story: <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/pharmacy/hospitals-are-rationing-lifesaving-meds-amid-shortages-study-finds.html>

Turning Bystanders Into First Responders

(The New Yorker) A category of emergency known as an Intentional Mass Casualty Event is now considered a public-health crisis. In recent years, deadly attacks have occurred at schools, offices, concerts, sporting events, shopping malls, and houses of worship. They have involved guns, knives, trucks, and improvised explosive devices. In March, a gunman [killed fifty people](#) at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Much attention has been given to the rising frequency of mass shootings in the United States, but equally alarming is their worsening severity. For victims whose injuries are serious but survivable, rapid treatment is essential. A person can bleed to death in as little as five to eight minutes.

In the mass-shooting era, civilians must help one another in a crisis—and keep victims from bleeding to death.

Learn more from the full story: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/04/08/turning-bystanders-into-first-responders>

'It hurt so bad'

Indiana teachers shot with plastic pellets during active shooter training

(Indy Star) An active-shooter training exercise at an Indiana elementary school in January left teachers with welts, bruises and abrasions after they were shot with plastic pellets by the local sheriff's office conducting the session.

The incident, acknowledged in testimony this week before state lawmakers, was confirmed by two elementary school teachers in Monticello, who described an exercise in which teachers were asked by local law enforcement to kneel down against a classroom wall before being sprayed across their backs with plastic pellets without warning.

The White County sheriff said Thursday that his department has conducted similar training before but, after receiving a complaint, will no longer use the air-powered device, called an airsoft gun, with teachers.

Watch video report and read more: <https://www.indystar.com/story/news/politics/2019/03/21/active-shooter-training-for-schools-teachers-shot-with-plastic-pellets/3231103002/>

Death by 1,000 clicks: Where electronic health records went wrong

(Kaiser Health News) The U.S. government claimed that turning American medical charts into electronic records would make health care better, safer and cheaper. Ten years and \$36 billion later, the system is an unholy mess. Inside a digital revolution that took a bad turn.

Full story: <https://khn.org/news/death-by-a-thousand-clicks/>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from **April 3, 2019**

Flu Shows More Signs of Decline in Northern Hemisphere (CIDRAP) Flu activity in most of the Northern Hemisphere is declining, with influenza A viruses still predominant, the WHO said today in an update that covers data to Mar 17. [Go to article](#)

Unicef Says 900,000 Cholera Vaccine Doses Arrive in Beira (The Citizen) Nearly 900,000 doses of the cholera vaccine procured by the United Nations Children's Fund and the WHO have arrived in Beira, Mozambique and the vaccination campaign will begin imminently, Unicef said. Mozambique's health ministry has confirmed 1,052 cases of cholera in the aftermath of cyclone Idai, which also ravaged neighbouring Zimbabwe and Malawi. Of these cases, 959 are in Beira, where one death has also been confirmed, followed by Nhamatanda with 87 cases. [Go to article](#)

Related story: Why cholera — an ancient, treatable disease — is making headlines in 2019

In theory no one should die of cholera. Yet 90,000 people die each year from the disease, which is surging at a historic pace in Yemen and surfacing in Mozambique in the wake of Cyclone Idai.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2019/04/02/707994461/cholera-101-why-this-ancient-disease-is-making-headlines-in-2019>

Superbugs Flourish as a Quarter of Health Facilities Lack Basic Water Services Worldwide

(The Telegraph) One in four healthcare facilities around the world lack even basic access to water services, exacerbating the spread of drug resistant superbugs, a major report has warned. In the first comprehensive review of access to water, sanitation and hygiene services in healthcare centres, Unicef and the WHO found that roughly two billion people use health facilities lacking basic water services globally – while almost 900 million people use centres with no water services at all. [Go to article](#)

Study Points to New Antibody Approach to Tackling Ebola, Other Infections (Reuters) Scientists working on developing vaccines against Ebola have found they can “harvest” antibodies from volunteers vaccinated in research trials and use them to make treatments for the deadly viral infection. [Go to article](#)

Senate passes ACE Kids Act, Medicaid drug rebate provision

The Senate yesterday passed by voice vote a bill ([H.R. 1839](#)) that contains a number of Medicaid provisions, including the ACE Kids Act, legislation that would allow state Medicaid programs to use a health home model to coordinate care for children with medically complex conditions. Among other provisions, the bill would also level civil monetary penalties against manufacturers that knowingly misclassify drugs under the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program, as advocated by the [AHA](#). Passed last week by the House, the bill will now go to the president for his signature.

NEW: Verizon unveils 'Just Kids' smartphone plan

(FierceWireless) Verizon will begin offering a smartphone plan designed to help parents keep tabs on their children's screen time later this week.

Verizon says it's the first major wireless carrier to launch a smartphone plan specifically designed for children, as youngsters are receiving their first smartphones at earlier ages. According to the [Family Online Safety Institute \(FOSI\)](#), children with a smartphone typically received it at seven-and-a-half years old. Verizon is a founding member of FOSI.

The new Just Kids plan includes Verizon's \$10-per-month "[Smart Family](#)" platform, which Verizon launched last year as part of its mobile parenting suite. It enables parents to keep track of where their kids are with location tracking, can limit how much time is spent online and can be used to set content filters using an app connected to the child's phone. The Just Kids plan includes 5GB of 4G LTE data and unlimited talk and text to 20 contacts that parents can choose. It also includes a safety mode to ensure children do not go over their data limits.

Learn more about this: <https://www.fiercewireless.com/wireless/verizon-unveils-just-kids-smartphone-plan>

<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 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 KHREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.</p>
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