



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 11, 2019

Facing Escalating Workplace Violence, Hospital Employees Have Had Enough

(NPR) U.S. hospitals are under mounting pressure to address violence against health care staff by patients and visitors. Nearly half of emergency doctors say they've been physically assaulted at work. The violent outbursts come from patients and patients' families. And for years, it has been considered part of the job.

When you visit the Cleveland Clinic emergency department these days — whether as a patient, family member or friend — a large sign directs you toward a metal detector. An officer inspects all bags and then instructs you to walk through the metal detector. In some cases, a metal wand is used — even on patients who come in on stretchers. Cleveland Clinic officials say they confiscate thousands of weapons like knives, pepper spray and guns each year. The metal detectors were installed in response to what [CEO Tom Mihaljevic](#) is calling an epidemic.

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/04/08/709470502/facing-escalating-workplace-violence-hospitals-employees-have-had-enough>

America's \$103 billion home health-care system is in crisis as worker shortages worsen

(CNBC) We keep hearing the foreboding statistics: 10,000 baby boomers in the United States turn 65 every day; our aging population is expected to double in the next 20 years and swell to 88 million by 2050; 75 percent of Americans over 65 live with multiple chronic health conditions, ranging from diabetes to dementia.

It is no secret, either, that the nation's already-strained health-care system is trying to keep sick and longer-living seniors out of hospitals, assisted-living facilities and nursing homes and instead in their own homes, which is where they want to live out their golden years. But that has shifted the caregiving burden onto family members, who are increasingly stressed and often supplemented by personal-care aides (also referred to as certified nurse assistants, personal-care assistants or home health aides) employed by thousands of home-care agencies across the country. Nurses and other skilled practitioners manage in-home medical needs, such as administering medications and wound care, while the personal-care aides cook, shop, clean, bathe, dress and generally offer companionship.

The U.S. spent an estimated [\\$103 billion on home health care](#) last year, a number predicted to reach at least \$173 billion by 2026, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, which put total health expenditures in 2018 at about \$3.67 trillion.

The federal [Bureau of Labor Statistics compiles data on this workforce](#), combining both home health aides (skilled nurses) and personal-care aides. As of 2016, they numbered 2,927,600. In 2018 their median pay was \$11.12 per hour. Overall employment of in-home aides is projected to grow 41 percent from 2016 to 2026 — translating to 7.8 million job openings — a much faster clip than the average 7 percent for all occupations. Nearly 60 percent work full time; turnover rates are around 50 percent.

Read the full story for more details: <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/04/09/us-home-healthcare-system-is-in-crisis-as-worker-shortages-worsen.html>

Novel antifungal shows early promise against *Candida auris*

(CIDRAP) Biotechnology company Scynexis, Inc., is reporting early but promising results from a phase 3 trial of a novel drug for treating invasive *Candida auris* infections.

The company will present the results from the first two case studies in the CARES trial at the upcoming European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) in Amsterdam. The first two cases from the CARES trial, which is enrolling patients in the United States

and India, involved a 54-year-old man and a 64-year-old woman with *C auris* bloodstream infections and multiple comorbidities at a hospital in New Delhi.

Read full story: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2019/04/novel-antifungal-shows-early-promise-against-candida-auris>

FDA requires opioid labeling changes to help providers safely taper dosing

(AHA Today - April 10) The Food and Drug Administration yesterday [announced](#) changes to the prescribing information included in outpatient opioid pain medication labels to provide expanded guidance to health care professionals on how to safely decrease or discontinue these medications in patients who are physically dependent on them. The agency said it has received reports of serious harm in patients who are physically dependent on opioid pain medicines suddenly having these medicines discontinued or the dose rapidly decreased, a safety concern it continues to track.

FDA Release: <https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm635038.htm>

Mysterious safety-tampering malware infects a second critical infrastructure site
Use of game-changing Triton malware to target safety systems isn't an isolated incident.

Sixteen months ago, researchers reported an unsettling escalation in hacks targeting power plants, gas refineries, and other types of critical infrastructure. Attackers who may have been working on behalf of a nation caused an operational outage at a critical-infrastructure site after [deliberately targeting a system that prevented health- and life-threatening accidents](#).

There had been compromises of critical infrastructure sites before. What was unprecedented in this attack—and of considerable concern to some researchers and critical infrastructure operators—was the use of an advanced piece of malware that targeted the unidentified site's safety processes. Such [safety instrumented systems](#) (SIS) are a combination of hardware and software that many critical infrastructure sites use to prevent unsafe conditions from arising.

Now, researchers at FireEye—the same security firm that discovered Triton and its ties to Russia—say they have uncovered an additional intrusion that used the same malicious software framework against a different critical infrastructure site. As was the case in the first intrusion, the attackers focused most of their resources on the facility's OT, or [operational technology](#), which are systems for monitoring and managing physical processes and devices.

Full story: <https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2019/04/mysterious-safety-tampering-malware-infects-a-2nd-critical-infrastructure-site/>

Johns Hopkins: Health security Headlines
Extracts from April 10, 2019

[Ebola Cases Climb to 1,168 As More Health Workers Infected](#) (CIDRAP) The surge in new Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continued at a brisk pace today, with 14 new cases reported from a broad range of larger and smaller hot spots, the health ministry said in its daily statement. [Go to article](#)

[The Scary Shortage of Infectious-Disease Doctors](#) (H5N1) Many have heard of the rise of drug-resistant infections. But few know about an issue that's making this threat even scarier in the United States: the shortage of specialists capable of diagnosing and treating those infections. [Go to article](#)

[Risk of 'Thousand-Year' Rains Could Double for US States](#) (Nature) Rare spells of extreme rainfall that would overwhelm today's flood-defence infrastructure look set to become markedly more frequent in the United States as the climate changes. [Go to article](#)

Responding to a Suicide Bomber Incident

([Domestic Prep Journal](#) - April 10 Edition) As has been proved literally hundreds of times in Iraq, Israel, and elsewhere, the detonation of an explosive device by a suicide bomber can occur, without warning, anywhere in the world – including the United States. When, not if, such an attack takes place on American soil, the jurisdiction directly victimized will be expected to be fully prepared to deal with it. More specifically, the community's first responders – firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical technicians, primarily, who will in all likelihood be the first trained personnel on the scene –

must be trained and ready to save lives, stabilize the incident scene, and minimize the short- and long-term impact of the suicide bombing in general.

This 2006 article serves as a reminder of what to do when responding to a suicide bomber incident. It may be impossible to thwart all suicide bombings. However, there are several important steps to follow to deal with the aftermath, save the lives of innocent victims, and minimize the destruction of critical infrastructure and other facilities.

Read article: <https://www.domesticpreparedness.com/preparedness/responding-to-a-suicide-bomber-incident/>

Using nanotechnology to minimize fire damage

Nanotechnology, manufactured at scale and low cost with minimal health risks, may point to a future with fewer fires that are less lethal and less damaging. Smoke alarms, fire suppression systems, and vehicle fuel lines can potentially be improved using nanotechnology.

Read more: https://www.usfa.fema.gov/current_events/041019.html

Pediatricians demand recall of Fisher-Price sleeper after warning about infant deaths

(WAVE & CNN) - Following a warning issued by Fisher-Price, the American Academy of Pediatrics is demanding an immediate recall of the company's Rock 'n Play sleeper, citing an analysis that links it to 32 infant deaths. The pediatricians' group [urged stores](#) Tuesday to remove the popular sleeper from their shelves, saying a previous warning about the product "did not go far enough to ensure safety and protect infants."

Learn more: <http://www.wave3.com/2019/04/10/pediatricians-demand-recall-fisher-price-sleeper-after-warning-about-infant-deaths/>

The Value of a Rapid Anthrax Triage Tool with Minimal Need for Diagnostic Testing.

(Center for Health Security) A new triage tool to identify those who have signs and symptoms consistent with anthrax is described in an online-first article in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Read more: http://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/resources/cbn/articles/2019/cbnreport_04092019.html

April 25 webinar on best practices for screening patients for signs of trafficking

The AHA's *Hospitals Against Violence* initiative April 25 at 2 p.m. ET will host a webinar providing resources and best practice techniques for health care professionals to screen and/or assess for signs of labor and/or sex trafficking. Makini Chisolm-Straker, M.D., treasurer of the board of directors and co-founder of HEAL Trafficking and assistant professor of emergency medicine for the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and Holly Austin Gibbs, patient care services program director at Dignity Health, will share strategies, screening and assessment tools, and the limitations of existing instruments to assist hospitals and health systems in providing trauma-informed and person-centered care. [View more information and register.](#)

Salmonella can hijack immune cells to spread around the body

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/493192277>

KY Public Health Officials Discuss Hepatitis A Outbreak

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 10, 2019) – The Cabinet for Health and Family Services Department for Public Health (DPH) will convene a panel of experts to discuss the ongoing Hepatitis A outbreak in Kentucky.

- **WHAT:** Kentucky Public Health Association (KPHA) annual conference will include Friday panel on Hepatitis A outbreak.
- **WHO:** Cabinet Secretary Adam Meier, Department for Public Health Commissioner Dr. Jeff Howard, and DPH infectious disease staff, epidemiology staff.
- **WHEN:** 9 to 9:50 a.m. April 12, 2019
- **WHERE:** Northern Kentucky Convention Center, 1 West Rivercenter Boulevard, Covington, KY 41011.

NOTE The 71st annual KPHA conference is underway now. The full agenda is attached and includes national speakers such as the American Public Health Association president and the National Association of County and City Health Officials president.

iPhone users have some terrible driving habits

The iPhone user behind the wheel is twice as likely to post, chat and stream than those with an Android device, according to a website that compares car insurance quotes. *The Zebra* surveyed more than 2,100 drivers about driving distractions, including device engagement, and broke down the numbers by operating system. All but three states in the U.S. have some sort of law banning distracted driving, according to the [Governors Highway Safety Association](#). Despite tough laws, nine people are killed and more than 1,000 injured every day in crashes involving a distracted driver, the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) reports.

Seventy-eight percent of all Americans admit to a form of distracted driving and even more believe texting and driving is an addiction. One encouraging figure, 66 percent of all drivers said they're more careful when they have passengers.

Below are *The Zebra's* findings broken down by distraction and operating system:

- Texting – iPhone, 51 percent; Android, 35 percent
- Taking Photos – iPhone, 33 percent; Android 23 percent
- Making videos – iPhone, 20 percent; Android, 10 percent
- Video-Chatting – iPhone, 17 percent, Android, 8 percent
- Check Facebook – iPhone, 15 percent; Android, 9 percent
- Browse Instagram – iPhone, 12 percent; Android ,4 percent
- Post on Instagram – iPhone 8 percent; Android, 3 percent
- YouTube videos – iPhone 10 percent, Android,6 percent
- Streaming shows – iPhone 8 percent, Android, 4 percent

Full story: <https://www.cultofmac.com/618462/distracted-driving-iphone/>

Preparing for and Responding to Highly Infectious Diseases

May 2, 2019; 9 AM to 5 PM (ET)

Center for Rural Development, Somerset, KY

The National Ebola Training and Education Center will be providing this training.

Target audience: Clinicians, Physicians, ED staff, EMS, Infection Preventionists, Public Health.

Registration: <https://ky.readyop.com/fs/4cJO/2704>

Address questions to: AmyC.Tomlinson@lcdhd.org, HPP Region 14 Coordinator

Considering Going to Thunder Over Louisville?

This is the 30th year for the event that kicks off the festivities (on Saturday) for the Kentucky Derby, and city officials have detailed plans in place for traffic. The annual road closures for Thunder include I-64, I-65 and I-71 near downtown, as well as surrounding downtown streets. Check the link for closures and more information.



The city is expecting over 725,000 people to jam the banks of the Ohio River on Saturday night, according to Louisville Tourism, which means police, EMS and firefighters will be surrounding the area to keep it safe. To make sure first responders can communicate in an area where cell phone signals could be unreliable, the Kentucky Derby Festival has teamed up with AT&T to use FirstNet, ensuring that hundreds of first responders will

have a direct line of communication.

Link: https://www.wdrb.com/community/city-releases-traffic-plan-other-details-for-th-thunder-over/article_5122b2d2-5ada-11e9-95f4-0f5e83b103f2.html

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.