Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation
Emergency Preparedness Update
for April 13, 2019

CDC ties ground beef to E coli outbreak, but source still unknown

(CIDRAP) - the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicated that ground beef is the likely source of a multistate *Escherichia coli* O103 outbreak that has now sickened more than 100 people, but officials have yet to identify a supplier.

"Preliminary interview information from ill people suggests that ground beef is the source of this outbreak," the CDC said in a news release. "At this time, no common supplier, distributor, or brand of ground beef has been identified."

Fully 84% of case-patients reported eating ground beef both at home and in restaurants, but at this point the CDC is not recommending that consumers avoid ground beef products, nor should retailers stop selling or serving ground beef. That percentage of patients eating ground beef is "significantly higher" than what would be found in non-infected people, the agency said.

Outbreak grows to 109 cases: Since its previous update on Apr 9, the CDC said 13 more cases have been reported, raising the infection count to 109 and making it the third-largest *E coli* outbreak in 20 years. Seventeen patients have required hospitalization out of 81 with available information, resulting in a hospitalization rate of 21%.

Indiana has reported its first case. Other states confirming cases are Kentucky (54), Tennessee (28), Georgia (17), Ohio (7), and Virginia (2). Eleven patients have been hospitalized, but no deaths have been reported.

Full story: http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2019/04/cdc-ties-ground-beef-e-coli-outbreak-source-still-unknown

Apr 12 CDC news release

Patient shoots South Carolina hospital employee **Full story**

(Becker's Hospital Review) An employee of the Regional Medical Center-Orangeburg (S.C.) is in critical condition after a patient opened fire in the hospital's emergency department the morning of April 10, according to local news station *WCSC*.

The suspect, whose name was not released, was a patient who initially came to the hospital for treatment around 7:30 a.m., left an hour later and returned with a weapon, according to the report. One person, a hospital employee, was injured and immediately went into surgery. Police arrived on the scene as the suspect was surrendering to hospital security.

Law enforcement told WCSC the gunman will face a charge of assault and battery with intent to kill.

The hospital resumed normal operations within two hours of the shooting, but kept the emergency department closed until 3 p.m.
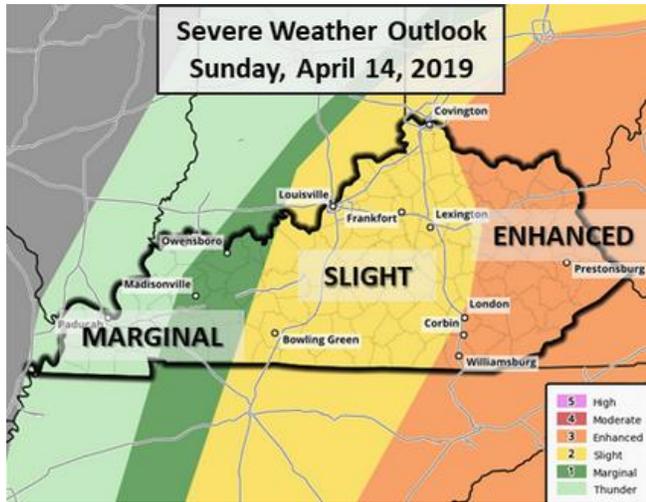

Tornado Confirmed in Oldham County
Potential for Severe Weather Sunday

NWS Louisville confirms EF-1 in Oldham County On April 12, just before 7 AM EDT, an EF-1 tornado tracked 8.3 miles across Oldham County with a maximum path width of 300 yards. The tornado mostly did damage to the upper halves of several trees along its path. There were a couple of areas where it fully descended to the surface and caused more widespread damage. Along Shelburn Dr, a front porch with four columns was lifted, collapsing the columns and throwing the front half of the roof 100 yards to the northeast. The last visible damage was on Georgie Way, occurring 9 minutes after the start time.

More from WDRB: Emergency dispatchers in Oldham County said Friday morning that utility poles were snapped in Crestwood at Crestwood Station and Highway 146. The fire department was called to block the roadway until repairs were made. More than 2,500 people were without power in Oldham County at the height of the storm Friday, which hit the Louisville area before dawn.

https://www.wdrb.com/news/ef--tornado-confirmed-in-oldham-county/article_ef8ce858-5d68-11e9-a3db-3f5be6ff73ae.html

Louisville NWS has indicated that we can expect scattered thunderstorms across central KY with heavy rain are expected tonight, especially after midnight. Small hail, strong winds and brief heavy rainfall will be possible late tonight in the strongest thunderstorms. It looks like we will have a line of storms moving through early in the morning on Sunday. There's an outside shot at some stronger wind gusts mixing down to the surface with this wave, especially across southern Kentucky.

In the afternoon, we could see some redevelopment of storms, but more isolated to scattered in nature. The warmer we get, the worse these storms could be. We will watch for damaging wind gusts and possible tornadoes.

Here is their current Weather Story with map showing the areas of concern: https://www.weather.gov/lmk/weatherstory

NWS Jackson: Severe weather potential on Sunday.

https://www.weather.gov/jkl/041419SevereWeatherThreat

A strong area of low pressure is still expected to track across the Ohio Valley on Sunday. This system may bring multiple rounds of showers and thunderstorms to the area Sunday into Sunday evening. Some of these storms could become severe and most of eastern Kentucky remains in an Enhanced Risk for Severe Weather (or a 3 on a scale from 1 to 5) by the Storm Prediction Center.

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from April 11, 2019

DRC Sees Record-setting Day, with 18 Ebola Cases (*CIDRAP*) Today the Democratic Republic of the Congo recorded 18 new cases in the ongoing Ebola outbreak in North Kivu and Ituri province, the largest single-day jump since the outbreak began last August. The previous record was 16 cases, on Apr 7. *Go to article*

Shifting the Paradigm — Applying Universal Standards of Care to Ebola Virus Disease (*New England Journal of Medicine*) As the Democratic Republic of Congo's 10th outbreak of Ebola virus disease rages in this resource-limited, war-torn region, advances in the delivery of supportive care and the introduction of investigational therapies provide a glimmer of hope amid the mounting infections. In the absence of effective therapies or vaccines, EVD outbreak response has centered around the most basic of public health principles — identification and isolation of patients with suspected and confirmed EVD and tracking of all the contacts of the confirmed patients, who are then rapidly isolated if they show signs of disease. *Go to article*

Chinese Scientists Have Put Human Brain Genes in Monkeys—and Yes, They May Be Smarter (*MIT Technology Review*) Human intelligence is one of evolution's most consequential inventions. It is the result of a sprint that started millions of years ago, leading to ever bigger brains and new abilities. Eventually, humans stood upright, took up the plow, and created civilization, while our primate cousins stayed in the trees. *Go to article*

Red Cross "Sound the Alarm!"

The American Red Cross' national signature event, *Sound the Alarm*, is quickly approaching. In Kentucky to install smoke alarms and educate families on the importance of fire safety. Since this campaign launched 4 years ago, we have already saved 57 lives! Every day 7 people die from home fires. You can help change that. Join us as we install 1,000 free alarms.

<p style="text-align:center; color:red;">Just one day of your life can change someone else's forever.</p>

You can access a short video at this link to learn more –
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9zmuqfOV40

If you are interested in learning more, finding an event hear you, or volunteering, you may go to the *Sound the Alarm* event information by Date or State, search for the event by zip code through their search function on **SoundtheAlarm.org** or contact your location chapter.

May 9 webinar on improving efficiency in the emergency department

AHA's Health Forum and Philips May 9 at 1 p.m. ET will host a webinar on improving operational efficiency in the emergency department. Dan Hannan, senior consultant in the emergency department service delivery at Philips; and leaders from FirstHealth Moore Hospital in North Carolina will discuss how the hospital conducted a comprehensive ED assessment and implemented a targeted performance improvement process to decrease ED volume and reduce the "left without being seen" rate while improving ED operational performance and enhancing patient experience.
View more information and register.

Addressing the Top 10 Security Issues Organizations Face

(Health IT Security) Cybersecurity must be a top-level priority for any organization and for many it is. Security should be viewed holistically and should include a range of elements, including layered, technology-based solutions on-premises and in the cloud; security awareness training to help employees become a more integral part of security defenses. Download Report Here

Source: https://healthitsecurity.com/resources/white-papers/addressing-the-top-10-security-issues-organizations-face

<p style="text-align:center; color:red;">---- Related stories from Health IT Security -----</p>

Business Email Compromise Hacking Group Expands Executive Targeting
London Blue, one of the most notorious business email compromise hacking groups, has adopted new hacking techniques and expanded its database of executive targets. Full Story

Healthcare Email Security Defenses Lag Behind Other Industries
Mimecast found health organizations are no more or less targeted than other sectors; rather, its security controls and technology can't keep pace with hackers and attack methods, like phishing. Full Story

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