



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 15, 2019

**A deadly storm system now threatens 90 million people with destructive weather  
-- including New York, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta**  
*Storm system's death toll rose to at least eight on Sunday*

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/04/14/us/severe-storms-wxc/index.html>

**A weather radio campaign in Troy, Alabama, may have helped keep citizens safe**  
Listen to more: <https://www.npr.org/2019/04/15/713387931/powerful-storms-that-spawned-tornadoes-rip-across-the-south>

### ----- Hacker group posts hundreds of law officer records

(NBC) Authorities were investigating Saturday the online posting by a hacker group of the personal information of hundreds of federal agents and police officers apparently stolen from websites affiliated with alumni of the FBI's National Academy.

The Associated Press counted at least 1,400 unique records of employees of the FBI, Secret Service, Capitol Police, U.S. Park Police and other federal agencies as well as police and sheriffs' deputies in North Carolina and Florida. The AP is not identifying the hackers' website. A linked Twitter account says the group is based in Ukraine.

Full story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/security/hacker-group-posts-hundreds-law-officer-records-n994231>

### ----- Kids Emergency Room Visits for Swallowed Toys, Coins, Batteries Nearly Doubled

(AP & CBS) — The number of young kids who went to U.S. emergency rooms because they swallowed toys, coins, batteries and other objects has nearly doubled, a new study says. In 2015, there were nearly 43,000 such visits among kids under 6, compared with 22,000 in 1995, according to the study published Friday in the journal Pediatrics. The rate jumped from almost 10 per 10,000 ER visits to 18 per 10,000.

While 90% of treated children were sent home without hospitalization, severe internal injuries and deaths have been reported. Batteries and small high-powered magnets often marketed as desk toys for adults are among the most dangerous objects.

Read full story: <https://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2019/04/12/emergency-room-swallowed-toys-batteries/>

### ----- WHO finally publishes report on Ebola vaccination efficacy

Seventy-one cases of Ebola occurred among the 93,965 people at risk vaccinated in 679 rings. Conversely, during the same period, 880 cases occurred among individuals at risk of Ebola who were

not vaccinated. Of the 71 Ebola cases occurring among vaccinated individuals, 15 cases had onset of symptoms 10 days or more days post-vaccination (this is the time after which vaccinees are assumed to be protected) and 57 cases had onset of symptoms 0-9 days post vaccination (it is assumed that during this period the vaccinees are not protected or partially protected).

Moreover, only 8.8% (60/679) of the vaccinated rings reported Ebola cases, and only 2.2% (15/679) reported Ebola cases 10 days or more after vaccination. The majority of cases among vaccinated people (76%, 54/71) occurred among

Table 2: Distribution of all confirmed EVD cases among all eligible, consented, and vaccinated people at risk

	Confirmed EVD cases among all eligible, consented and, vaccinated people at risk		
	Onset of symptoms <10 days after vaccination	Onset of symptoms ≥10 days after vaccination	All cases among vaccinated people
Number of EVD cases (rings with EVD cases)	56 (45)	15 (15)	71 (60)
<b>Type of contact with index case</b>			
Contact of contact	5	2	7
Non high-risk contact	1	0	1
High-risk contact <sup>b</sup>	48	6	54
Healthcare worker	2	7	9
<b>Clinical Outcome</b>			
Death (rings with EVD cases)	9 (9)	0 (0)	9 (9)
Alive	39	15	54
Illness ongoing <sup>a</sup>	8	0	8

<sup>a</sup> This also includes health care workers / front line workers enrolled as part of community rings

<sup>b</sup> CT value available for 50 EVD cases (37 before 10 days, 13 after 10 days)

<sup>c</sup> As of March 25, 8 vaccinated individuals who became cases are still under treatment at ETUs. Among them, 0 case developed EVD 10 or more days after vaccination.

high risk contacts. Only 2 out of 68,279 vaccinated contacts of contacts developed Ebola. This indicates that the ring vaccination has an effect in preventing tertiary generation of cases. The estimated Ebola attack rate for vaccinated individuals was about 0.017%, compared with an estimated 0.656 % in unvaccinated individuals. This yields an estimated vaccine efficacy of 97.5%, 95% CI [95.8 –98.5%].

Full WHO report: <https://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/ebola/ebola-ring-vaccination-results-12-april-2019.pdf?ua=1>

[Note: A US and European health security discussion group has expressed concern over WHO's delay in publishing this information. They note, "*Why the concern about transparency regarding the vaccine? Because if the situation indeed deteriorates, healthcare providers in Europe and the US may be on the receiving end of suspect Ebola cases. If that happens, it is probable an expectation for access to this effective vaccine would be there. Proactive management of expectation is essential in emergency response.*"]

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**FDA releases updated results from duodenoscope reprocessing studies**

(AHA Today - April 12) Updated preliminary results from studies to better understand how duodenoscopes are reprocessed in real-world settings continue to show higher than expected contamination rates after reprocessing, the Food and Drug Administration [announced](#) today. The agency reminded health care facilities that reprocess duodenoscopes about the importance of strictly adhering to the manufacturer's reprocessing and maintenance instructions, following best practices and reporting adverse event information to FDA. In 2015, FDA issued safety recommendations to prevent possible microbial infections from reprocessed reusable duodenoscopes – flexible, lighted tubes that are threaded through the mouth into the small intestine to drain fluids from blocked pancreatic and biliary ducts. The agency also ordered Olympus, Fujifilm and Pentax to conduct postmarket surveillance studies to determine whether health care facilities are able to properly clean and disinfect the devices, and has instructed the manufacturers to conduct root cause analyses. Final results from the analyses are expected later this year. In the meantime, the agency is exploring possible additional steps to reduce contamination rates. "I want to emphasize that an individual patient's risk of acquiring infection from an inadequately reprocessed medical device remains relatively low given the large number of such devices in use," [said](#) Jeff Shuren, M.D., director of the Center for Devices and Radiological Health.

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**Hospital Privacy Curtains Could Be Breeding Ground for Germs**

(HealthDay News) -- Privacy curtains in hospital rooms might offer patients some personal dignity, but they can also harbor dangerous, drug-resistant bacteria.

That's the claim of a new study where researchers took more than 1,500 samples from privacy curtains in 625 rooms at six skilled nursing facilities in Michigan.

Read full story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=220219>

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**New Jersey enacts law on assisted suicide for terminally ill**

(Fox) Gov. Phil Murphy on Friday signed legislation making New Jersey the seventh state to enact a law permitting terminally ill patients to end their lives. The law goes into effect in August.

Under New Jersey's law, only patients who are irreversibly terminally ill and have a prognosis of six months or less to live could acquire medication to end their lives.

Full story: <https://www.foxnews.com/us/new-jersey-law-allows-terminally-ill-to-get-life-ending-meds>

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**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines**  
**Extracts from [April 12, 2019](#)**

**[CDC Says Nearly 600 Cases of Deadly Drug-Resistant Fungus Reported](#)** (*The Hill*) The CDC has confirmed hundreds of cases of a deadly multidrug-resistant fungus nationwide. The CDC has confirmed 587 cases of the fungus, *Candida auris*, in 12 states over the past few years, most of them in Chicago, New Jersey and the New York City area. The fungus is a yeast infection with a one-in-three mortality rate in cases where the infection reaches the heart, blood or brain, according to the CDC. [Go to article](#)

[Disease X and Other Unknowns](#) (*The Lancet*) In 2018, recognising that a “serious international epidemic could be caused by a pathogen currently unknown to cause human disease”, WHO added a new category to its emergency priority list: Disease X. In the taxonomy of knowledge, Disease X corresponds to what the former US Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld infamously termed an “unknown unknown”. A classic example is HIV, the virus now known to be the cause of AIDS but which, in 1980, when doctors began treating the first patients with AIDS, had never been seen to cause disease in humans. [Go to article](#)

[National Surveillance Data Show Increase in Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis: United States, 2016–2017](#) (*AJPH*) From 2016 through 2017, unprecedented increase in all nationally notifiable tickborne diseases were reported to the CDC. [Go to article](#)

[Mass Exodus of State Health Department Deputies and Senior Management Threatens Institutional Stability](#) (*AJPH*) Recent evidence has shown that state health officials typically have relatively short tenures as leaders of state public health agencies, with a median of three years. Rapid turnover of state health officials underscores the critical roles that senior managers in state public health agencies play in maintaining agency stability and leadership during tumultuous periods of uncertainty. Frequent departures of agency heads mean that the deputy health officers and other senior managers are often the keepers of institutional memory, expertise, and experience—and find themselves inserted into policymaking positions when leadership has been vacated. [Go to article](#)

### ----- **Sen. Grassley Demands HHS Explain its Cybersecurity Policies**

Following an OIG report that found vulnerabilities in the agency’s security controls and detection, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Grassley demands answers from the HHS Secretary.

“HHS OIG [was] able to gain access to various devices on the network, escalate privileges, evade detection, and gain unauthorized access to personally identifiable information (PII) at four of the eight OPDIVs that we tested,” Grassley wrote.

OIG officials were able to access more than 9,000 records, including phone numbers, case information, some photographs, and more, he explained. What’s worse is that HHS OpDiv monitoring controls detected very little of the penetration testing performed by OIG.

Full story: <https://healthitsecurity.com/news/sen.-grassley-demands-hhs-explain-its-cybersecurity-policies>

### ----- **KY Gets \$1.1M Grant to Clean Up Storage Tank Leaks**

(SurfKY) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded a \$1,170,000 grant to the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection to assist the state in cleaning up petroleum contamination from leaking underground storage tanks throughout the state. This grant is funded through the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund to support state efforts to address this type of contamination. States may use these funds to support staff that oversee the cleanup projects or to pay for contractual services to perform cleanup projects.

Last fiscal year, Kentucky reported 109 new confirmed discharges, 162 cleanups completed and 636 remaining to be addressed. Kentucky’s goals for this year are to complete 130 cleanups and to further reduce confirmed releases at underground storage tank facilities by 5% compared to last year.

A portion of the funds can be used by the state to carry out enforcement, corrective action and cost recovery activities. To the extent the state is successful in recovering LUST Trust Fund expenditures—including interest—from liable owners/operators, it will dedicate and use these funds for additional LUST cleanup activities.

Full story: <https://www.surfky.com/index.php/179-news/kentucky/138837-ky-gets-1-1m-grant-to-clean-up-storage-tank-leaks>

### ----- **EPA Reduces Regulations on Ky.'s Environmental Plan**

(SurfKY) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler has approved revisions to the Kentucky Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides emissions at electric generating units within the commonwealth.

Wheeler’s approval removes the one-size-fits-all Federal Implementation Plan for Kentucky regional haze dating back to 2012 and fully approves Kentucky’s clean air plan for regional haze.

Read more: <https://www.surfky.com/index.php/179-news/kentucky/138840-epa-reduces-regulations-on-ky-s-environmental-plan>

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**HICP Five Threats Webinar Series:  
Attacks against Connected Medical Devices**

(DHS) The [Health Care Industry Cybersecurity Practices \(HICP\): Five Threats](#) Weekly Series hosted by the 405(d) Initiative presents the final threat in a series of five, *Attacks against Connected Medical Devices*. This portion of the threat series covers the risk that medical devices connected over a network face when a cyberattack occurs. Imagine this, a cyber-attacker gains access to a care provider's computer network through an e-mail phishing attack and takes command of a file server to which a heart monitor is attached. While scanning the network for devices, the attacker takes control (e.g., power off, continuously reboot) of all heart monitors in the ICU, putting multiple patients at risk.

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

**Date:** Tuesday, April 16 and Thursday, April 18

**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](mailto: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](http://www.phe.gov/405d).

**12+ Ways to Hack Two-Factor Authentication**

All two-factor authentication (2FA) mechanisms can be compromised, and in some cases, it's as simple as sending a traditional phishing email. Want to know how to defend against 2FA hacks? This white paper covers over a dozen different ways to hack various types of 2FA and how to defend against those attacks. [Download Here](#)

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**Active Shooter Symposium  
May 13, 2019 - 8:30 AM to Noon (CDT)  
KY Dam Village State Park Convention Center  
Gilbertsville, KY**

Active shooter incidents are unpredictable and evolve quickly. What role will you, your agency or community play in the next shooting incident? Will the role be responder, victim, or bystander when the unthinkable happens? No one can predict the answer. However, learning about it, thinking about it, talking about it and planning for it can help mitigate the impacts of an active shooter incident on you, your agency and your community.

The Region 1 Health Care Planning and Preparedness Coalition (HCPPC) invites you to join us May 13<sup>th</sup> at the KY Dam Village State Park to interact with others from medical facilities, EMS, long term care and emergency response agencies as local and national speakers share personal experiences and offer advice in planning for an active shooter incident.

Please encourage others from your facility and to attend this Active Shooter/Armed Aggressor Symposium.

For more information contact Tina Massengill, 270-252-1710, [Tina.Massengill@ky.gov](mailto:Tina.Massengill@ky.gov)

Register here: <https://ky.readyop.com/fs/4cY5/ed3b>

**SPEAKERS**

**John Hunt, Corporate Director of Security for AtlantiCare**, will present *Violence in Health Care and Active Shooter: Managing the Radius of Risk*. Mr. Hunt has spent 27 years in law enforcement, 17 years in Homeland Security and 8 years in healthcare.

**Bryan Cutsinger, Marshall County EMS Director**, will present *It CAN Happen Here*. Mr. Cutsinger will discuss the response to the January 23, 2018 Marshall County High School shooting.

The KHEREF 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 deleted, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact [rbartlett@kyha.com](mailto:rbartlett@kyha.com) (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.