



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 2, 2019

May 2 is [World Password Day](#)

Do you have one of the top 15 worst passwords of 2018?

<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/cybersecurity/15-most-common-passwords.html>

Norton Audubon Hospital offers tips for Derby-goers to avoid a trip to the ER

(WDRB) Staff say they are expecting hundreds of patients to walk through the hospital doors this weekend, so they're preparing now by setting up extra beds and IV poles.

They say every Derby season comes with plenty of fun, but also lots of injuries, and an increase in patients. Many of those patients suffer from things that can be prevented -- like dehydration, severe sunburn and alcohol poisoning.

The emergency department medical director says over his many years of seeing Derby Day patients, alcohol plays a big part.

Read more: https://www.wdrb.com/news/norton-audubon-hospital-offers-tips-for-derby-goers-to-avoid/article_35960a78-6c28-11e9-b5b4-f33b31fb19dc.html

TSA gears up for Derby travelers with reminders about banned items

(WDRB) -- Louisville's airport is gearing up for travelers in town for the Kentucky Derby.



Thousands of passengers are expected to fly into Louisville for Saturday's race, but the day after Derby is expected to be the busiest day in the airport's history. Around 14,000 passengers are expected to be screened through security on Sunday.

Before the crowds arrive, officials with the Transportation Security Administration are reminding travelers of what they can and can't bring on board an airplane. Officials displayed a variety of items confiscated by agents during screenings including guns, knives and brass knuckles. But they also showed peanut butter, shampoos, liquor and other items many travelers don't realize they can't pack

in carry-on luggage. The airport is bringing in TSA officers from other regional airports to help.

Read more: https://www.wdrb.com/news/louisville-s-airport-gears-up-for-derby-travelers-with-reminders/article_a19e8a8a-6c3a-11e9-a08b-c7221e8c87da.html

Classroom teachers can have guns.

Painful debate marks final passage by Florida House

(Miami Herald) After about seven hours of angry, sometimes deeply painful debate about race and gun violence that spanned two days, the Florida House passed a bill Wednesday that would allow classroom teachers to be armed, expanding a program lawmakers created last year after the Parkland shooting.

The debate reached emotional heights that had Democrats shouting or tearing up as black lawmakers delved into details about their personal experiences with racism and their deep-seated fears about minority children being targeted by teachers who have guns.

The bill now heads to the desk of Gov. Ron DeSantis, who expressed early support for it. For teachers and other staff to be armed, school districts must opt-in to the so-called "Guardian program," which allows teachers and other staff to volunteer to carry a gun on campus after undergoing screening and training by a local sheriff's office.

Read more: <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article229906419.html>

As Meth Use Surges, First Responders Struggle to Help Those in Crisis

(NPR Shots) While public health officials have focused on the opioid epidemic in recent years, another epidemic has been brewing quietly, but vigorously, behind the scenes. Methamphetamine use is surging in parts of the US, particularly the West, leaving first responders and addiction treatment providers struggling to handle a rising need.

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/05/01/716404677/as-meth-use-surges-first-responders-struggle-to-help-those-in-crisis>

HHS releases final conscience rights regulation

(AHA Today for May 2) The Department of Health and Human Services today issued a [final rule](#) protecting certain statutory conscience rights in health care. The rule replaces a 2011 rule and, among other things, finalizes protections for health workers who cite religious or moral objections to providing certain services.

Commenting on the [proposed rule](#), AHA reaffirmed the field's commitment to respecting the conscience objections of hospital employees and medical staff and, at the same time, ensuring patients have access to necessary care.

Electric bills are going up again across Kentucky

(Herald-Leader) Electric bills are going up again across Kentucky. The Kentucky Public Service Commission announced that it had approved rate hikes for Kentucky Utilities and Louisville Gas & Electric. The new rates took effect Wednesday.

Read more: <https://insiderlouisville.com/government/electric-bills-are-going-up-again-across-kentucky/>

**Providing outstanding care:
Small, rural hospitals play an important role in U.S. health care**

(Messenger-Inquirer) Since 2010, nearly 100 rural hospitals in the U.S. have closed, according to a recent study funded by the National Rural Health Association. Furthermore, 673 hospitals in that size category are at risk. That amounts to one-third of the nation's rural facilities.

In Kentucky, four small, rural hospitals -- 100 beds or less in a region not designated as a metropolitan area -- have closed since 2014. They were in Columbia, Fulton, Carlisle and Owenton.

In January, Breckinridge Memorial Hospital in Hardinsburg reported having no savings and about 10 days of operating cash on hand, according to Kentucky Health News. The Breckinridge County Fiscal Court voted unanimously last year not to increase property taxes to keep the 25-bed facility solvent. Since mid-2018, the hospital has dipped into a \$1 million line of credit at times to keep the doors open. Sixty-four rural hospitals remain open across the state.

Read the full story for more info: http://www.messenger-inquirer.com/news/local/providing-outstanding-care-officials-small-rural-hospitals-play-an-important/article_fcd84a10-46ea-59ec-a29a-ade1f608484c.html

Webinar Series - HEP Talks

In recognition of Hepatitis Awareness Month (May) and Hepatitis Testing Day (May 19), HRSA will host "HEP Talks." Like TED Talks, these will be condensed and informative presentations focused on emerging and important viral hepatitis topics. Each session features a brief talk by a viral hepatitis expert followed by an opportunity for discussion and questions.



[Visit the Health Center Program Technical Assistance Calendar for session descriptions and access information.](#)

- **Hepatitis B Testing** May 2 3:30-4:15 p.m. EDT
- **Hepatitis C and the Opioid Epidemic** May 16 3:00-3:45 p.m. EDT
- **Hepatitis C and the Cure** May 23 3:30-4:15 p.m. EDT
- **Hepatitis B and Perinatal Transmission** May 30 3:00-3:45 p.m. EDT

Is Measles Here to Stay?

(NPR Shots) In 2000, the Pan American Health Organization announced a monumental public health achievement: Widespread vaccination efforts, overseen by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, had effectively eliminated measles from the US. The disease, which before the vaccination era affected 3 million to 4 million people in the US each year, was now isolated to small, contained outbreaks connected to international travel.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/04/30/718220586/is-measles-here-to-stay>

House committee proposes public health and preparedness funding

(TFAH) Earlier this week, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies advanced their proposed [FY20 spending bill](#). The [bill](#) includes increases to many public health and preparedness programs, including the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program, Hospital Preparedness Program, BARDA, Strategic National Stockpile, and global disease detection. BioShield is proposed for level funding. Notably, the bill also includes \$100 million for "the first year of a multi-year effort to support modernization of public health data surveillance and analytics at CDC, State and local health departments and the National Center for Health Statistics." We will see more detail when the Committee report is released, likely after next week's full committee markup.

TFAH released a [statement](#) applauding proposed increases for public health and prevention.

High-tech fix offers hope for tackling H3N2 vaccine problems

(CIDRAP) Slow to grow and apt to mutate during production, the H3N2 flu vaccine strain is the problem child of vaccine manufacturing, especially egg-based versions, but a new cell line developed at the University of Wisconsin offers the potential to rein in the strain for a better match and improved efficacy

The new cell line—made with the help of a new gene editing tool—may ease some of the challenges with H3N2 vaccine viruses while scientists develop more effective and more broadly protective next-generation alternatives. A team led by Yoshihiro Kawaoka, DVM, PhD, described their findings in a recent issue of *Nature Microbiology*. Flu seasons dominated by H3N2 viruses are often the more severe ones and are known to hit seniors the hardest. And H3N2 is unique, because it doesn't grow well in eggs or even in some cell lines such as such as Mandin-Darby canine kidney (MDCK), Kawaoka said.

Full story: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2019/05/high-tech-fix-offers-hope-tackling-h3n2-vaccine-problems>

Flesh-eating bacteria strike two men in Florida

(CNN) Beach season has begun, and with it comes an increase in waterborne dangers. Two recent examples from the Sunshine State highlight the gruesome possibilities.

In March, an Ohio man visiting family in Florida for spring break took a boating trip with his brother-in-law to the Weedon Island Preserve in Tampa Bay. Days later, Barry Briggs felt his foot begin to puff slightly and figured his sunburn was the cause. He boarded his flight home to Ohio, according to the [Barry's Medical Updates Facebook page](#). However, during the span of that flight, the swelling became extreme. When he arrived in Ohio, he was rushed to Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, where doctors diagnosed [necrotizing fasciitis](#), a rare infection commonly referred to as "flesh-eating."

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/01/health/flesh-eating-bacteria-bn-trnd/index.html>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [May 2, 2019](#)

Vaccine Platforms: State of the Field and Looming Challenges

The prospect of severe infectious diseases with pandemic potential has triggered significant interest in developing the capacity to rapidly accelerate the development and manufacturing scale-up of medical countermeasures (MCMs) against such threats. Among MCMs, arguably the highest impact interventions involve vaccines. Vaccines can be used in various ways to dampen or extinguish an outbreak—and ultimately to prevent such outbreaks from occurring in the first place. [Go to article](#)

[What The Future May Hold for The Strategic National Stockpile for Biodefense](#) (*Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*) So what, exactly, is the Strategic National Stockpile for Biodefense? What are some of the possibilities for the stockpile's future, and how might they affect the way these supplies are delivered to the site of a biological attack and used in the future? And how could they deal with engineered or antibiotic-resistant variants of known biothreat agents? The answers may lie in new technologies that uses gene-based approaches—based upon the nucleic acids DNA and RNA. They could be used as therapies that are straightforward to produce, cheap and easy to store, and in quantities large enough for a massive number of doses to be maintained within a small footprint at several different sites scattered across the country. [Go to article](#)

Gov. Bevin Orders Flags to Half-Staff Monday in Honor of Kentucky Soldier Killed in Iraq

Flag status information is available at <http://governor.ky.gov/flag-status>.

----- From [Global Defense](#) -----

Are Frontline Hospitals Ready for a Patient With Ebola?

Investigators sampled 5 major frontline hospitals in Maricopa County, Arizona, to perform a gap analysis in how their response would be for a patient with Ebola or another high-consequence pathogen. From entering the hospital through the emergency department to cleansing and disinfecting protocols, the investigators evaluated whether health care workers could still answer the questions that were heavily drilled into these hospitals in 2014 following the Ebola cluster in Dallas. [Contagion Live](#)

Why Officials In Oregon Are Practicing for a Plague Outbreak

Quick, organized responses don't happen without funding, planning, and practice. From April 30 to May 2, emergency responders and public health agencies are rehearsing their response to a simulated bioterrorism attack unleashing *Yersinia pestis* on the port city of 650,000. [Forbes](#)

Promote home fire sprinklers in your community May 19-25

(USFA) To help you teach your community about the importance of home fire sprinklers, the NFPA® Fire Sprinkler Initiative® and the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition® (HFSC) have created free resources to commemorate Home Fire Sprinkler Week™, May 19–25. You can find videos, flyers and the new Living with Sprinklers kit at the [HFSC website](#).

Read more: https://www.usfa.fema.gov/current_events/050219.html

HHS OCR to Reduce Maximum Civil Penalties for HIPAA Violations

([Health Security](#)) The Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights has moved to reduce the annual limit of civil penalties applied to HIPAA violations for three of the four penalty tiers.

According to the notice of enforcement [discretion](#), the reduction is meant to clear up inconsistencies in the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act of 2009. The penalty structures were implemented during a final interim rule in January 2013.

The changes to the caps apply to all tiers, except for willful neglect that has not been corrected. The minimum penalty per violation, \$100 for the first tier, \$1,000 for the second, \$10,000 for the third, and \$50,000 for the fourth will remain the same, along with the maximum penalty per violation of \$50,000 for all four tiers.

Full story: <https://healthitsecurity.com/news/hhs-ocr-to-reduce-maximum-civil-penalties-for-hipaa-violations>

[HIPAA is Clear: Breaches Must be Reported 60 Days After Discovery](#)

Despite a growing list of providers reporting breaches long-after it's first discovered, HIPAA mandates reporting within 60 calendar days – and without reasonable delay. [Full Story](#)

The 10 Biggest U.S. Healthcare Data Breaches of 2018

Email, targeted phishing attacks, and database misconfigurations were behind the year's largest breaches of patient data – with one attack lasting more than a year.

Read on: <https://healthitsecurity.com/news/the-10-biggest-u.s.-healthcare-data-breaches-of-2018>

Public Health Law Course

CDC has launched a [Public Health Emergency Law course](#) to prepare state, tribal, local, and territorial practitioners to make informed legal decisions related to emergency preparedness and response activities in their jurisdictions.

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.