



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 9, 2019

Unvaccinated Northern Kentucky student in chickenpox case comes down with the illness

(WLWT5) The high school senior who went to court over a health-department restriction over chickenpox at his Walton school has come down with the illness, his lawyer said Tuesday. Jerome Kunkel, 18, got sick with chickenpox last week, nearly two months after the Northern Kentucky health department issued its order to control an outbreak at two small parochial schools in Boone County.

Read & see more: <https://www.fox19.com/2019/05/08/unvaccinated-northern-kentucky-student-chickenpox-case-comes-down-with-illness/>

Related: NKY HEALTH STATEMENT CHICKENPOX AND PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

(May 8, 2019) Recent news articles reporting statements by Chris Wiest, the plaintiffs' attorney, downplaying the dangers of the chickenpox virus are alarming and disappointing. Wiest's comments are dismissive of the severity of this virus, and his recent announcement that he is advising his clients to actively contract the virus so that they can become individually immune to it is deeply concerning to the Northern Kentucky Health Department.

This is clearly not appropriate medical advice, according to physicians and infectious disease experts. Chickenpox, also known as varicella, is an acute infectious disease. When introduced in an unvaccinated population, the virus can rapidly spread, causing serious, even deadly consequences, to people who are particularly at risk, such as infants, adolescents, pregnant women, and adults and children with weakened immune systems, including those receiving cancer treatment.

The Northern Kentucky Health Department has and will continue to follow the established medical guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other nationally acclaimed experts in infectious disease control in responding to the chickenpox outbreak among Assumption Academy students.

Read full NKDHD Press Release: <https://nkyhealth.org/2019/05/08/media-advisory-nky-health-statement-chickenpox-and-protecting-public-health/>

The [2019 National Health Security Preparedness Index](#) has been released, and the results indicate that readiness for emergencies continued to improve in 2018, but current levels remain far from optimal. The national Index increased by 3.1 percent over the prior year, but large differences persisted across states and regions.

Colorado parent warned school about violence and bullying before school shooting

(CBS) Five months before the shooting at [STEM School Highlands Ranch](#) that killed one student and injured eight others, CBS News learned school Executive Director Penelope Eucker was sent a letter warning about violence and bullying at the school. The letter was written by a school district official with information from an anonymous parent of a high school senior, who called the district with concerns about the school.

According to the letter, "there is an extremely high drug culture at STEM," and "many students are suicidal and violent." The anonymous parent called it the "the perfect storm" and "expressed concerns about a repeat of Columbine."

The Douglas County School District official said all of the concerns were reported to "the Department of Human Services and to the sheriff's department."

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/colorado-shooting-stem-school-highlands-ranch-parent-worried-about-repeat-of-columbine-2019-05-09/>

Measles Outbreak Toolkit for Healthcare Providers

To support health care providers during the current multi-state measles outbreak, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed [a digital toolkit](#) with products for providers and their patients about vaccines and measles. These products include accurate, science-based evidence to help counter misinformation about measles and MMR vaccine. ([Link](#))

House committee approves HHS appropriations bill for FY 2020

(AHA Today) The House Appropriations Committee yesterday voted 30-23 to approve with changes [legislation](#) that would provide \$189.9 billion in base discretionary funding for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education and related agencies in fiscal year 2020. According to a [committee summary](#), the amended bill would still provide \$99 billion for HHS, \$8.5 billion more than this year and \$20.9 billion more than the president's budget request. Specific increases include \$2 billion more for the National Institutes of Health; \$475 million more for the Health Resources and Services Administration; \$315 million more for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; \$115 million more for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; and \$35 million more for *Hospital Preparedness Program grants*. The bill also includes \$50 million for research to prevent firearm injury and death.

Among specific changes, the committee [said](#) the amended bill would maintain support for nonemergency medical transportation services for Medicaid beneficiaries who lack access to health care facilities; *increase funding for the Strategic National Stockpile by \$300 million* using unobligated balances from the Children's Health Insurance Program; and prohibit funds from being used to "replace or diminish the quality of care provided by TRICARE or Medicare," or to implement or enforce the administration's new rule protecting certain statutory conscience rights in health care.

CDC Clinician Call

"Most Measles Cases in 25 Years: Is This the End of Measles Elimination in the United States?"

Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 @ **Time:** 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. (ET)

A few minutes before the webinar begins, please click the link below to join:

<https://zoom.us/j/118484474>

Or iPhone one-tap: US: +16468769923,,118484474# or +16699006833,,118484474#
Or Telephone: Dial: US: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 118 484 474

The closed captioned video for this COCA Call will be posted [here](#) soon after the live call.

Free [continuing education \(CE\)](#) is available for this COCA Call.

Please see below for instructions on how to receive CE.

View this message as a webpage:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCDC/bulletins/243e1a571cd-11e9-82bd-1b9164d7a39f.html>

Education is the first defense against cyber fraud

KY InfraGard Alliance President, Jack Plaxe and a Lexington Detective assigned to the Lexington Secret Service office, addressed a seminar of tax administrators from across the Commonwealth earlier this week. Jack's presentation was especially timely as our Scott County School Board was the victim of \$3.7 million cyber theft within the last 2 weeks. Fortunately, with the quick help of the FBI and the bank, all \$3.7 million was recovered.

The presentation, and their recommendations on cyber fraud, were featured in Georgetown News-Graphic story today: http://www.news-graphic.com/news/education-first-defense-vs-cyber-fraud-security-expert-says/article_23f6875c-71cd-11e9-82bd-1b9164d7a39f.html

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [May 8, 2019](#) & [May 9, 2019](#)

[NIH Says Its 1-Million-Person Health Study Is off to Good Start](#) (*Science*) A plan to entice 1 million people in the United States to volunteer for a huge study of health and genes is making good progress 1 year after its national launch, organizers said this week. The All of Us study run by the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland, has recruited 143,000 participants who have already taken surveys and visited a clinic to give blood and urine samples. Another 87,000 have at least registered for the study. [Go to article](#)

[Stopping the Gaps in Epidemic Preparedness](#) (*The New England Journal of Medicine*) The WHO, in conjunction with global experts, has drawn up a list of nine known infectious diseases and one unknown (Disease X) in a "Blueprint" for research and development. These infections have the potential to cause public health emergencies, and we lack the tools to diagnose, treat, or prevent them. The world is therefore particularly vulnerable to these infections, and yet they've been neglected in research and development. [Go to article](#)

[The United Nations and the Future of Warfare](#) (*Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*) Lethal autonomous weapons. When I mention this phrase to most people who are unfamiliar with this type of weapon, their

immediate response is almost always repulsion. This is usually followed by the question: Like drones? No. Drones are controlled remotely by a person, and they cannot launch an attack against a human target on their own—the person in control has to make that decision. Lethal autonomous weapons, as the name implies, are weapons that could kill people autonomously. [Go to article](#)

[WHO Issues Warning as Measles Infects 34,000 in Europe This Year](#) (Reuters) More than 34,000 people across Europe caught measles in the first two months of 2019, with the vast majority of cases in Ukraine, the World Health Organization said on Tuesday as it urged authorities to ensure vulnerable people get vaccinated. [Go to article](#)

[New York City Cites 84 People for Refusing to Vaccinate Amid Measles Outbreak](#) (CNBC) New York City cited 84 people for refusing to vaccinate themselves or their children as the city's ongoing measles outbreak worsens, the city's health department said Tuesday. The city's health department last month declared a state of emergency and ordered residents of Brooklyn's Williamsburg neighborhood to get the measles, mumps and rubella, or MMR, vaccine or face a \$1,000 fine. [Go to article](#)

FEMA Releases Senior Leader Toolkit

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Integration Center today released a [Senior Leader Toolkit](#), a resource that both emergency management and senior leaders can use to discuss roles and responsibilities during incidents.

FEMA supports the mission of strengthening the security and resilience of the nation by working to improve the ability of all to manage incidents, events, and emergencies.

Senior leaders and policy makers play a critical role in incident management. This role varies widely across the nation according to local laws and authorities. Stakeholders have asked for assistance developing materials for their senior leaders; however, FEMA understands that local personnel best understand the specific roles and responsibilities within their jurisdiction. For this reason, FEMA is releasing these documents as customizable templates, so that local emergency managers can revise them according to their local authorities and procedures.

The templates in the toolkit include an Elected Officials/Senior Executives Quick Reference Guide, a Department Head Quick Reference Guide, and a NIMS Senior Leader Briefing Template. The toolkit is available on the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system>

Scientists use engineered phages to help save teen

(CIDRAP) A team of US and British scientists are reporting the successful treatment of a life-threatening mycobacterial infection using genetically engineered bacteriophages.

In a case report published yesterday in *Nature Medicine*, the team describes the efforts to save a young cystic fibrosis patient in England struggling with a multidrug-resistant (MDR) *Mycobacterium abscessus* infection following a double lung transplant. It's the latest in a handful of cases in which bacteriophages, the ubiquitous viruses that attack and destroy bacteria, have been used as a last-resort treatment for patients with MDR bacterial infections. But it's the first using genetically engineered phages.

Read more: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2019/05/scientists-use-engineered-phages-help-save-teen>

[Ransomware Hostage Rescue Manual](#)

(HealthITSecurity) Malware attacks on the healthcare industry are increasing steadily, with the majority being ransomware that require healthcare providers to report these attacks as potential data breaches. Know what to expect BEFORE an attack happens. Get the most informative and complete Ransomware Hostage Rescue Manual. [Download Here](#)

[Protecting Data in the Healthcare Industry](#)

(HealthITSecurity) Stealing healthcare records is a lucrative business. These records can contain personal, medical, and financial information that a criminal requires for identity theft. Despite all of the regulatory requirements around preventing data breaches, they have become all too common across the industry. [Download Here](#)

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.