



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 11-12, 2019

States bring price-fixing suit against generic drug makers *KY Among states joining lawsuit*

Attorneys general from more than 40 states are alleging the nation's largest generic drug manufacturers conspired to artificially inflate and manipulate prices for more than 100 different generic drugs, including treatments for diabetes, cancer, arthritis and other medical conditions.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Connecticut on Friday, also names 15 individual senior executives responsible for sales, marketing and pricing. Connecticut Attorney General William Tong, a Democrat, said investigators obtained evidence implicating 20 firms.

Learn more: <https://www.pressherald.com/2019/05/11/states-bring-price-fixing-suit-against-generic-drug-makers/>

As Disease Outbreaks Increase, Kentucky Grapples With Vaccine Awareness

(WFPL) Across the country, diseases like measles which were once almost eradicated are making a resurgence, and experts say lower vaccination rates in some communities are to blame.

In Kentucky, there [have been two confirmed cases of measles](#), along with outbreaks of other infectious diseases like hepatitis A and chickenpox. These highly-contagious illnesses can be prevented by vaccines, too, but skepticism among some people about vaccine safety combined with religious objections may affect efforts to keep such diseases in check

Several experts on vaccines and infectious diseases talked about the status of vaccine-hesitancy and how it affects Kentucky during WFPL's In Conversation with Rick Howlett.

Listen to the podcast or read more: <https://wfpl.org/as-disease-outbreaks-increase-kentucky-grapples-with-vaccine-awareness/>

Flu activity drops, but 5 new deaths in kids

([CIDRAP News Scan](#)) Influenza-like illness (ILI) represented just 1.6% of outpatient clinic visits last week, a sure sign seasonal flu activity is dwindling in the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said in its weekly FluView update.

But, as in last week's report, the CDC recorded 5 new pediatric flu deaths, raising this year's total to 106. The fatal flu infections occurred in March, April, and May. All but one were associated with influenza A strains.

Only Massachusetts and New York reported widespread flu activity, and no states experienced high ILI activity, the CDC said.

The flu-associated hospitalization rate rose slightly, to 65.7 per 100,000 population. The highest rate was among patients over the age of 65 (221.5 hospitalizations per 100,000 people).

As has been the case in the last 3 weeks, most current flu activity is caused by influenza A (H3) viruses. Of all lab-tested samples collected last week, 66% were influenza A, and 34% were influenza B.

May 10 CDC [FluView](#)

\$9M grant will target mental health in Kentucky schools

(AP) — Three Kentucky school districts are sharing a \$9 million federal grant aimed at increasing awareness of mental health issues.

The grant will provide resources for public school districts in Bullitt, Henderson and Warren County for the implementation of mental health policies and processes. Kentucky is one of only four states receiving the award.

The grant was announced by the Kentucky Department of Education in partnership with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Full story: <https://apnews.com/01408c4cb8c4488490f15abf9a6da994>

Child Hunger In Kentucky Higher Than National Rate

(WFPL) A new report from [Feeding America](#) shows that 187,000 children in Kentucky are at risk of going hungry. The report, called [Map the Meal Gap 2019](#), details state and county data on food insecurity, which means that a person may not have consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life.

The report shows that [food insecurity among children in Kentucky](#) actually decreased slightly from 19 percent in last year's report to 18 percent in the new report.

Learn more: <https://wfpl.org/child-hunger-in-kentucky-higher-than-national-rate/>

Indiana Nurses Can Practice In Kentucky Beginning July 1

(WFPL) Nurses working in Indiana will now be able to practice in Kentucky without holding a duplicate license. That's thanks to a new law signed by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb last week.

Indiana joins what's known as a nurse licensure compact shared by 31 other states. In order to practice in a compact-member state, nurses have to successfully complete the application for the multi-state license, undergo a federal background check and complete related tests. Nurses will still have to hold a valid license from their resident state in order to practice across state lines.

Amelia McClure, the government affairs liaison at hospice and palliative care provider Hosparus Health, said the compact will improve care for patients in Kentucky.

Read more: <https://wfpl.org/indiana-nurses-can-practice-in-kentucky-beginning-july-1/>

May 12th Starts National Hospital Week

Tomorrow is the start of National Hospital Week. Visit the AHA's [National Hospital Week webpage](#) for more information, including a digital toolkit that you and your team can use to promote your events and efforts.

More than 700 cases of mumps in the US this year

(CNN) There have been 736 cases of mumps reported in the United States this year as of April 26, [according to](#) the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

That's an increase of 310 cases of the illness in the last month. Previously, the CDC [reported](#) 426 cases of mumps as of the end of March. The cases have been reported in [41 states](#) and the District of Columbia.

Mumps is a vaccine-preventable disease that is caused by a virus. It is spread through saliva or mucus by coughing, sneezing or talking and by sharing eating utensils or cups, according to the CDC.

Full report: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/09/health/mumps-cases-us-cdc-700-cases/index.html>

CDC: 1.1 million more Americans lost health insurance coverage in 2018

(USA Today) The number of Americans without health insurance increased again in 2018, the second consecutive year that figure has risen after several years of declines under Obamacare, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey shows.

About [30.4 million Americans did not have health insurance in 2018](#), up from 29.3 million in 2017, according to the CDC's National Health Interview Survey. That means about 1.1 million more Americans lost insurance coverage last year.

Full story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/05/09/health-insurance-1-1-million-more-americans-lost-coverage-2018/1140304001/>

A growing number of states call porn a public health crisis

(AP) — More than a dozen states have moved to declare pornography a public health crisis, raising concerns among some experts who say the label goes too far and carries its own risks. Many of the resolutions are based on a model written by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, an anti-porn group that cites research linking it to a range of problems and argues that it's become too ubiquitous for individuals to combat alone.

Read more: <https://apnews.com/9c91cfd28a7b461b87948f36117a432e>

Feds now tracking 850 possible domestic terrorists across US, as white supremacy cases jump

(ABC) The FBI is currently investigating nearly 850 people across the United States as [possible domestic terrorists](#), and the number of cases targeting white supremacists, white nationalists and other racially-motivated extremists has jumped in the past six months, federal law enforcement officials said Wednesday.

"In fact, there have been more arrests and deaths in the United States caused by domestic terrorists than international terrorists in recent years," the head of the FBI's counterterrorism division, Assistant Director Michael McGarrity, told a House panel Wednesday. He warned that hatred and extremist ideology are increasingly being spread online, and "that mobilization to violence is much quicker" than it used to be. McGarrity emphasized that "domestic terrorism" -- often rooted in racially-motivated extremism, anti-government

extremism or environmental extremism -- is different than "homegrown" terrorism, which is inspired by international terrorist groups like ISIS and Al Qaeda.

Read more: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/feds-now-investigating-850-domestic-terrorists-us-fbi/story?id=62907157>

KY Home Invasion Erupts into Gunfire

(Newser) – A scary home invasion was caught on video this week, gunfire and all. At least three intruders can be seen kicking in the door and entering the Kentucky mobile home—with the leading perp carrying what appears to be a handgun, [Fox News](#) reports. But when they reach a doorway, gunfire erupts and the invaders hightail it out of there. Bowling Green homeowner Austin Orwig, 24, whose hand was wounded in the incident, shouts what sounds like a woman's name. Authorities say he was actually asleep when the intruders broke in, per [WBKO](#).

Read more: <https://www.newser.com/story/275045/home-invasion-gets-very-scary.html>

FEMA Mishandled Two Hurricane Relief Contracts worth \$30 Million

<https://news360.com/article/496208092>

How FEMA Could Lose America's Next Great War

([Homeland Security Affairs](#)) Quinton Lucie analyzes serious gaps in FEMA's ability to carry out crucial wartime Civil Defense and defense mobilization missions, and provides a roadmap for closing those gaps.

Read article: <https://www.hsaj.org/articles/15017>

National weather radar system upgrades are on track

An eight-year plan for a major upgrade to the nation's weather radar stations to help predict dangerous storms and improve air traffic safety is on track at the midway point, a federal official said Friday.

The improvements will keep the 25-year-old system viable into the 2030s, said Jessica Schultz, deputy director at the National Weather Service Radar Operations Center in Norman, Oklahoma.

The Next Generation Radar (NEXRAD) system was built in the 1990s, and officials say the upgrades are needed to not only improve information but to keep it working. The National Weather Service, U.S. Air Force and Federal Aviation Administration are paying for the \$150 million project to refurbish 159 stations that will wrap up in 2023. Read more here: <https://www.macon.com/news/business/article230267659.html>

You're not safe inland during a hurricane.

Here's why, according to storm experts.

<https://news360.com/article/496108874>

'Run, Hide, Fight' mindset making way into US schools

(AP) — The actions of students who died tackling gunmen at two U.S. campuses a week apart have been hailed as heroic. At a growing number of schools around the country, they also reflect guidance to students, at least in some situations, to do what they can to disrupt shootings.

A majority of school districts have now embraced such an approach, with experts saying educators need to give staff and students as many options as possible in the worst-case scenario.

Many schools have stuck with the traditional approach of locking down classrooms and letting law enforcement confront the shooter, especially in grade-school settings. Encouraging students or faculty to do otherwise, critics say, could make them more of a target.

At the [STEM School Highlands Ranch](#) in suburban Denver, where student Kendrick Castillo was killed [while confronting a gunman](#) on Tuesday, the school uses a "Locks, Lights, Out of Sight" protocol, according to spokesman Gil Rudawsky. He declined to say whether any of the school's training for students addresses whether they should fight an intruder.

Full story: <https://apnews.com/d178ff553b20418e93f299dd52e56291>

**What Health Workers Face In the Ebola Zone
*Threats by Text, a Mob Outside The Door***

(NPR) For five days this past week alone, health workers had to stop all operations because of violence directed toward the Ebola response — resulting in a surge of new infections that's brought the total caseload to more than 1,600. Read more: <https://www.npr.org/721020887>

Parents can't delete what kids tell Amazon voice assistant

Amazon met with skepticism from some privacy advocates and members of Congress last year when it introduced its [first kid-oriented voice assistant](#), along with brightly colored models of its Echo Dot speaker designed for children.

Now those advocates say the kids' version of Amazon's Alexa won't forget what children tell it, even after parents try to delete the conversations. For that and other alleged privacy flaws they found while testing the service, they're now asking the Federal Trade Commission on Thursday to investigate whether it violates children's privacy laws.

Consumer Reports said that its own tests also [found](#) that the Echo Dot Kids remembered information that was deleted, including a birth date and the color of a dog. The nonprofit organization said its researchers were able to delete data from regular versions of Echo Dot and Alexa.

Read more: <https://apnews.com/f062c28ae72144b3b22146d9d4c6fab3>

Microsoft SharePoint servers are under attack

Reports that attacks that have been going on for at least two weeks.

(ZD Net) Hacker groups are attacking Microsoft SharePoint servers to exploit a recently patched vulnerability and gain access to corporate and government networks, according to recent security advisories sent out by [Canadian](#) and [Saudi Arabian](#) cybersecurity agencies.

The security flaw exploited in these attacks is tracked as [CVE-2019-0604](#), which Microsoft patched through security updates released in February, March, and April this year.

Read more: <https://www.zdnet.com/article/microsoft-sharepoint-servers-are-under-attack/>

Mystery of Failing Key Fobs Is Finally Solved

(Newser) – Residents of the small Ohio city of North Olmsted had a strange mystery on their hands for weeks: Their key fobs and garage door openers suddenly stopped working. It wasn't *every* key fob *every* time, but it was happening enough to make clear that something screwy was going on, reports the [New York Times](#). Finally, investigators zeroed in on one house in particular from which a strong signal seemed to be emanating.

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s274811>

FirstNet: An Opportunity For AT&T

One of the largest projects the management team at AT&T is working on right now that few people know about is the firm's extensive development of infrastructure and network assets that falls under its FirstNet contract. In just the few short months that the company has been working on it, it has already seen significant signups, and as time goes on, the business will see far more. Over the next few decades, management is set to invest tens of billions of dollars into this work, and in the long run, it should establish for itself a nice monopoly of sorts over high-speed first responder communications.

Learn more: <https://seekingalpha.com/article/4261515-firstnet-opportunity-and-t>

Studies on Media Coverage of Bike and Pedestrian Crashes Reveal Bias

Road safety advocates, particularly those who promote walking and biking, have long understood the importance of language, such as using "crash" rather than "accident." Two new media studies shed more light on bias in media coverage of crashes.

Cyclist deaths are on the rise. "In 2017 (the last full year for which we have data), 783 were killed on the roads [\[according to the Fatality Analysis Reporting System \(FARS\) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration\]](#)—continuing the upward trend of the past decade," writes [Joe Lindsey](#) for *Outside Magazine*. "Amid an all-time high of [vehicle miles traveled](#), pedestrian and motorcyclist deaths were also at all-time highs, even as fatalities among car occupants have dropped by more than 30 percent over the last 25 years."

Read more: <https://www.planetizen.com/news/2019/05/104289-studies-media-coverage-bike-and-pedestrian-crashes-reveal-bias>

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.