



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 18, 2019

Stop the Bleed Day - May 23rd

KY Hospital Association Announces Its New President



(Louisville) Nancy Galvagni was introduced on May 16 as the new President of the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA). She has been a Senior Vice President with KHA, and has forty years of experience in hospital association management. She will succeed Michael T. Rust, who is retiring after over 24 years in the position. *[Nancy is in the center of the picture, flanked by Mike Rust on the left, and outgoing KHA Board Chair Jane Wheatley from Taylor Regional Hospital].*

As the Senior VP, she focused on policy development, issue analysis, healthcare system finance, third-party payments, representation and advocacy, along with issues surrounding

federal and state legislation and regulations. She has consistently worked to advance the interests of hospitals and the health system in the Commonwealth.

This effort includes overseeing the development in 2008, and the on-going operation as the Executive Director, for the [Kentucky Institute for Patient Safety and Quality \(KIPSQ\)](#). This was one of the first PSOs in the nation, and is a federally certified patient safety organization (PSO) through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). KIPSQ works with Kentucky's hospitals to monitor and improve patient safety and the quality of care.

At their recent 90th Annual Convention, KHA's Distinguished Service Award, was presented to Nancy Galvagni. The incoming KHA Board Chair, Garren Colvin, CEO of St. Elizabeth Healthcare, was also recognized. He begins his tenure on July 1st.

Press Release: <http://www.new-kyha.com/NewsBlog/tabid/550/EntryId/1550/Kentucky-Hospital-Association-Names-Nancy-Galvagni-President-and-Chief-Executive-Officer.aspx>

Law Enforcement Reminds Public: **Click It or Ticket Campaign Starts May 20**

(KyTC) As the Memorial Day holiday approaches, State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies is reminding all drivers of the importance of seat belt use. This annual campaign is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's national **Click It or Ticket** high-visibility enforcement effort that runs from May 20 to June 2, 2019. Aimed at enforcing seat belt use to help keep families safe, the national seat belt campaign runs concurrent with the busy travel season.



CURRENT KY ROADWAY FATALITIES FOR 2019 - 226

According to NHTSA, in 2017, there were 10,076 unbuckled passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in the United States. In that same year, 55 percent of passenger vehicle occupants killed at night (6 p.m.– 5:59 a.m.) were not wearing their seat belts. That's why one focus of the *Click It or Ticket* campaign is nighttime enforcement. Participating law enforcement agencies will be taking a no-excuses approach to seat belt law enforcement, writing citations day and night.

Almost twice as many males were killed in crashes as compared to females, with lower belt use rates, too. Of the males killed in crashes in 2017, more than half (51%) were unrestrained. For females killed in crashes, 39 percent were not buckled up.

For more information on the *Click It or Ticket* mobilization, please visit <http://www.nhtsa.gov/ciot>

Read more: <https://transportation.ky.gov/HighwaySafety/Pages/default.aspx>

Trump pick to head FEMA sent to Senate for confirmation

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/496434721>

A hydrogel that can stop bleeding from an artery

(Phys.Org) A team of researchers affiliated with several institutions in China has developed a hydrogel that can stop bleeding from a punctured artery. In their paper published in the journal *Nature Communications*, the group describes how the hydrogel was made and how well it worked on test animals.

The researchers report that the hydrogel is made of water, gelatin and a mix of proteins and other chemicals. It was designed to be as close as possible in structure to human connective tissues. When UV light shines on the gel, it thickens and solidifies, adhering to the wound, preventing blood from flowing out. And it does so in just 20 to 30 seconds. The researchers note that it could also stand up to 290-mmHg blood pressure—much higher than normal. Learn more: <https://phys.org/news/2019-05-hydrogel-artery.html>

Ky. Residents In Their 50s Have Highest Food Insecurity Rate In U.S.

(WFPL) Kentucky has the highest rate of food insecurity for people in their 50s. That's according to a [new report](#) from nonprofit [Feeding America](#), the nation's largest hunger relief organization.

The report, based on a survey taken in 2017, shows that 18.6 percent of Kentuckians 50-59 years old were considered food insecure that year. That's compared to the nationwide rate of 11.3 percent.

The report released Tuesday doesn't point to a specific reason that the rate of food insecurity is higher among people in their 50s compared to older adults. But Tamara Sandberg, the executive director of food bank association Feeding Kentucky, said one factor might be that many federal food aid programs are for people 60 and over. So the younger older adults may not have as many resources.

Unemployment and disability could also be factors. Nationwide, 30 percent of people in their 50s who were food insecure said they were unemployed, and 26.8 percent said they were disabled.

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/ky-residents-in-their-50s-have-highest-food-insecurity-rate-in-u-s/>

Brief EMS Training Saves Lives After Brain Injury

(HealthDay News) -- All it takes is two hours of training to save a life after a severe [head injury](#), researchers say.

A new study reports that training first responders in emergency treatment guidelines for severe head injuries does improve chances of survival.

The guidelines for pre-hospital care of [traumatic brain injury](#) (TBI) patients by EMS workers focus on preventing low oxygen, [low blood pressure](#) and [hyperventilation](#).

Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=220918>

Fewer Boys Are Suffering Head Injuries, But Rate Rises for Girls

Read more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=219442>

Window for Safe Use of Clot-Buster Widens for Stroke Patients

(HealthDay News) -- For years, many people suffering a [stroke](#) have not been able to get a critical drug due to time limits on its use. Now, a new study suggests that treatment time window can be doubled.

Experts said the findings could open up the treatment option for many more [stroke](#) victims.

The drug is called tissue plasminogen activator, or tPA. It can dissolve the [blood clot](#) causing a person's [stroke](#), and protect brain tissue from any further damage. However, tPA has to be given within a certain time frame to work.

In the new trial, researchers looked at whether they could expand the tPA time frame to nine hours in certain ischemic stroke patients. Specifically, that meant cases where brain imaging showed the drug could still be beneficial. The study took advantage of a newer technology called "perfusion" imaging.

Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=220875>

Hepatitis A Infections Soaring: CDC

(HealthDay News) -- The number of Americans infected with [hepatitis A](#) has grown nearly 300% in just three years, health officials reported Thursday.

The staggering increase has come despite an effective [vaccine](#) and is seen mostly among drug abusers and the homeless, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[Hepatitis A](#) virus can linger in feces and be spread hand-to-hand, with infection occurring when a hand contaminated by the virus touches the person's mouth.

Since the hepatitis A outbreaks were first identified in 2016, more than 15,000 cases, 8,500 hospitalizations and 140 deaths have been reported. The CDC recommends that those at the highest risk get vaccinated.

Full story: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=220917>

CDC, NTCA issue update on TB screening, testing and treatment

(AHA Today) The Centers for Disease Control and the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association this week released updated [recommendations](#) for TB screening and testing for U.S. health care personnel. Once a high risk for health care workers, recent data show fewer TB occupational exposure incidents.

The new guidelines, not modified since 2005, for all personnel and volunteers in health care settings include:

- TB risk assessment, symptom screening and TB testing upon hire with a TB blood test or tuberculin skin test for those without documented prior TB or latent TB infection.
- No annual TB testing for most health care personnel without a known exposure or ongoing transmission.
- Treatment strongly encouraged for health care personnel with latent TB infection.
- Annual symptom screening for health care personnel with untreated latent TB infection.
- Annual TB education for all health care personnel.

An Antibiotic Alternative? Using a Virus to Fight Bacteria

(HealthDay News) -- [Viruses](#) and bacteria are the culprits behind the infectious diseases that [plague](#) humans. Researchers recently turned one against the other, using viruses to wipe out a potentially life-threatening bacterium in a 15-year-old girl with [cystic fibrosis](#).

This old-time approach to battling [bacterial infections](#) might be worth another look in these days of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, a new paper argues.

Genetically engineered bacteriophages -- viruses that infect and kill bacteria -- successfully cleared up a severe antibiotic-resistant bacterial infection in the critically ill teenager, researchers said in a new study.

"This is the first use of 'phages' to treat this kind of infection with this kind of bacterium, and it's the first time that anyone's used 'phages' that have been genetically engineered to be more effective," said study co-author Graham Hatfull. He's a professor of biotechnology at the University of Pittsburgh.

In this case, a cocktail of three phages wiped out an infection of *Mycobacterium abscessus* that had plagued the young girl for eight years, then flared up after she underwent a double lung transplant as a result of cystic fibrosis.

Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=220855>

Why is bubonic plague still a thing?

(CNN) Plague has made a recent comeback. Having caused close to 50,000 human cases during the last two decades, it is now categorized by World Health Organization as a re-emerging disease. Worse, the bacterium causing plague, if converted into an aerosolized form, is considered one of the [most likely biothreats](#) and is classified as such by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/08/health/bubonic-plague-explainer-trnd/index.html>

**Methodist Hospital & Henderson Co. HS
create bereavement boxes**

(WFIE) - More than two dozen bereavement boxes are being supplied to parents in need around the county. It's a partnership between Methodist Hospital and the Henderson County High School.

Understanding how difficult miscarriage and fetal deaths can be, their construction and carpentry class embraced the project, building 30 boxes in three different sizes. For some families, the finances are simply not there.

See and read more: <https://www.14news.com/2019/05/16/henderson-co-high-school-methodist-hospital-create-bereavement-boxes/>

Tips for animal safety around children

(WAVE) - In Louisville, a gruesome dog attack killed a toddler boy in West Louisville earlier in May. According to Norton Children's Hospital, across the nation, there are some 800,000 dog bites reported each year. Children and the elderly are especially vulnerable to bites, even from the most innocent of dogs.

Pets, especially dogs are like family to many. But even those pets we hold near and dear can become agitated or aggressive when circumstances change or they are afraid. Last year, 394 children were treated for dog bites at Norton Children's Hospital, Norton Women's & Children's Hospital and Norton Children's Medical Center – Brownsboro emergency rooms.

These are tips to prevent dog bites:

- -Never leave a baby or small child alone with a dog. Even if you feel your dog is the most mild-tempered pet.
- -Pets need space. They are possessive of their items, especially food and toys. Having a secure, kid-free zone for your pet can lower the chance of a bite happening.
- -Keep dogs on a leash when outdoors. You never know how a dog will react around strangers or other dogs, even a dog you know very well.
- Plus, other people may not want to be approached by your dog. This protects both your pet and people.
- -Teach your child to always ask a pet's owner before petting or approaching an unknown pet.
- -Another good habit to teach is to never stick hands through a fence into a dog's territory.
- If you have a dog, you have to be a responsible pet owner.
- -Socializing your puppy at an early age is one the best things you can do.
- -Always keep your pet current on the required vaccines.
- -Some dogs are nippers — it's their way of playing. If your dog nips, consider putting a muzzle on your when you go for walks or in public places.

If you are thinking of getting a pet, there are things to consider.

- -Never get a pet on impulse.
- -Consult with your veterinarian beforehand. Discuss your current or future living situation, including children and elderly in the home, work and travel schedules, and activity level. These are all very important factors when choosing a pet.
- -Pick a pet that matches your family. The veterinarian can help you determine what breeds work best with your family.

Even if you follow all of the recommended steps, dog bite prevention isn't always 100 percent.

Read more: <https://www.wave3.com/2019/05/11/tips-animal-safety-around-children/>

WHO warns Ebola could spread elsewhere if attacks don't stop

(AP) The World Health Organization warned Friday that it may not be possible to contain Ebola to the two affected provinces in eastern Congo if violent attacks on health teams continue.

The ominous statement comes amid escalating violence nine months after the outbreak began, crippling efforts to identify suspected cases in the community and vaccinate those most at risk.

Full story: <https://apnews.com/f37cb9c50fea45b4a061c1e8d7b33a03>

New Intel security flaw in chips may affect millions of machines around the world

(USA Today) Intel has revealed another hardware security flaw that could affect millions of machines around the world. The bug is embedded in the architecture of computer hardware, and it can't be fully fixed. Intel said Tuesday there's no evidence of anyone exploiting it outside of a research laboratory.

Read more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2019/05/15/intel-finds-security-flaw-chip-could-affect-millions-pcs/3679721002/>

<p>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 added or deleted, 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.</p>
