



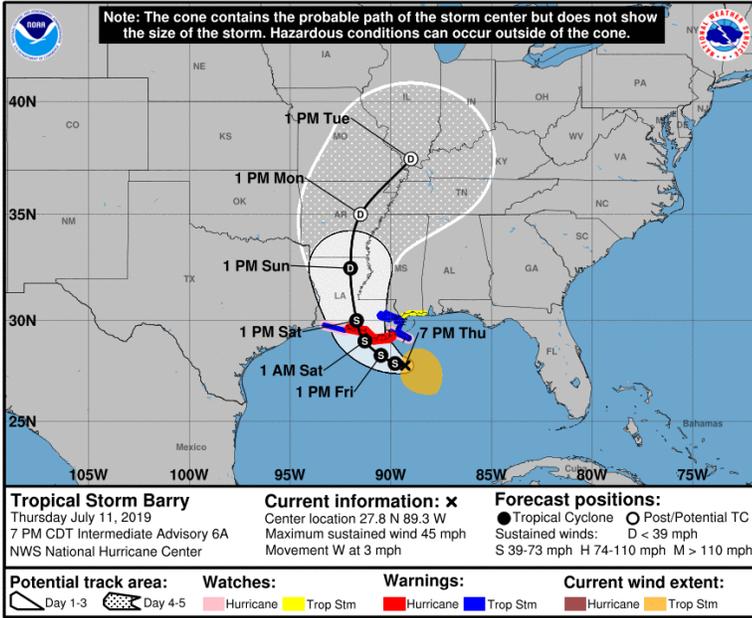
# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 11, 2019

## New Orleans faces a never-before-seen problem with Tropical Storm Barry

(CNN) - Tropical Storm Barry presents New Orleans with an unprecedented problem, according to the National Weather Service.

The Mississippi River, which is usually at 6 to 8 feet in midsummer in the Big Easy, is now at 16 feet, owing to record flooding that's [taken place this year all along the waterway](#).

In the meantime, Barry is spinning away in the Gulf of Mexico, threatening a storm surge of 2 to 3 feet at the mouth of the river, said Jeffrey Grascel, a hydrologist with the weather service's Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center in Slidell, Louisiana.



The unusual confluence of factors adds up to a forecast that has the river cresting Saturday at 19 feet, a level not seen since February 1950 and about 2.3 feet shy of the record set in April 1922, [the weather service said Thursday](#).

The prediction is rattling the nerves of residents also concerned about the 10 inches of rain Barry could dump before it moves out, CNN senior meteorologist Dave Hennen said. That deluge would follow the 9 inches that fell Wednesday in New Orleans, flooding parts of the city.

(Read more:

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/11/weather/new-orleans-flooding-trnd/index.html>)

**NWS Paducah:** (730 PM CDT Thu Jul 11 2019) Friday through Wednesday -

Thunderstorm chances increase over the weekend and into early next week as a tropical system will impact the area in some capacity.

While the exact details regarding any strong to severe thunderstorms are uncertain this far out, some areas of heavy rainfall may be possible.

Source: [https://forecast.weather.gov/wmap/wwatxtqet.php?cwa=pah&wwa=hazardous weather outlook](https://forecast.weather.gov/wmap/wwatxtqet.php?cwa=pah&wwa=hazardous%20weather%20outlook)

## Two Northern Kentucky needle exchanges save 92 lives in a year

(Cincinnati Enquirer) At least 92 lives have been saved with naloxone handed out at two Northern Kentucky syringe exchanges.

"It's a pretty remarkable indicator of success for a program in their first year," said Daniel Raymond, deputy director of planning and policy for the national Harm Reduction Coalition of New York City. The nonprofit provides services and policy direction to prevent harm to vulnerable populations.

The rescues with the opioid-overdose antidote were among records The Enquirer requested from the Northern Kentucky Health Department to learn outcomes of the first year of Covington and Newport syringe-exchanges.

Full story: <https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2019/07/08/needle-exchange-narcan-naloxone-opioid-addiction-overdose-saves-92-lives-kentucky-covington-newport/1621649001/>

## Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from July 11, 2019

**UK Health Service to Use Amazon Alexa to Give Medical Advice** (*Washington Post*) The British government said Wednesday that the system will help people get quick and accurate health

information. It will be especially useful for senior citizens, blind people and others who find it hard to access the internet while also easing pressure on doctors. Using Amazon's algorithms, Alexa can answer voice questions from users about common maladies such as the flu or chickenpox with information verified by the National Health Service.

**Exclusive: New Chemical Weapons Team to Launch First Syria investigations** (*Reuters*) A new team established by the global chemical weapons watchdog to attribute blame for the use of banned munitions in Syria will investigate nine alleged attacks during the country's civil war, including in the town of Douma, sources briefed on the matter told Reuters.

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### **DoD awards contract for smallpox postexposure prophylaxis**

([CIDRAP News Scan](#)) SIGA Technologies, maker of TPOXX (tecovirimat), a novel small-molecule drug approved last year by the US Food and Drug Administration for treating smallpox, has been awarded a multiyear contract of up to \$19.5 million by the Department of Defense to do work potentially leading to the drug's approval for postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) as well.

Smallpox, while eradicated, remains a bioterrorism threat, because stockpiles of the virus still exist. According to the company's press release, "TPOXX for PEP could provide significant potential benefit in the event of a smallpox outbreak."

Smallpox vaccine would be useful to contain disease spread in an outbreak or bioterror attack but is effective only if administered before or within 4 days after exposure. Smallpox symptoms do not typically appear until about 14 days after exposure, and diagnosis presently is not possible until symptoms appear.

"Given the uncertainty of an individual's infection status in that two-week period, and the highly contagious nature of smallpox, the administration of vaccine in combination with TPOXX could potentially be an important strategy for reducing morbidity and mortality in a smallpox outbreak," says the release.

Jul 8 SIGA [press release](#)

Jul 13, 2018, [CIDRAP News scan](#) on TPOXX approval as smallpox therapy

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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](mailto: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.