



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 19, 2019

### Number of US overdose deaths appears to be falling

(AP) — U.S. overdose deaths last year likely fell for the first time in nearly three decades, preliminary numbers suggest. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday posted data showing nearly 68,000 drug overdose deaths were reported last year. The number may go up as more investigations are completed, but the agency expects the tally will end up below 69,000.

Overdose deaths had been climbing each year since 1990, topping 70,000 in 2017. The numbers were celebrated by the U.S. secretary of health and human services.

Full story: <https://apnews.com/f73358f266b84992902b660a94002c76>

### [Hospital ED Update Webinar for Kentucky's Hepatitis A \(HAV\) Outbreak](#)

The Kentucky Department for Public Health inviting hospital leaders to participate in a Hospital Emergency Department Update for Kentucky's Hepatitis A (HAV) Outbreak webinar on August 14. The webinar will cover a current situation update, ongoing data collection needs to address the outbreak in your setting and a discussion of "best practices" for prevention activities in the ED during this outbreak.

### **Stripping down bacterial armor: A new way to fight anthrax**

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/502165335>

### [Moon Landing's 50th Anniversary: Space Medicine and the Legacy of Project Apollo](#)

*From Health Security Headlines* - (*The Lancet*) NASA's research has focused mainly on the cardiorespiratory, musculoskeletal, and neurological systems because these have the greatest potential to impact mission operations. But broader disturbances have since been observed, including alterations in wound healing, immune function, and circadian rhythm.

### **Virginia: Police Department Headquarters Attacked with IID**

[US DHS TRIPwire](#), 19 July 2019 - On 18 July 2019, a male suspect threw an improvised incendiary device (IID) at the Richmond Police Department (RPD) headquarters, igniting a small fire that was quickly extinguished. Authorities described the device as a small water bottle containing flammable liquid. No injuries were reported, and the property sustained no damage. Officers arrested the suspect at the scene, and charges are pending.

### **How Two Big Earthquakes Triggered 16,000 More in Southern California**

(NY Times) The two powerful earthquakes that rocked the Mojave Desert this month were part of a swarm of thousands of other earthquakes, many too weak to be felt, that continue to hit the area every few minutes.

Although the remote area was known to be seismically active and geologically complex, the earthquakes were sprinkled around a pair of neighboring geologic faults that scientists had not specifically known about before. The earthquakes could help researchers understand how multiple strong quakes can happen on connected faults.

Learn more: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/07/19/us/california-earthquakes.html>

### **EPA Won't Ban Pesticide Linked to Harm in Children**

(WebMD) - Even though the pesticide chlorpyrifos has been linked to brain harm in children, it will not be banned in the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency announced Thursday. The agency said data highlighting health concerns about the pesticide was "not sufficiently valid, complete or

reliable," and added that it would continue to monitor the safety of chlorpyrifos through 2022, The New York Times reported.

Learn more: <https://www.webmd.com/children/news/20190719/epa-wont-ban-pesticide-linked-to-harm-in-children>

### **Bacteria-bearing insects fly around hospitals—but don't panic**

(Modern Healthcare) Hospitals well know they're in a difficult battle against infections, employing hand-washing protocols; isolating patients with certain conditions; using fresh gowns, caps and other coverings as the situation dictates; wearing face masks; and any number of other precautions.

But what if the threat is airborne ... and has wings?



About 20,000 insects—including houseflies, drain flies and mosquitoes—collected at seven hospitals in England had some creepy results: 90% carried potentially harmful bacteria, such as E. coli, salmonella and Staphylococcus aureus. The big worry: 53% of the bacteria strains found were resistant to at least one antibiotic and 19%

were resistant to multiple antibiotics, according to a [study at Aston University](#) recently published in the Journal of Medical Entomology.

"What's quite interesting, though, is the high proportion of drug-resistant bacteria found in these samples," said [Federica Boiocchi](#), a Ph.D. student and lead author of the study.

Learn more: <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/safety-quality/bacteria-bearing-insects-fly-around-hospitals-dont-panic>

### **Daily double-digit Ebola cases continue in DRC**

(CIDRAP) The number of people infected with Ebola continues to rise steadily in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC's) outbreak zone, according to reports yesterday and today, with one more healthcare worker sickened by the virus and the outbreak total rising to 2,546 cases. One of the new illnesses involves a vaccinated health worker from Mandima. So far, 137 healthcare workers have been infected in the outbreak, 41 of them fatally.

Full story: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2019/07/daily-double-digit-ebola-cases-continue-drc>

### **Related: Ebola outbreak in Congo declared a global health emergency**

(AP) — The deadly Ebola outbreak in Congo is now an international health emergency, the World Health Organization announced Wednesday after a case was confirmed in [a city of 2 million people](#). A declaration of a global health emergency often brings greater international attention and aid, along with concerns that nervous governments might overreact with border closures.

Learn more: <https://apnews.com/204fc739fc5846cdba4093ee65c4f7db>

### **GPEI: 19 new polio cases this week as multiple countries report outbreaks**

([CIDRAP News Scan](#)) In more bad news for polio eradication efforts, several countries reported a slew of new polio cases in the last week, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's (GPEI's) weekly report. A total of 19 cases in 6 countries, as well as several polio detections in healthy case contacts, were recorded across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

### **HHS initiative seeks to spur innovative disaster care technologies**

(AHA Today) The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response is [soliciting input](#) and will meet with vendors Aug. 7-8 to spur innovation in developing new technologies and products to save lives and improve health outcomes in a disaster. Areas of interest include electronic health records for use in austere settings; priority medicines on demand; dialysis care in disaster settings; medical countermeasure dispensing; distributed power for disasters; health care system capacity reporting; disaster response and recovery intelligence; advanced medical interventions for disaster; and telehealth applications. To attend the ASPR Next Innovation Day event in person or by webcast, [register here](#).

## **SAMHSA offering webinars on recovery supports for opioid use disorder**

(AHA Today) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration will launch a three-part virtual learning series July 24 on recovery supports for people considering or using medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder or co-occurring disorders. Sessions will cover the neurobiology of OUD and information about medications commonly used to treat it; peer-delivered recovery supports for people using MAT; and the role of peer support workers in engaging and supporting people with OUD who are considering MAT. Register to attend the July 24, July 31 and Aug. 7 sessions [here](#).

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### **ASPR/DHS Reminder: Patch your Software**

This is a friendly reminder to remember to patch any software you may use that contains identified vulnerabilities. The DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has a security tip at its website on [understanding patches and software updates](#) authored by the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC). Some best practices include:

Enable automatic software updates whenever possible. This will ensure that software updates are installed as quickly as possible.

- Do not use unsupported End-of-Life (EOL) software.
- Always visit vendor sites directly rather than clicking on advertisements or email links.
- Avoid software updates while using untrusted networks.

New vulnerabilities are continually emerging, but the best defense against attackers exploiting patched vulnerabilities is simple: keep your software up-to-date. This is the most effective measure you can take to protect your computer, phone, and other digital devices.

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### **NCSC Releases Advisory on Ongoing DNS Hijacking Campaign**

According to the [DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency](#) (CISA), the United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has released an advisory about an ongoing Domain Name System (DNS) hijacking campaign. The advisory details risks and mitigations for organizations to defend against this campaign, in which attackers use compromised credentials to modify the location to which an organization's domain name resources resolve to redirect users, obtain sensitive information, and cause man-in-the-middle attacks.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) encourages administrators to review the [NCSC Advisory](#), apply the recommended mitigations, and refer to CISA's Alert [AA19-024A – DNS Infrastructure Hijacking Campaign](#) for more information.

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#### **Educational Opportunity:**

#### **First Responders, Nurses and Medical Personnel "Taking Care of Our Own"**

Friday, August 2, 2019; 8:30 AM to 3 PM (ET)

WestLEX General Aviation; 4464 Gumbert Rd., Lexington, KY

The course is offered to all first responders, hospital personnel and interested individuals who care about the emotional wellness of our providers. The course is sponsored by The MedEvac Foundation International has joined with Air and Surface Transport Nurses Association (ASTNA) and the International Association of Flight and Critical Care Paramedics (IAFCCP); and is supported by KBEMS and the KY Fire Commission, but is open to everyone. Lunch is provided, and 4.7 CE will be available.

Register at: [https://aams.formstack.com/forms/mfi\\_tcoot2019](https://aams.formstack.com/forms/mfi_tcoot2019)

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.