



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 30, 2019

New Research Notes **Ky's School Safety Law Misses Most Preventive Measures**

(WFPL) Policymakers across Kentucky — and the nation — have grappled with how to best prevent mass school shootings committed by children, like those in Parkland, Florida and Marshall County, Kentucky.

In Kentucky, lawmakers' best efforts have resulted in a new school safety law [that schools will have to begin implementing in 2022](#). Many districts are already beginning to assess their compliance and make plans to meet the new requirements. Legislators who sponsored Kentucky's school safety law say it calls for both "hardening schools" — by putting more locks and barriers in buildings and hiring more school resources officers — and "softening schools," through measures like creating threat assessment teams and hiring more counselors who can identify students at risk of committing a shooting.

One health researcher at Indiana's Ball State University argues that although Kentucky's law is beneficial, it misses out on the most effective measures that could stop school shootings. In his recent article "[School Firearm Violence Prevention Practices and Policies: Functional or Folly?](#)" researcher Jagdish Khubchandani reviewed 89 scientific studies on school safety and gun violence. In his review of those studies, he writes that efforts to reduce student gun violence tend to fall in one of three categories of prevention:

- **Level One:** Efforts to reduce the risk of youth gaining access to guns.
This level is the primary form of prevention, and includes [Child Access Prevention laws](#) that try to keep children from getting access to guns in the first place.
- **Level Two:** Efforts to identify children at-risk of committing a shooting.
- **Level Three:** Efforts to minimize deaths and injuries if a person attempts a school shooting.

"The new safety bill in Kentucky is a good assortment of different things," Khubchandani said. "But I hope [the state] can complement it with a stronger child access prevention law."

Read full story: <https://wfpl.org/health-researcher-kys-school-safety-law-misses-most-preventive-measures/>

Stupid kid stuff you need to discourage! **Clay County boy burned after dangerous 'Hot Water Challenge'**



(WKYT) One Clay County mother is urging a warning after her son received second and third-degree burns as a result of the 'Hot Water Challenge.'

The challenge tasks a person to pour or throw boiling water on someone or have them drink it through a straw. Water boils at 212°F, so doing the challenge can have serious consequences for your health.

At the moment, doctors do not believe Billy Oliver will need skin grafts and that as long as his skin shows the ability to continue to heal on its own, he could go home as early as Friday.

Read more: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Graphic-Clay-County-boy-burned-after-dangerous-Hot-Water-Challenge-513231391.html>

[WYMT reports that 11-year-old Billy Oliver was taken to the Cincinnati Burn Center to be treated after a friend performed the 'Hot Water Challenge' on him.](#)

8 teens hospitalized with lung damage possibly from vaping

(WLEX) Children's Hospital of Wisconsin has reported eight cases of hospitalized teenagers with damaged lungs suspected to be from vaping. In each case, the teens had seriously damaged lungs and all reported vaping in the weeks and months prior to being hospitalized.

Patients reported symptoms of shortness of breath, fatigue, chest pain, cough and weight loss prior to being hospitalized.

Children's Hospital said some of the teens needed assistance in order to breathe, while others have shown improvement after treatment.

Long-term effects are not known at this time, but it is believed that continued exposure to vaping chemicals could lead to more serious health issues such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. This disease is a permanent condition in which lungs are less effective at transporting oxygen.

Full story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/political/national/8-wisconsin-teens-hospitalized-with-lung-damage-possibly-from-vaping>

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Juul accused of targeting children as young as 8

(CBS) Executives from the e-cigarette maker Juul were questioned on Capitol Hill Thursday about their role in the teen vaping epidemic. The CDC says one in five high schoolers used e-cigarettes in 2018. As Jamie Yuccas reports, the company is accused of marketing to middle schoolers.

See CBS video report: <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/juul-accused-of-marketing-to-children-as-young-as-8/>

How traumatic brain injuries happen in kids revealed in new study *Family Home, Football Field Most Dangerous Spots for Kids' Head Injuries*

(HealthDay & CNN) - Falls from beds, uneven floors and playing football are leading causes of nonfatal brain injuries in American kids, new research shows.

For the study, researchers analyzed data on traumatic brain injuries among kids and teens treated at emergency departments of 66 U.S. hospitals between 2010 and 2013. Of those cases, 72% were attributable to products regulated by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, according to the report [published in the journal Brain Injury](#) on Monday.

"Structural designs, such as uneven flooring, often contribute to falls, which is the leading cause of traumatic brain injury in children," said lead author Bina Ali. She is a research scientist at the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation in Calverton, Md. "In most cases, infants and children are safe in bed and when playing sports outside, but our study highlights some of the risks and the priorities in different age groups for preventing serious head injuries," Ali explained in a journal news release.

- Young people account for about 1 million nonfatal traumatic brain injury cases treated in emergency departments each year, the researchers noted.
- In infants under a year old, one-quarter of such injuries were caused by falling from beds. Uneven floors were the second-leading cause at 14%.
- Among 1- to 4-year-olds, 10% of injuries involved beds; 10% involved stairs; and 10% were related to floors. Bunk beds are especially risky, the findings showed.
- Between 5 and 9 years of age, floors were still the leading cause (6%) of head injuries, and bicycle accidents were second at 5%.
- For older kids, football was the leading cause of traumatic brain injury -- involved in 14% of cases among 10- to 14-year-olds and 9% for 15- to 19-year-olds. Basketball was the second-leading cause in these age groups, at 6% and 5%, respectively.
- Other activities that caused traumatic brain injuries in those two age groups included bicycles (5% in kids aged 10 to 14, and 3% in teens aged 15 to 19) and soccer (5% and 4%, respectively).

"Simple measures, such as removing trip hazards, using stair gates and guard rails, avoiding hard-surface playgrounds, and wearing helmets could help reduce the risk of injury, as well as adult education to ensure proper use of consumer products and adherence to safety guidelines," Ali advised.

One interesting finding reported in the CNN article was that car seats is the fifth leading cause of traumatic head injuries in infants - *especially when used outside of the car as baby carriers*.

The [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a set of guidelines](#) last year for the diagnosis, treatment and long-term care of children and teens with traumatic brain injuries. The guidelines include asking health care providers to avoid routinely conducting imaging tests on children who have mild TBIs, using age-appropriate symptom scales to diagnose concussions, assessing risk factors that would signal a prolonged recovery, providing kids and their parents with instructions on how to return to activities based on their symptoms, and counseling children to gradually return to non-sports activities after no more than two or three days of rest.

HealthDay story: <https://consumer.healthday.com/cognitive-health-information-26/traumatic-brain-injury-1002/family-home-football-field-most-dangerous-spots-for-kids-head-injuries-748656.html>

CNN video on TBI and full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/29/health/traumatic-brain-injuries-children-products-study/index.html>

Link to **Brain Injury** Journal article: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02699052.2019.1631483>

Related: Athletes With ADHD May Need More Time to Recover From Concussion

<https://consumer.healthday.com/cognitive-health-information-26/concussions-news-733/athletes-with-adhd-may-need-more-time-to-recover-from-concussion-study-748377.html>

Seizures Of Methamphetamine Are Surging In The U.S.

(NPR) Methamphetamine, an illegal drug that sends the body into overdrive, is surging through the United States. Federal drug data provided exclusively to NPR show seizures of meth by authorities have spiked, rising 142% between 2017 and 2018.

"Seizures indicate increasing trafficking in these drugs," says John Eadie, public health coordinator for the federal government's National Emerging Threats Initiative, part of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program. "So if seizures have more than doubled, it probably means more than double trafficking in methamphetamines. And with that go additional deaths."

Overdose deaths involving meth and other psychostimulants did rise last year — by 21% (to 12,987 from 10,749 in 2017) — according to [provisional data](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Deaths from cocaine and fentanyl were up too. But overdose deaths dropped overall because of a decline in the number of fatalities tied to pain pills.

Half of the people who died after a meth overdose in 2017 also had an opioid in their system, according to [an analysis](#) that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released in May. That same report showed 73% of cocaine deaths included opioids.

Listen to podcast (5:36 min) or read/see more: <https://www.npr.org/745061185>

Modern Healthcare - CMS guidance on services for moms, babies with opioid disorder:
<https://www.modernhealthcare.com/medicaid/cms-issues-guidance-services-moms-babies-opioid-disorder>

Don't eat wild mushrooms without knowing what it is

(WKYT) The Kentucky Division of Forestry is wanting the public to be aware of what they eat in the wild, as prolonged rains throughout the state have resulted in large numbers of mushrooms. Experts say there are some mushrooms in Kentucky which contain toxins that can lead to poisoning or even death. Two poisonous mushrooms are the destroying angel and the death cap. Both kill a few unsuspecting Americans each year. The state wants foragers to do research on their harvests before they ingest wild mushrooms.

[You can read more about poisonous mushrooms here.](#)

Story source: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/State-Dont-eat-wild-mushrooms-without-knowing-what-it-is-513205941.html>

Brain-eating amoeba kills person who swam in NC manmade lake

(WKYT & AP) North Carolina health officials say a person has died from a rare brain-eating amoeba (*Naegleria fowleri*) after swimming in a manmade lake at a water park.

The state Department of Health and Human Resources said in a news release Wednesday that the infection was caused by the amoeba naturally present in warm freshwater during the summer. The unnamed person became sick after swimming in Fantasy Lake Water Park in Cumberland County on July 12.

Read more: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Brain-eating-amoeba-kills-person-who-swam-in-NC-manmade-lake-513209381.html>

CDC Info: <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/naegleria/index.html>

Measles Cases Growing - Greatest Number since 1992

(CDC) From January 1 to July 25, 2019, 1,164** individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 30 states. This is an increase of 16 cases from the previous week. This is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1992 and since measles was declared eliminated in 2000.

The states that have reported cases to CDC are Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington.

See and learn more: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [July 29, 2019](#)

[14 States to Participate in USDA's Four-day ASF Exercises](#) (*nationalhogfarmer.com*) In September, the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary Services National Training and Exercise Program is sponsoring a series of four exercises for the top 14 swine producing states to further their capacity to

effectively respond to and mitigate an outbreak of African swine fever. [Note: KY is *NOT* among the states. IL, IN, MO and OH are bordering states which *ARE* participating.]

[Darknet Biological and Chemical Terrorism Activities: Guide for Law Enforcement](#) (*Global Biodefense*) INTERPOL has released a new manual to assist law enforcement in detecting potential criminal activity related to the access and trade of weaponizable biological and chemical materials using the Darknet.

[How Mosquitoes Changed Everything](#) (*The New Yorker*) It turns out that, if you're looking for them, the words "mosquitoes," "fever," "ague," and "death" are repeated to the point of nausea throughout human history.

See also: **[Tiger Mosquitoes Tackled in a Trial](#)** (*Nature*) Mosquito-borne viruses, including dengue, chikungunya and Zika, are major public-health threats. Because neither vaccines nor effective drug treatments are available for most mosquito-borne viruses, vector control — that is, suppression of the mosquito populations that transmit viruses — remains the primary means of reducing disease incidence.

[Biosecurity Is Economic Security](#) (*Forbes*) In our lifetimes, biotechnology has improved the quality of human life in ways that earlier generations could barely have imagined. And biotech startups today are producing waves of innovation that impact not only medicine and agriculture, but also fields as seemingly non-biological as computing and industrial chemistry.

United Kingdom: First Responders Targeted with VOIED

(US DHS TRIPwire) On 27 July 2019, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) responded to reports of a failed mortar attack on a police patrol in County Armagh, southwest of Belfast. Police determined that the initial reports of a mortar attack were false, and officers discovered a *victim-operated IED* (VOIED) designed to look like a fired mortar tube. An army bomb squad responded to the scene and rendered safe the device. No group claimed responsibility for the incident, but police suspect the separatist group Continuity IRA is likely responsible.

Vehicle infotainment systems dangerously distracting, especially for seniors

(Reuters Health) - Many of the interactive information and entertainment systems turning up in newer cars may be distracting enough to increase the risk for accidents, especially for older drivers, a new AAA Foundation study finds. The systems often require drivers to take their eyes off the road for extended periods for when performing simple tasks such as navigation or radio tuning. And researchers found that the problem is worse for seniors, who looked away from the road for up to eight and a half seconds longer than younger drivers.

The new findings are particularly important given that there will be increasing numbers of senior drivers on the roads, said Jake Nelson, AAA director of traffic safety research and advocacy.

Full report: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-seniors-autos/vehicle-infotainment-systems-dangerously-distracting-especially-for-seniors-idUSKCN1UK34F>

Girls report more harassment amid rise in US cyberbullying

(Herald-Leader) There's a rise in cyberbullying nationwide, with three times as many girls reporting being harassed online or by text message than boys, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. The U.S. Department of Education's research and data arm this month released its latest survey, which shows an uptick in online abuse, though the overall number of students who report being bullied stayed the same.

Many school systems that once had a hands-off approach to dealing with off-campus student behavior are now making cyberbullying rules, outlining punishments such as suspension or expulsion, according to Bryan Joffe, director of education and youth development at AASA, a national school superintendents association.

Read more: <https://www.kentucky.com/latest-news/article233151387.html>

Caution - Windows Antivirus - Critical Alert POP-UP Scam
<https://news360.com/article/503124640>

FBI Director Names China the Nation's Most 'Severe Counterintelligence Threat'

(Defense One) FBI Director Christopher Wray last Tuesday warned Russia remains "absolutely intent" on meddling in next year's elections, and he named China as the greatest national security threat facing the country today.

The FBI is conducting more than 1,000 investigations into intellectual property theft and economic espionage nationwide, "almost all leading back to China," Wray said. Given the size and scope of the country's espionage tactics, which run the gamut from cyberattacks to corruption of company executives, the U.S. must use every tool in its arsenal to combat the threats, according to Wray.

Full story: <https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2019/07/fbi-director-names-china-nations-most-severe-counterintelligence-threat/158679/?oref=d-river>

**Online Bragging Led to Alleged Capital One Hacker
Former Amazon Web Services system engineer arrested**

(Newser) It's one of the biggest-ever data breaches of a bank—and an arrest has been made. That might be of little solace to the 106 million Capital One credit card customers and applicants who had their data stolen in late March. Paige Thompson, 33, was arrested Monday in Seattle.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) pieces together her background, speaking with sources who said she formerly worked for Amazon Web Services; a criminal complaint describes her as working as a systems engineer at an unnamed cloud-computing company between 2015 and 2016.

Most of the stolen data came from personal and small business credit card applications submitted between 2005 and this year. Some 140,000 Social Security numbers and 80,000 bank account numbers were exposed.

Full Newser story: <https://www.newser.com/story/278468/woman-33-arrested-in-staggering-capital-one-hack.html>

Related stories are from The [Wall Street Journal](#), the [Washington Post](#), and [AP](#).

Hackers holding Patient Records Hostage at Louisville Clinic

(WFPL) Hackers are holding hostage the medical records of 20,000 Park DuValle Community Health Center patients. The news was first reported by WDRB (last) Thursday.

The Louisville health clinic hasn't been able to make appointments or access patient's insurance information or medical records since June 7. That's when the health center lost access to the records because of a ransomware attack.

The clinic paid hackers about \$70,000 in bitcoin ransom to release the information – the clinic said it should have full access to the information restored by August first.

Read more: <https://wfpl.org/hackers-are-holding-hostage-patient-records-from-louisvilles-park-duvalle-clinic/>

Equifax data breach settlement: How to figure out if you're eligible for compensation

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/equifax-data-breach-settlement-claim-how-to-get-determine-eligible-credit-monitoring/>

NEW! ASPR TRACIE Express

[This issue of The Express](#) highlights new publications on [mass casualty trauma triage](#), [federal recovery programs for healthcare organizations](#), and work on [medical surge and the role of accountable care organizations](#). It also highlights their new [Healthcare Coalition Surge Estimator Tool](#) (and accompanying [Data Collection Form](#)); three refreshed Topic Collections ([Mental Health/Behavioral Health](#), [Responder Safety and Health](#), and [VHF/Ebola](#)); and upcoming events.

New Resources Available – [Engaging Healthcare System Partners in Medical Surge](#).

More Resources Available – [Federal Recovery Programs for Healthcare Organizations Tip Sheet](#). As disasters continue to have direct effects on healthcare facilities, organizational financial and administrative preparedness capabilities are gaining more attention. This tip sheet provides an overview of eligibility factors, program/grant requirements, and pre- and post-disaster federal financial opportunities (e.g., direct reimbursement and disaster-related loans) for healthcare facilities.

Resources from the Field – The Radiation Injury Treatment Network's (RITN) [Training Materials](#) web page includes links to RITN training courses for medical and non-medical staff, and includes just-in-time training, the RITN YouTube channel, and relevant CDC and FEMA EMI courses.

Join ASPR TRACIE on August 27, from 1:30-2:45 PM ET, as they walk participants through an overview of new and updated resources and webpages across a variety of topics, and share what's on the horizon for ASPR TRACIE. [Register today!](#)

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.