



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

Active Shooter scare at KY State Fair

(WAVE) - Kentucky State Police are investigating an incident that took place at the Kentucky State Fair Saturday night. WAVE 3 News received multiple phone calls about a possible shooting at the fair after many people heard loud noises they believed to be shots, and large numbers of people congregated at the fairgrounds.

KSP said troopers arrested two adults and cited seven juveniles Saturday night. Troopers said there were kids running around the fair yelling "shooter."

On Sunday, KSP released a statement that said, "On August 17, 2019, Kentucky State Police (KSP) experienced a heightened level of activity at the Kentucky state fairgrounds. Large groups of juveniles were congregating and setting off firecrackers in different locations. Several individuals reported there may have been an active shooter hearing these incidents.

KSP report that there was not an active shooter on the fairgrounds property. KSP is investigating a report of a single gunshot fired into the air by a juvenile male. No injuries have been reported. KSP detectives are investigating the incident."

Story link: <https://www.wave3.com/2019/08/18/update-ksp-lmpd-investigating-saturday-night-state-fair-incident/>

79% of adults experience stress related to mass shooting fears

(Becker's Hospital Review) The possibility of a mass shooting causes stress among most (79 percent) U.S. adults, according to a [survey](#) conducted by The Harris Poll on behalf of the American Psychological Association. The survey found 1 in 3 adults in the U.S. now avoid places and events due to fear of a mass shooting. People most commonly said they avoid public events, the mall and schools or universities.

The stress of a mass shooting also weighs more heavily on minority populations, according to the survey. Sixty percent of African American respondents and 50 percent of Hispanic respondents said they fear they or someone they know will be a mass shooting victim, compared to 41 percent of white respondents.

More: <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/population-health/79-of-adults-experience-stress-related-to-mass-shooting-fears.html>

There could have been three more mass shootings if these men weren't stopped, authorities say



(WDRB & CNN) (CNN) -- Authorities this weekend announced they had foiled three [potential mass shootings](#) after arresting three men in different states who expressed interest in or threatened to carry them out.

All three cases were brought to authorities' attention thanks to tips from the public.

Click the link to see what we know about them:

https://www.wdrb.com/news/national/there-could-have-been-three-more-mass-shootings-if-these/article_1301b47e-c21f-11e9-9fae-d3624811f226.html

CNN - If you see a red flag for a mass shooting, this is what you should do

Story link: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/18/us/mass-shooting-tips-what-to-do/index.html>

There is no law that covers 'domestic terrorism.' What would one look like?

(NBC) The news that the alleged El Paso shooter appears to have acted out of a belief in a violent white supremacist ideology has renewed calls for a federal law criminalizing ["domestic terrorism."](#) The FBI Agents Association wants one. Civil liberties groups have expressed opposition, fearing federal overreach and infringement on free speech. Although ["domestic terrorism" is defined in the Patriot Act of 2001](#), there is no specific federal crime covering acts of terrorism inside the U.S. that are not connected to al Qaeda, ISIS, other officially designated international terror groups or their sympathizers.

Full story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/there-no-law-covers-domestic-terrorism-what-would-one-look-n1040386>

Novichok nerve agent sickened 2nd British police officer

(NY Times - London) A second police officer has been confirmed as a victim of the nerve-agent attack that nearly killed a Russian former spy and his daughter in England last year, the police said on Thursday, bringing the number of those known to have been sickened in the episode to six.

Forensic testing confirmed that an officer from the Wiltshire Police, who does not wish to be identified, was affected by the nerve agent, Novichok, which was used to target [the former spy Sergei V. Skripal](#), in March 2018. Full story: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/15/world/europe/novichok-police-uk.html>

FCC moves forward with '988' line for suicide prevention

(NY Post) The Federal Communications Commission announced Thursday that it is green-lighting a three-digit emergency number for suicide prevention.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai's said he is following a staff recommendation for establishing a 911-style code, suggesting 988, to reach the network of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 (TALK).

The Lifeline program, funded through the US Health and Human Services Department, consists of a network of 163 crisis centers routing calls from anywhere in the US to the closest certified center. In 2018, trained counselors answered more than 2.2 million calls and [100,000-plus online chats](#).

The 988 proposal seals one of the final legislative goals of [long-serving lawmaker](#) Sen. Orrin Hatch.

Read more: <https://nypost.com/2019/08/16/federal-communications-commission-moves-forward-with-988-line-for-suicide-prevention/>

CDC Investigating Cluster of Lung Disease Cases That May Be Linked to Vaping

Kaiser Health News Morning Briefing - Officials can't say for certain that the illnesses were caused by vaping, but they said that there was no evidence that an infectious disease. At least 15 states have identified more than 120 cases of the disease. [\[This collection is from the KHN Morning Briefing today.\]](#)

- [Reuters: CDC Probes Lung Illnesses Linked To E-Cigarette Use](#)
The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is investigating a "cluster" of lung illnesses that it believes may be linked to e-cigarette use after such cases were reported in 14 states. The CDC said there was no evidence that an infectious disease was behind the illnesses and that more information was needed to determine whether they were in fact caused by e-cigarette use. (8/18)
- [The Washington Post: Vaping-Related Lung Illnesses Under Investigation In 14 States](#)
Officials are warning clinicians and the public to be on alert for what they describe as a severe and potentially dangerous lung injury. Symptoms include difficulty breathing, shortness of breath or chest pain before hospitalization. Health officials said patients have also reported fever, cough, vomiting and diarrhea. (Sun and Bever, 8/16)
- [CNN: Vaping Could Be Linked To Lung Disease In More Than 120 Cases In 15 States](#)
States with the most cases include Wisconsin, with 15 confirmed cases and 15 more under investigation. Illinois has 10 confirmed cases, while 12 more are under investigation. California is looking into 19 such cases. The New York State Department of Health said Friday it was "actively investigating" 11 cases. Indiana and New Jersey both reported nine cases, of which Indiana has confirmed six. Health officials in Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Utah also said they were aware of confirmed or potential cases. A total of 42 states and Washington, DC, provided CNN with a response. (Nedelman, 8/17)
- [Bloomberg: CDC Looking Into Pulmonary Illness Linked To E-Cigarettes](#)
Tobacco companies such as Philip Morris International Inc. and Altria Group Inc. are seeking to offer alternatives to traditional cigarettes. Philip Morris' tobacco-heating IQOS device was approved for sale in the U.S. in April while Altria has taken a large stake in popular vaping start-up Juul Labs Inc. (Tong, 8/17)
- [NPR: Vaping Is Linked To Dozens Of Hospitalizations, Cases Of Lung Damage In Midwest](#)
When Dylan Nelson was admitted to the ICU in July with difficulty breathing, his mother, Kim Barnes, figured it was his asthma acting up. But when she got to the hospital in Burlington, Wis., he couldn't speak. He was intubated. His blood oxygen level was only 10%. He was put into a medically induced coma. Barnes told the nurse she worried she wouldn't see her 26-year-old son again. The nurse reassured her. (Sable-Smith, 8/16)

Source & more related stories: <https://khn.org/morning-breakout/cdc-investigating-cluster-of-lung-disease-cases-that-may-be-linked-to-vaping/>

CDC Urges Clinicians to Report Possible Cases of Unexplained Vaping associated Pulmonary Illness to their State/Local Health Department

Learn more: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/newsletters/coca/081619.htm>

Hepatitis A outbreaks shadowing growing opioid epidemic as number of cases rises across country

Read more: <https://www.kyforward.com/hepatitis-a-outbreaks-shadowing-growing-opioid-epidemic-as-number-of-cases-rises-across-country/>

\$6.6-million Grant allows former KY Governor Fletcher to start treatment, housing for addicts in 47 Kentucky counties

Learn more: <https://www.kyforward.com/grant-allows-former-ky-governor-to-start-treatment-housing-for-addicts-in-101-rural-counties-47-in-state/>

Drug Shortages? – Government and Private Sector Web Resources

ASPR CIP occasionally receives inquiries from its commercial sector partners and regional preparedness offices regarding drug shortages which healthcare providers in their locales may be reporting. As this is a wide spread issue that impacts in steady-state medical care, and holds wider concerns for healthcare providers if and when they are asked to surge care levels during emergencies and disasters. Readers with questions about drug shortages may want to book mark the following for future reference:

- [The FDA manages a web-accessible database of drugs which are experiencing shortages.](#)
- [Additionally, the FDA has information on the broader issue of drug shortages.](#)
- [The University of Utah has a website that lists drug shortages and also links to more narrowly-focused websites including vaccine supply status, and cancer treatment drug status.](#)
- [Information on drug shortages and their causes can be found at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists \(ASHP\) website.](#)

New drug disposal regulations to be implemented this week

(Modern Healthcare) A new federal rule will go into effect this week prohibiting healthcare organizations from flushing hazardous waste pharmaceuticals into the sewer system, which will cause some providers, distributors and pharmacies to change their protocol and processes.

Starting Aug. 21, drugs like opioids and chemotherapies will need to be disposed of through proper channels rather than down the drain, which will cost healthcare facilities time and money if they need to get up to speed. But the Environmental Protection Agency's [final rule](#) will also clear up conflicting regulations and ease some requirements, which health systems are applauding.

Learn more: <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/operations/new-drug-disposal-regulations-be-implemented-next-week>

RECENT ASPR TRACIE PPE RESOURCE

This recently developed spreadsheet from TRACIE (Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange) provides a [planning tool](#) designed to help hospitals determine approximate minimum personal protective equipment (PPE) needs, based on special pathogen category and a number of facility-specific variables. Calculators are included for Ebola virus disease/viral hemorrhagic fever, Middle East respiratory syndrome/severe acute respiratory syndrome, and pandemic influenza.

Telemedicine Helps Hospitals Gain Infectious Disease Expertise

Infectious disease specialists are few and far between, yet every hospital needs their expertise on a regular basis. Telemedicine technology is making that possible, especially for smaller and rural providers.

EPA backtracks on Cyanide Bombs

(Newser) – The Environmental Protection Agency is reversing course just a week after [reauthorizing use](#) of "cyanide bombs" to kill wild animals that pose a threat to livestock. Public outcry followed the decision to continue to allow the spring-loaded devices that spray sodium cyanide into the mouths of coyotes, foxes, and other animals lured by bait, reports the [Guardian](#). Critics said the bombs, officially known as M-44 traps, had killed endangered species and pets.

Learn more: <https://www.newser.com/story/279233/after-uproar-epa-backtracks-on-cyanide-bombs.html>

ER Redo: As Rural Hospital Closes, Emergency Care Is Uncertain

(Kaiser Health News) Nationwide, more than 110 rural hospitals have closed since 2010, and in each instance a community struggles to survive in its own way. In Fort Scott (KS), home to 7,800, the loss of its 132-year-old hospital opened by nuns in the 19th century has wrought profound social, emotional and medical consequences. Kaiser Health News and NPR are following Fort Scott for a year to explore deeper national questions about whether small communities need a traditional hospital at all. If not, what would take its place?

Delays in emergency care present some of the thorniest dilemmas for nurses, physicians and emergency workers. Minutes can make the difference between life and death — and seconds can be crucial when it comes to surviving a heart attack, a stroke, an anaphylactic allergic reaction or a complicated birth.

Though air ambulances can transport patients quickly, the dispatch system is not coordinated in many states and regions across the country. And many air ambulance companies do not participate in insurance networks, which leads to bills of tens of thousands of dollars.

[The full story showcases a critical patient in Fort Scott, Kansas, a closed ED next to an ambulance crew performing resuscitation, and air ambulance dispatchers trying to find a pilot willing to accept the flight.]

<https://khn.org/news/emergency-room-care-rural-hospital-closes-uncertain-future/>

Dr. Neal Moser, KMA Trustee

"Congress must protect KY patients from surprise medical care bills"

Read his comments: <https://www.kyforward.com/neal-moser-congress-must-protect-ky-patients-from-surprise-medical-care-bills-an-unfair-practice/>

HRSA accepting applications for \$13.8 million in rural health network grants

(AHA Today) Public or nonprofit organizations can apply through Nov. 25 for funding to support integrated rural health care networks, the Health Resources and Services Administration [announced](#) this week. The grants are part of the Rural Health Network Development program, which seeks to improve rural health care access and quality through network collaboration. HRSA expects to award 46 grants of up to \$300,000.

July has officially become the hottest month ever recorded

(AP) — Meteorologists say July was the hottest month measured on Earth since records began in 1880. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Thursday that July was 0.95 degrees Celsius (1.71 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than the 20th century average for the month.

Read more: http://news.lee.net/news/national/july-has-officially-become-the-hottest-month-ever-recorded/article_bb7bbcdc-bf7a-11e9-baea-637a5b275148.html

**AHA Center for Health Innovation Webinar on
Healthcare Integration of Cyber and
Physical Security Functions and Technology**

Explore enterprise risk strategies with NY Presbyterian Hospital

September 4, 2019 - 2 PM ET/1 PM CT - free

[Click here to Learn More and Register](#)

**In case you missed it... Cyber Alert!
Extremely Critical Microsoft Warning Released**

(HHS ASPR) Microsoft released its monthly security update last week, disclosing a variety of vulnerabilities in several of its products. The latest Patch Tuesday covers 97 vulnerabilities, 31 of which are rated "critical," 65 that are considered "important" and one "moderate." This month's security update covers security issues in a variety of Microsoft services and software, including certain graphics components, Outlook and the Chakra Scripting Engine. For additional information please see:

- [Microsoft Warning Impacts 800M Windows 10 Computers](#)
- [Patch new wormable vulnerabilities in Remote Desktop Services \(CVE-2019-1181/1182\)](#)

Hospital Preparedness for Unplanned IT Downtime Events

Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Disaster Medicine developed "[Hospital Preparedness for Unplanned Information Technology \(IT\) Downtime Events: A Toolkit for Planning and Response](#)" (PDF, 746 KB) to help hospitals and other healthcare organizations improve their continuity of operations in the event of an IT service failure. In many cases hospitals' abilities to manage unplanned IT downtime events have substantially lagged behind their adoption of new technologies. Yet, because of the potential impact on hospital operations, unplanned IT downtime events can be just as serious a threat to patient safety as a power outage or medical gas failure. Therefore, it is essential that hospitals close this gap in emergency preparedness.

HHS HC3 Cyber Briefing Series Kicks Off

HHS' **Health Sector Cybersecurity Coordination Center (HC3)** will host the first of a series of briefings to discuss actionable cybersecurity threat and mitigation practices for the Healthcare and Public Health sector. This first briefing scheduled for August 22nd 2pm EST will cover "*The Exploitation of BlueKeep and the Unsecured Buckets Epidemic*" and subsequent briefings will be hosted on a monthly basis. These briefings are intended to assist professionals with a range of backgrounds and expertise in cybersecurity. To receive the webinar meeting details, and for more information, please contact HC3@hhs.gov.

FEMA EMI Training

E0449 Incident Command (ICS) Curricula Train-the-Trainer

This course expands and improves student's ability to deliver EMI Incident Command System (ICS) curricula.

Read more in [https://training.fema.gov/emigrams/2019/1522%20-%20training%20opportunity%20-%20e0449%20incident%20command%20\(ics\)%20curricula%20ttt.pdf?d=8/15/2019](https://training.fema.gov/emigrams/2019/1522%20-%20training%20opportunity%20-%20e0449%20incident%20command%20(ics)%20curricula%20ttt.pdf?d=8/15/2019)

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.