



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 21, 2019

Hundreds arrested, 800 pounds of meth seized in DEA's 'Crystal Mountain' operation over KY, TN & WV

(WDRB) -- The DEA has seized more than 800 pounds of methamphetamine in a months-long investigation dubbed Operation Crystal Mountain that spanned three states.



Officials say the investigation targeted Mexican drug cartels and other drug trafficking operations involved in distributing meth in Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia.

According to a news release from the DEA, agents have arrested 235 people on federal drug charges since January. They've also confiscated dozens of guns, more than \$800,000 in cash, and "significant quantities" of heroin and fentanyl.

Read more: https://www.wdrb.com/news/hundreds-arrested-pounds-of-meth-seized-in-dea-s-crystal/article_4a0dd75e-c35a-11e9-98d9-e330465c744a.html

**Sept. 24 webinar on caring for patients with
opioid use disorder in outpatient settings, EDs**

(AHA Today) AHA's Physician Alliance Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. ET will host a webinar on which Sarah Wakeman, M.D., medical director, substance use disorders initiative and program director, Massachusetts General Hospital and assistant professor of medicine, Harvard University; and Ali Raja, M.D., executive vice chairman, department of emergency medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital, and associate professor, Harvard University, will discuss how to improve the health of patients struggling with addiction. They will share how one program engages patients at multiple points of care through an in-house addiction team and clinic – all working in coordination with emergency department staff. [View more information and register.](#)

**Attorney General introduces new hospital training efforts
to support victims of sexual assault**

Kentucky's attorney general and other state advocates want to make sure hospital staff are trained to better support victims of sexual assault.

A new training effort was launched Tuesday by Attorney General Andy Beshear, the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs (KASAP) and the Kentucky Hospital Association to help support victims of sexual assault. The training includes a new one-hour video for emergency room staff and hospital employees who

respond to victims of sexual assault. It also includes an overview of survivors' rights, the role of rape crisis advocates, legal requirements for hospitals, and do's and don'ts for conducting an exam.

The SAFE Act of 2016 says Kentucky law requires police to receive training, conduct victim-centered investigations and set timelines for testing SAFE kits. It also requires hospitals offering emergency services to also a free sexual assault forensic exam to victims, as well as contact their local rape crisis center and police to collect the exam kit.

Learn more: https://www.wdrb.com/news/beshear-introduces-new-hospital-training-efforts-to-support-victims-of/article_96104aba-c382-11e9-b650-0b8c163f3a54.html

FirstNet platform surpasses 750,000 connections

(Homeland Prep News) The FirstNet communications platform has surpassed 750,000 connections and serves nearly 9,000 public safety agencies and organizations. The platform, built by the First Responder Network Authority and AT&T, is used exclusively by first responders to communicate critical information and coordinate activities.

The FirstNet Band 14 spectrum reaches nearly 650 markets and covers approximately 65 percent of the country. FirstNet performed faster than any commercial network for the second consecutive quarter, according to tests taken with Speedtest and analyzed by AT&T.

Full story: <https://homelandprepnews.com/stories/35377-firstnet-platform-surpasses-750000-connections/>

Scientists Make 'Big Leap' in Understanding Earthquakes
New study shows that most big quakes are preceded by smaller ones

Read more: <http://newser.com/s279392>

One dead, over 100 ill in Spain's biggest listeriosis outbreak

(Reuters) A 90-year-old Spanish woman died on Tuesday, 56 people have been hospitalized and dozens more taken ill in what is believed to be the biggest outbreak of listeriosis recorded in Spain, the health minister said. A nationwide alert was sent out after listeria, the bacteria behind the infection, was suspected in a brand of packaged pork manufactured by Seville-based Magrudis. Of those affected, 53 remain in hospital, including 18 pregnant women and two newborn babies. Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-spain-listeria/one-dead-over-100-ill-in-spains-biggest-listeriosis-outbreak-idUSKCN1VA1FY>

CDC Info on listeriosis: <https://www.cdc.gov/listeria/index.html>

Vaping impacts blood vessels, even without nicotine

(Reuters Health) - Healthy young people show signs of impaired blood vessel function after just a few puffs of an electronic cigarette, even without nicotine, new research shows.

"We essentially found that using e-cigarettes is not equivalent to inhaling water vapor; in fact, it can exert acute, detrimental effects on (blood vessels) even when the liquid does not contain nicotine," Dr. Alessandra Caporale of the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine in Philadelphia, the study's first author, told Reuters Health in an email. Evidence is mounting that vaping, sometimes touted as a safer alternative to smoking, is not risk-free.

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-vaping/vaping-impacts-blood-vessels-even-without-nicotine-idUSKCN1VA29T>

Teva launches generic version of EpiPen for young children

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd on Tuesday made its generic version of Mylan's EpiPen for young children available in most retail pharmacies at \$300 for a 2-pack. The launch of the EpiPen generic for children comes as welcome news for the company, as analysts have raised concerns over its ability to pay down its debt load, which was \$28.7 billion at the end of June.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-teva-pharm-ind-epipen/teva-launches-generic-version-of-epipen-for-young-children-idUSKCN1VA19Q>

Teen sues doctor, hospital for sexual harassment

BECKLEY, W.Va. (AP) — A 15-year-old girl and her father have sued Appalachian Regional Healthcare, saying that the girl and at least 20 others were sexually harassed by a physician in West Virginia. The Register-Herald [reports](#) the lawsuit was filed Monday against Dr. Zouhair Kabarra and the Kentucky-based network that owns Beckley Appalachian Regional Hospital, where the father and teen volunteered.

Read more: <https://apnews.com/c3e96b8c4e9046f3aac35f505ea5c213>

Trust for America's Health August 21, 2019
Extracts from their Health Security and Preparedness Update

- *NBC News:* [When parents say 'no' to HPV shots, teens have no choice. Some states are changing that.](#)
- *CIDRAP:* [US measles cases top 1,200 as UK loses 'measles free' status;](#)
- *Healthline:* [Flight Attendant's Death from Measles Puts Spotlight on Adult Vaccinations](#)
- *Bloomberg Government (blog):* [Vaccine Exemptions Rose for Years Ahead of Measles Outbreak](#)

More than 20 Texas local governments face ransomware attack

(CBS) More than 20 local governments in Texas are facing a coordinated ransomware attack, according to authorities. The Texas Department of Information Resources said in a statement on Saturday that it believes a single source is behind all 23 of the attacks. It didn't name the affected cities or provide details about the attacker's demands.

Texas and federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI, are working with the affected cities to try and restore their access.

The attack in Texas is similar to other ransomware attacks that have crippled digital operations in cities around the country in recent years.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/texas-ransomware-attack-more-than-20-texas-local-governments-are-facing-a-ransomware-attack/>

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.