



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 27, 2019

### FBI says it is aware of 'unspecified' threat against schools in Ky., Arkansas

(Herald-Leader) The FBI in Louisville on Monday said in a twitter post that it is aware of an "unspecified internet threat against schools in Kentucky" and Arkansas this week.

"There is no evidence indicating this threat is credible. However, if you see something suspicious online or in person, contact local law enforcement or the FBI," the FBI statement said. It provided no additional information.

Kentucky Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis said the incident should serve as a reminder that any district staff member who will have contact with students must view an active shooter training video as required by the new state school safety law.

Read more: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/local/education/article234397807.html>

### Kentucky Among Top Prescribers Of Addiction Treatment Drug

(WFPL) Kentucky has the third highest rate in the country for Medicaid prescriptions of buprenorphine, a drug that helps treat people with an addiction to opioids. A [study released last week by the Urban Institute](#) shows that in 2018, Kentucky Medicaid enrollees filled 659,629 prescriptions for buprenorphine. That averages out to about 662 prescriptions per 1,000 enrollees ages 12 and older.

"Kentucky expanded Medicaid early on, which is likely a key reason that treatment using buprenorphine prescriptions is fairly high in Kentucky," said Lisa Clemans-Cope, the study's lead author.

Full report: <https://wfpl.org/kentucky-among-top-prescribers-of-addiction-treatment-drug/>

### New commissioner for KY Department for Public Health



(Lane Report) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services has announced the appointment of Dr. Angela Tackett Dearing as the new commissioner of Kentucky's Department for Public Health (DPH). Dr. Dearing is board certified in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Public Health and General Preventive Medicine. She is an associate professor at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. In her most recent professional educational roles she served as Assistant Dean of Accreditation in Graduate Medical Education, and as Associate Chief of Staff for Education at the Lexington VA Health Care System.

Full report: <https://www.lanereport.com/116390/2019/08/chfs-names-new-commissioner-for-kentuckys-department-for-public-health/>

### STAT wins long legal fight as Kentucky Supreme Court clears way for release of Purdue OxyContin files

After a 3 1/2 year legal battle, secret records about Purdue Pharma's marketing of its potent opioid painkiller OxyContin will finally be made public. The Kentucky Supreme Court denied [a request from Purdue](#) to review lower courts' decisions to release the documents, according to a [one-page order](#) received Monday by the lawyers in the case. The decision is a major victory for STAT, which [first filed a motion](#) to unseal the records in March 2016. Purdue has fought to keep the documents out of view, but the Supreme Court's refusal is final and can't be appealed.

Now, the public stands to get a glimpse of new information about how Purdue promoted OxyContin and what executives knew about the risk of addiction that came with the drug. The company's aggressive marketing of OxyContin has been blamed by some analysts for helping trigger an opioid addiction epidemic. Overdoses related to prescription opioids have claimed 200,000 lives in the last two decades, and there are now [nearly 100 opioid deaths every day](#) in the U.S., many from heroin and the synthetic opioid fentanyl.

Learn more: <https://www.statnews.com/2019/08/26/kentucky-supreme-court-allows-release-of-purdue-oxycontin-records/>

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**Related: Purdue Pharma in talks over multibillion-dollar deal to settle more than 2,000 opioid lawsuits**

Learn more: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/purdue-pharma-in-talks-over-multibillion-dollar-deal-to-settle-more-than-2000-opioid-lawsuits/2019/08/27/cf50ed4-c914-11e9-be05-f76ac4ec618c\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/purdue-pharma-in-talks-over-multibillion-dollar-deal-to-settle-more-than-2000-opioid-lawsuits/2019/08/27/cf50ed4-c914-11e9-be05-f76ac4ec618c_story.html)

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**Methodist's Jack Hogan Retiring after 43 years**

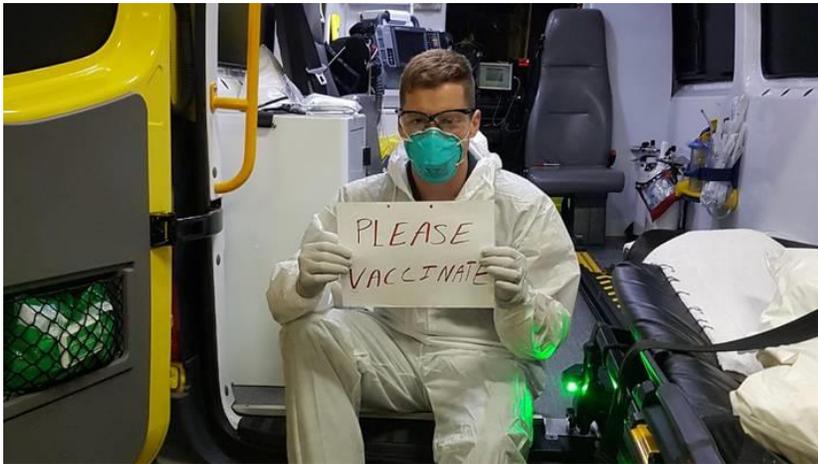
Jack Hogan, Vice President of Ancillary Services at Methodist Hospital in Henderson, and a leader in the HPP program within Western Kentucky, has announced to the Regional Coalition and colleagues that he has decided to retire as of September 6th. In his message Jack said, "I want each of you to know what a pleasure it has been to have worked with such a great group of unselfish professionals who have dedicated their time, talent, and energy to protecting our communities."

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**She Fell Ill After Mosquito Bite, Was Dead 6 Days Later**

(Newser) – Laurie Sylvia started feeling sick last Monday. Less than a week later, the Massachusetts 59-year-old was dead, killed by a rare mosquito-borne illness. Sylvia, who died Sunday, is the fourth person in the state to contract eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) this month. That's notable considering an average of just seven people typically contract the virus per year in the entire country, [People](#) reports. Before this year, Massachusetts hadn't seen a human case since 2013. Cases typically occur in Massachusetts, Florida, New York, and North Carolina. All four of the August cases occurred in Bristol County, though Sylvia was a realtor who did business in several counties, so her husband isn't certain where she contracted it. Full story: <http://newser.com/s279651>

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**New Zealand Paramedic Goes Viral For Confronting Picture Encouraging People To Get Vaccinated**

While the internet has been praised for the spread of valuable information around the world, it has also brought rise to misinformation as well. People can be duped into the most ridiculous things



because they look realistic or are presented in a certain way.

That couldn't be more relevant than with the anti-vaxx movement, which is a seemingly growing group of people who are against get vaccinated. Funnily enough, there are loads of these people who are vaccinated themselves, but refuse to give their kids the jab because of ill informed advice found on the internet.

But one paramedic has had enough with the spread of measles across

his country that he's posted a now viral picture on social media, calling for people to get vaccinated.

Read more: <http://www.ladbible.com/community/viral-paramedic-goes-viral-for-picture-encouraging-people-to-vaccinated-20190827>

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**US DHS is taking millions from FEMA to fund immigration courts and ICE jails**

The Department of Homeland Security will transfer more than \$200 million to Immigration and Customs Enforcement to pay for a massive increase in detention beds and temporary courts at the US border, according to congressional and homeland security officials.

Some of those funds, \$155 million, will be diverted from FEMA's disaster relief fund. The fund pays for the federal response to catastrophic events, like hurricanes or wildfires. The funding transfer comes as hurricane season ramps up and Tropical Storm Dorian takes aim at Puerto Rico this week.

Learn more: <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hamedaleaziz/the-trump-administration-is-taking-millions-from-fema-to>

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**Florida police blame staff neglect for post-hurricane nursing home deaths**

A dozen Florida nursing home patients who died from sweltering heat during a 2017 post-hurricane power outage were victims of neglect by four caregivers jailed this week to face manslaughter charges, and more arrests are expected, police said on Tuesday.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-storm-irma-nursinghome/florida-police-blame-staff-neglect-for-post-hurricane-nursing-home-deaths-idUSKCN1VH10T>

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**Beyond nukes: how scientists dream of killing hurricanes**

(National Geographic) There are even stranger ideas for how to take down a tropical cyclone than bombing it with a nuclear warhead, as President Trump suggested.

Learn more: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/08/beyond-nukes-how-scientists-dream-of-killing-hurricanes/>

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**5.7 million Contigo water bottles recalled over choking hazard**

(CBS) Some 5.7 million kids' water bottles are being recalled because they pose a choking hazard. The Consumer Product Safety Commission said Tuesday that Contigo Kids Cleanable Water Bottles are being recalled because of a risk that the bottle's clear silicone spout can detach and pose a choking risk. According to the agency's recall [notice](#), there have been 149 reports of the spouts detaching and 18 being found in children's mouths.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/contigo-water-bottle-recall-5-7-million-kids-water-bottles-recalled-over-choking-hazard/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

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**Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines  
Extracts from August 27, 2019**

**Vaccines 'most powerful tool against infectious diseases'** (FT) Before 2014, no Ebola outbreak had ever killed more than 300 people. The recent return of the disease in the Democratic Republic of Congo has killed almost 2,000 — just five years after the worst-ever incident of the disease led to the deaths of more than 11,000 — highlighting the growing risk of epidemics.

**Federal rules threaten to discourage undocumented immigrants from vaccinating children** (STAT) Pediatricians and public health officials are worried vaccination rates among children of immigrants will fall as new and stricter rules come into effect this autumn related to the public services available to people seeking to immigrate to the United States.

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**Social Media Training for Coalition Partners**

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS)/Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) will be hosting two social media trainings in the DPH State Health Operations Center (SHOC) in Frankfort on **December 4 and December 5, 2019**. Please note that there is a maximum class size of 40 participants. You do not have to attend both trainings if you are familiar with already using social media tools and techniques with your current position. The second class just builds on the components taught in the first class. Please note that you will be required to bring a laptop or wi-fi enable device to the training session(s) for the hands-on exercises.

These courses have just been listed on <https://train.org/ky>. You need to sign up for the courses through TRAIN. If you don't have an account through TRAIN you will need to set one up in order to register.

- PER-343 Social Media Engagement Strategies [TRAIN ID# 1086513](#) December 4 2019 Frankfort
- PER-344 Social Media Tools and Techniques [TRAIN ID# 1086520](#) December 5 2019 Frankfort

There will be CEs given for the courses upon successful completion of each session (information list on TRAIN). The training is free of charge and a free working lunch will also be provided for both trainings.

More info on each of the Social Media courses:

- [PER-343 SEngagement \(1\).pdf](#)
- [PER-344 SMTools \(2\).pdf](#)

**Additionally**, CHFS will also be hosting the **two-day MGT-318 Public Information in an All-Hazards Incident** on **April 21-22, 2020** at Berry Hill Mansion State Historic Property in Frankfort. This course will be listed on TRAIN after January 1, 2020. See more on this course:

<https://www.ndpc.us/Catalog/TEEXNERRTC/MGT-318>

Address questions to: Barbara Fox, CHFS PIO, at [BarbaraJ.Fox@ky.gov](mailto:BarbaraJ.Fox@ky.gov)

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**NPR: The Scientific Debate Over Teens, Screens And Mental Health**

What's the link between smartphone use and teens' mental health? Experts disagree, with some arguing that the threat is overblown.

More teens and young adults — particularly girls and young women — are reporting being depressed and anxious, compared with comparable numbers from the mid-2000s. Suicides are up too in that time period, most noticeably among girls ages 10 to 14. One hypothesis that has gotten a lot of traction is that with nearly every teen using a smartphone these days, digital media must take some of the blame for worsening mental health.

Listen to the podcast or read more: <https://www.npr.org/2019/08/27/754362629/the-scientific-debate-over-teens-screens-and-mental-health>

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**Microsoft may extend Windows 7 end of life for some users**

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/505842223>

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](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.