



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 1, 2019

Hurricane Dorian path puts Orlando back in the cone; tropical storm warnings issued for Florida

(Orlando Sentinel) Hurricane Dorian on Sunday has its eye set on the Bahamas with powerful 150 mph winds, but has not let Florida off the hook in its ever changing path.



As of 5 a.m., the National Hurricane Center issued a hurricane warning from Deerfield Beach up to Sebastian Inlet and a hurricane watch from Deerfield Beach south to Golden Beach.

While the projected consensus path has the storm staying offshore, the three-day cone of uncertainty jogged somewhat more inland overnight to now include all of metro Orlando including Walt Disney World.

The strong Category 4 hurricane is predicted to grow to just shy of Category 5 status by this afternoon with 155 mph sustained winds and gusts up to 190 mph before slamming into the northern Bahamas including the Abaco islands and Grand Bahama Island. The forecast

calls for the storm to slow down after today and make the shift from west to northwest and eventually turn to the northeast and threaten Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

Read more: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/weather/hurricane/os-ne-hurricane-dorian-florida-sunday-update-20190901-twuhjketgzbaflcpjgi3ipfdli-story.html>

National Hurricane Center page: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

HHS Secretary Azar Declares Public Health Emergency for State of Florida Due to Hurricane Dorian

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/506176970>

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FEMA Keeping Eye On 'Waffle House Index' Ahead Of Hurricane Dorian Arrival

Want to know how bad hurricane damage was after it hits? Check out which Waffle House restaurants are open. "Waffle House became almost like a rough guidepost," former FEMA director Craig Fugate, the creator of the index, told FOX Business. "If it was open and had a full menu we probably weren't in the worst-hit areas yet." Read more: <https://news360.com/article/506227958>

Shooter killed in West Texas after 5 people died, at least 21 injured

(CNN) A gunman in West Texas who went on a shooting spree, killing five people while randomly firing from his vehicle and then from a hijacked mail truck, was shot and killed by police in a gun battle in a movie theater parking lot, authorities said Saturday.

At least 21 people were injured, including three law enforcement officers, Odessa Police Chief Michael Gerke said at a news conference. A hospital administrator said a child under the age of 2 was hurt and at least seven people were in critical condition.

Gerke identified the shooter as a white male in his 30s. His name and a motive were not given.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/31/us/odessa-texas-active-shooter/index.html>

**While the shooting in Texas has the headlines, there was another....
Shooting at High School Football Game Injures Multiple Teens In Mobile**

(NPR) Police in Mobile, Ala. have arrested a 17-year-old in connection with a shooting incident that injured 10 teenagers at a high school football game Friday evening. The suspect has been charged with nine counts of attempted murder.

According to a [statement from the Mobile Police Department](#), the shooting occurred at approximately 9:25 p.m. on Friday night at the Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile. Nine people were shot, and according to the Associated Press, one additional person had a seizure shortly after the shooting. The department said none of the injuries were considered life-threatening.

In a press conference on Saturday, police chief Lawrence Battiste said of the nine victims who had been hospitalized, six had been released and three remained in local hospitals.

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/2019/08/31/756286318/shooting-at-high-school-football-game-injures-multiple-teens-in-mobile-alabama>

**The Plan to Use Fitbit Data to Stop Mass Shootings
Is Unsettling Proposals**

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/506153868>

Kentucky Officials Seek Community Help To Address Soaring Child Abuse Rate

(WFPL) Panelists talked about Kentucky's high rate of child abuse and how the community can help address the problem during our discussion on WFPL's In Conversation.

A [five-part investigative series](#) by Courier-Journal Reporter Deborah Yetter sounded the alarm on the issue and prompted [Kosair Charities to donate \\$100,000](#) toward helping protect children. According to a [report by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Children's Bureau](#), Kentucky now has the highest rate of child abuse and neglect in the country. Yetter said cases of child abuse have grown more severe over time, and many abusers used to be victims. The nation's opioid epidemic is also playing a role in Kentucky's soaring number of child abuse cases.

Read more: <https://wfpl.org/kentucky-officials-seek-community-help-to-address-soaring-child-abuse-rate/>

Video doorbell company Ring partners with more than 400 US law enforcement agencies

Story source: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Video-doorbell-company-Ring-partners-with-more-than-400-police-departments-nationwide-558759931.html>

**WARNING: Scammers impersonating FBI phone numbers and agents
Offices include Kentucky**

Full story: <https://news360.com/article/506184416>

**Oklahoma hospital used dirty gastroscopes
on almost 1,000 patients; no infections reported**

(Reuters) An unnamed hospital in Oklahoma used contaminated gastroscopes in procedures performed on nearly a thousand patients in recent months, device maker Pentax Medical told U.S. regulators last month, putting the patients at risk of exposure to bacteria that can cause infections.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hoya-pentax-scopies/oklahoma-hospital-used-dirty-gastroscopes-on-almost-1000-patients-no-infections-reported-idUSKCN1VK2OK>

[Note: While KY is not in the impact zone, we have readers all over the country. The following also gives those in healthcare emergency preparedness some background on what CMS can bring to the table in a declared Public Health Emergency.]

CMS offers broad support for Florida with Hurricane Dorian preparation

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today announced efforts underway to support Florida in response to Hurricane Dorian. Today, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency (PHE) in the state. CMS is working to ensure hospitals and other facilities can continue operations and provide access to care despite the effects of Hurricane Dorian. CMS will be waiving certain Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) requirements; creating special enrollment opportunities for individuals to access healthcare quickly; and taking steps to ensure dialysis patients obtain critical life-saving services.

"Our thoughts are with everyone who is in the path of Hurricane Dorian and CMS is doing everything within its authority to provide assistance and relief to all who are affected," said CMS Administrator Seema Verma. "We will partner and coordinate with state, federal, and local officials to make sure that in the midst of all of the uncertainty a natural disaster can bring, our beneficiaries will not have to worry about access to healthcare and other crucial life-saving and sustaining services they may need."

Below are key administrative actions CMS will be taking in response to the PHE declared in Florida:

Waivers and Flexibilities for Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities: CMS will be temporarily waiving or modifying certain Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP requirements. CMS will also issue a number of blanket waivers, listed on the website below, and the CMS Regional Office will grant other provider-specific requests for specific types of hospitals and other facilities in Florida. These waivers work to provide continued access to care for beneficiaries. For more information on the waivers CMS has granted, visit: www.cms.gov/emergency.

Special Enrollment Opportunities for Hurricane Victims: CMS will make available special enrollment periods for certain Medicare beneficiaries and individuals seeking health plans offered through the Federal Health Insurance Exchange. This gives people impacted by the hurricane the opportunity to change their Medicare health and prescription drug plans and gain access to health coverage on the Exchange if eligible for the special enrollment period. For more information, please visit: <https://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Regulations-and-Guidance/Downloads/8-9-natural-disaster-SEP.pdf>

<https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Past-Emergencies/Hurricanes-and-tropical-storms.html>

Disaster Preparedness Toolkit for State Medicaid Agencies: CMS developed an inventory of Medicaid and CHIP flexibilities and authorities available to states in the event of a disaster. For more information and to access the toolkit, visit: <https://www.medicaid.gov/state-resource-center/disaster-response-toolkit/index.html>.

Dialysis Care: CMS is helping patients obtain access to critical life-saving services. The Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) program has been activated ahead of the storm and is working with the End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network of Florida, ESRD NW7, to assess the status of dialysis facilities in the potentially impacted areas related to generators, alternate water supplies, education and materials for patients, and more. They are also assisting patients who have evacuated ahead of the storm to receive dialysis services in the location to which they are evacuating. Patients have been educated to have an emergency supply kit on hand including important personal, medical, and insurance information; contact information for their facility, the ESRD NW hotline number, and contact information of those with whom they may stay or for out-of-state contacts in a water proof bag. They have also been instructed to have on hand supplies to follow a three-day emergency diet. The ESRD NW7 toll-free hotline is 800-826-3773 and the KCER hotline is 866-901-3773. Additional information is available on the KCER website www.kcercoalition.com.

During the 2017 and 2018 hurricane seasons, CMS approved special purpose renal dialysis facilities in several states to furnish dialysis on a short-term basis at designated locations to serve ESRD patients under emergency circumstances in which there were limited dialysis resources or access-to-care problems due to the emergency circumstances.

Medical equipment and supplies replacements: CMS will be temporarily suspending certain requirements necessary for Medicare beneficiaries who have lost or realized damage to their durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies as a result of the hurricane. This will help to make sure that beneficiaries can continue to access the needed medical equipment and supplies they rely on each day. Medicare beneficiaries can contact **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** for assistance.

Suspension of Enforcement Activities: CMS will suspend current survey and enforcement activities for healthcare facilities in Florida, but will continue to investigate allegations of immediate threat to patient health and safety.

Ensuring Access to Care in Medicare Advantage and Part D: During a public health emergency, Medicare Advantage Organizations and Part D Plan sponsors must take steps to maintain access to covered benefits for beneficiaries in affected areas. These steps include allowing Part A/B and supplemental Part C plan benefits to be furnished at specified non-contracted facilities and waiving, in full, requirements for gatekeeper referrals where applicable.

CMS Central Office and the Regional Offices hosted two Webinars in 2018 regarding Emergency Preparedness (EP) requirements and provider expectations. One was an all provider training on 6/19/2018 (over 3,000 providers participated) and the other an all-surveyor training on 8/14/2018. Both presentations covered the EP Final Rule which included emergency power supply; 1135 waiver process, Best Practices & Lessons Learned from past disasters, and Helpful Resources and more. Both webinars are available at <https://surveyortraining.cms.hhs.gov/>.

CMS also compiled a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and useful national emergency preparedness resources to assist State Survey Agencies (SAs), their State, Tribal, Regional, local emergency management partners, and health care providers to develop effective and robust emergency plans and tool kits to assure compliance with the EP rules. The tools can be located at:

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertEmergPrep/Emergency-Prep-Rule.html>

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertEmergPrep/Templates-Checklists.html>

Survey & Certification Group Emergency Preparedness Regulation dated November 2016, Revised 6-1-2017.

CMS Regional Offices have provided specific Emergency Preparedness information to Medicare providers and suppliers through meetings, dialogue and presentations. The regional offices also provide regular technical assistance in Emergency Preparedness to State Agencies and staff, who, since November 2017, have been regularly surveying providers and suppliers for compliance with emergency preparedness regulations.

CMS will continue to work with all geographic areas impacted by Hurricane Dorian. We encourage beneficiaries and providers of healthcare services that have been impacted to seek help by visiting CMS' emergency webpage (www.cms.gov/emergency).

To find additional hurricane preparedness and response resources for the health sector and the latest regarding HHS activities for Hurricane Dorian, please visit: www.phe.gov/dorian.

For more information about the Department of Health and Human Services' PHE, please visit: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/08/30/secretary-azar-declares-public-health-emergency-florida-hurricane-dorian.html>

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.