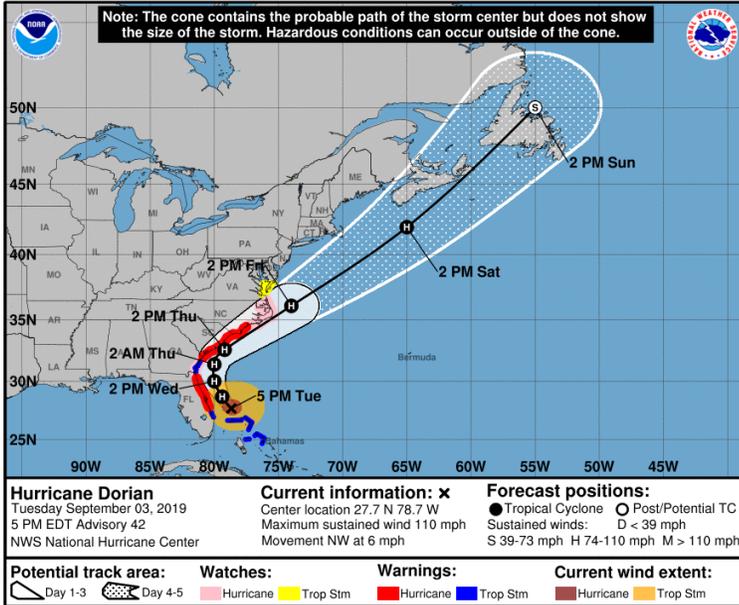




Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 3, 2019

Dorian won't make landfall in Florida, but the East Coast is still under threat

(CNN - 6 PM) [Hurricane Dorian](#) is finally moving away from the Bahamas and will come "dangerously close" to Florida overnight Tuesday into Wednesday, the National Hurricane Center said.



The Category 2 storm, packing maximum sustained winds of 110 mph, is not currently expected to make landfall in the US over the next few days. Still, a wobble here or a strong outer band there could bring its path of destruction closer to the Carolina coasts, including in Charleston, Wilmington and the Outer Banks later in the week.

The [hurricane has pummeled the Bahamas](#), causing at least five deaths and yet-untold destruction from flooding and wind damage. But the storm has not, as American officials had worried, torn up the eastern coast of Florida.

The National Hurricane Center said the risk of hurricane-force winds along North Carolina's coast is increasing, as is the

threat of flash floods along the Florida coast. That risk will spread up the Southeast and mid-Atlantic coast for the rest of the week.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/03/us/florida-hurricane-dorian-wxc/index.html>

Link to NHC: https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/refresh/graphics_at5+shtml/212619.shtml?cone#contents

HHS Secretary Azar Declares Public Health Emergencies for Georgia and South Carolina Due to Hurricane Dorian

(HHS) Following President Trump's lead in declaring an emergency for the States of Georgia and South Carolina, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar today declared a public health emergency for both states in preparation for Hurricane Dorian. The declaration gives the HHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) beneficiaries and their healthcare providers and suppliers greater flexibility in meeting emergency health needs in disasters.

In declaring the [public health emergency](#) and [authorizing flexibilities](#) for CMS beneficiaries, Secretary Azar acted within his authority under the Public Health Service Act and Social Security Act. These actions and flexibilities are retroactive to August 29, 2019, for Georgia and August 31, 2019, for South Carolina.

HHS also staged approximately 200 personnel from the [National Disaster Medical System](#) and an Incident Management Team along with approximately 100 tons of medical equipment and supplies for these teams to use. These assets will be available quickly to help health authorities and healthcare facilities respond to medical needs. HHS has additional personnel on alert from the National Disaster Medical System and the [U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps](#) and additional equipment and supplies for these teams, if needed.

Full story: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/02/secretary-azar-public-health-emergencies-georgia-south-carolina-hurricane-dorian.html>

How Florida hospitals are preparing for Hurricane Dorian

(Becker Hospital Review) Florida hospitals are preparing to provide care and shelter in anticipation of Hurricane Dorian, a category 3 storm [expected](#) to bring 140 mph tropical storm winds to the state Sept. 3, according to [CNBC](#).

All of the hospitals have backup generators in case of power outages. Universal Health Services said it is stocking up on food, water, linens, diesel fuel, medications and staff to prepare for the storm. The hospital operator will post updates on social media and its website. Over 3 percent of UHS' acute-care beds lie in the storm's path.

HCA Healthcare, the nation's largest investor-owned hospital operator, also said it is stocking up on supplies and staff to ensure patients continue receiving care during and after the storm. About 12 percent of HCA's acute-care beds lie in the path of the storm.

Read more: <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/quality/how-florida-hospitals-are-preparing-for-hurricane-dorian.html>

72 nursing homes, assisted living facilities, 7 hospitals evacuated in Florida ahead of Dorian

(WPTV) Florida officials said Monday that 72 nursing homes and assisted living facilities and seven hospitals on the state's East Coast had been evacuated in preparation for Hurricane Dorian.

Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Mary Mayhew told reporters that only four of the long-term care facilities were evacuated because they didn't have emergency generators and access to backup power as required by law

"They are making a determination based upon their buildings' ability to withstand a Category 5 (hurricane), whether they are in the surge zone. So that is separate and apart from the generator," Mayhew said.

Evacuating the nursing homes and assisted living facilities means that residents must be transferred to different locations. Mayhew didn't directly answer whether any nursing home and ALF residents were being transferred to emergency shelters or special-needs shelters.

Read more: <https://www.wptv.com/news/state/72-nursing-homes-assisted-living-facilities-7-hospitals-evacuated-in-florida-ahead-of-dorian>

HHS Purchases Smallpox Vaccine to Enhance Biodefense Preparedness

(HHS - Sept 3) As part of ongoing preparedness efforts against biodefense threats, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will purchase smallpox vaccine, called ACAM2000, to build and replenish vaccine stored in the [Strategic National Stockpile](#) (SNS) over the next decade.

Under the agreement announced today, the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), which oversees the SNS, will award approximately \$170 million to Emergent BioSolutions of Gaithersburg, Maryland, for the purchase this year. ASPR can purchase additional vaccine over the next 10 years, with a target of \$2 billion in procurement and surge options for up to a total of nearly \$2.8 billion.

Read full press release: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/03/hhs-purchases-smallpox-vaccine-to-enhance-biodefense-preparedness.html>

Chem-Bio Defense Office Reorganizes to Take on New Threats

(*National Defense*) The Pentagon's joint program executive office for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense — which is tasked with protecting the military from some of the world's most dangerous pathogens and nerve agents — is emerging from a major reorganization that officials believe will better position it to meet new threats.

The office, as it worked to streamline its operations across the board, mulled over how it could get technology into the hands of warfighters faster and do business better, said Doug Bryce, the head of the JPEO. That required a rejiggering of its programs. The office facilitates a number of projects across multiple lines of effort, but officials were finding that some programs were not always working together seamlessly, Bryce said.

To better establish a holistic enterprise that ensured the highest priority items were put into the hands of warfighters quickly, the organization sorted itself into three joint project manager offices — protection, sensors and medical. The JPEO also stood up what it calls joint project leaders for the areas of special operations forces; information management and information technology; enabling biotechnologies; and portfolio resources, Bryce said.

Full story: <https://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/articles/2019/8/30/chem-bio-defense-office-reorganizes-to-take-on-new-threats>

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.