



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 2, 2020

Delivering TB vaccine intravenously dramatically improves potency, study shows

Worldwide, more people die from tuberculosis (TB) than any other infectious disease, even though the vast majority were vaccinated. The vaccine just isn't that reliable. But a new *Nature* study finds that simply changing the way the vaccine is administered could dramatically boost its protective power.

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) discovered that intravenous TB vaccination is highly protective against the infection in monkeys, compared to the standard injection directly into the skin, which offers minimal protection.

"The effects are amazing," said senior author JoAnne Flynn, Ph.D., professor of microbiology and molecular genetics at the Pitt Center for Vaccine Research. "When we compared the lungs of animals given the vaccine intravenously versus the standard route, we saw a 100,000-fold reduction in bacterial burden. Nine out of 10 animals showed no inflammation in their lungs.

Full story: https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2020-01/uop-dtv122719.php

Jan 1 *Nature* study: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-019-1817-8>

Babies in ICU can be better protected from parental bacteria

Story link: <https://news360.com/article/516750186>

Texas police officer's home, car hit by incendiary Devices in separate attacks

(US DHS TripWire) On 23 December 2019 at approximately 2130 hours local time, a suspect threw improvised incendiary devices (IIDs) described as Molotov cocktails at a law enforcement officer's home in Katy. Minor damage was reported and no one was injured. Subsequently, on 29 December the same home was attacked when two additional IIDs were thrown at an SUV in the driveway of the home – setting it ablaze. A surveillance camera captured images of the suspects along with the vehicle involved. The Fort Bend (TX) County Sheriff's Office is seeking multiple suspects in connection with this targeted attack.

Press story: <https://nypost.com/2019/12/30/texas-police-sergeants-home-car-hit-by-molotov-cocktails-in-separate-attacks/>

CMS Eliminates Direct Supervision Requirement for Hospitals

The level of supervision required in hospital outpatient departments has long been a vexing compliance issue for hospitals, with recent hospital settlements in the millions of dollars for violating CMS' direct supervision rule. But beginning January 1, 2020, CMS is eliminating the direct supervision requirement. This rule places decisions about supervision in the control of hospitals and physicians involved in patient care and will make the delivery of hospital outpatient services more efficient.

Read story: <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/clinical-care/cms-eliminates-direct-supervision-requirement-hospitals>

Battle Over Medical Credential Maintenance of Certification Continues in the Courts

(MedPage Today) Plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit involving maintenance of certification (MOC) requirements officially filed a notice of appeal in Philadelphia Monday following a district judge's September decision to dismiss the suit.

Last month, a similar lawsuit against the American Board of Radiology also had an unfavorable outcome for the plaintiff.

Because many hospitals and insurers require doctors to maintain board certification in order to be part of hospital staffs or insurance network

Full story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/publichealthpolicy/generalprofessionalissues/84162>

In Rural Areas without Pain or Addiction Specialists, Family Doctors Fill In the Gaps
(NPR Story and 6-min podcast) <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/12/30/786916670/in-rural-areas-without-pain-or-addiction-specialists-family-doctors-fill-in-the->

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extract from **January 2, 2020**

Flu activity high; at least 2,100 deaths this season (CIDRAP) In today's FluView update from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), experts say the flu season is in full swing with an estimated 4.6 million flu illnesses, 39,000 hospitalizations and 2,100 deaths from flu so far this season.

A program protecting us from deadly pandemic is about to expire (Washington Post: Opinions) Five years ago, a man walked into a Dallas emergency room and became the first person diagnosed with Ebola in the United States. Suddenly, the nation was confronted with a rare, deadly and infectious disease whose containment required special procedures, training and equipment. When two nurses at that hospital got infected, the real scramble to respond began.

Polio eradication program faces hard choices as endgame strategy falters (Science) The "endgame" in the decades long campaign to eradicate polio suffered major setbacks in 2019. While the effort lost ground in Afghanistan and Pakistan, which recorded 116 cases of wild polio—four times the number in 2018—an especially alarming situation developed in Africa. In 12 countries, 196 children were paralyzed not by the wild virus, but by a strain derived from a live vaccine that has regained its virulence and ability to spread. Fighting these flare-ups will mean difficult decisions in the coming year.

Google Chrome hit with bugs, users losing secondary profiles

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/516435412>

A Feel Good Story to start 2020

Minnesota boy helps the colorblind see color

Watch: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=6hnhZboLgs0>

The KHEREF 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 KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.