



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 5, 2020

National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin - January 4, 2020

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(pdf, 1 page, 641.01KB)

Issued: January 04, 2020 05:15 pm

Expires: January 18, 2020 01:00 pm

The United States designated Iran a "State Sponsor of Terrorism" in 1984 and since then, Iran has actively engaged in or directed an array of violent and deadly acts against the United States and its citizens globally. The United States designated Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) a Foreign Terrorist Organization on April 15, 2019 for its direct involvement in terrorist plotting.

Details

- On January 2, 2020, the United States carried out a lethal strike in Iraq killing Iranian IRGC-Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani while Soleimani was in Iraq.
- Iranian leadership and several affiliated violent extremist organizations publicly stated they intend to retaliate against the United States.
- At this time we have no information indicating a specific, credible threat to the Homeland. Iran and its partners, such as Hizballah, have demonstrated the intent and capability to conduct operations in the United States.
- Previous homeland-based plots have included, among other things, scouting and planning against infrastructure targets and cyber enabled attacks against a range of U.S.-based targets.
- Iran maintains a robust cyber program and can execute cyber attacks against the United States. Iran is capable, at a minimum, of carrying out attacks with temporary disruptive effects against critical infrastructure in the United States.
- Iran likely views terrorist activities as an option to deter or retaliate against its perceived adversaries. In many instances, Iran has targeted United States interests through its partners such as Hizballah.
- Homegrown Violent Extremists could capitalize on the heightened tensions to launch individual attacks.
- An attack in the homeland may come with little or no warning.
- The Department of Homeland Security is working closely with our federal, state, local, and private sector partners to detect and defend against threats to the Homeland, and will enhance security measures as necessary.

Be Prepared

- Be prepared for cyber disruptions, suspicious emails, and network delays.
- Be responsible for your personal safety. Know where emergency exits and security personnel are located. Carry emergency contact and special needs information with you.
- Implement basic cyber hygiene practices such as effecting data backups and employing multi-factor authentication. For more information visit [CISA.gov](https://www.cisa.gov).
- [Connect, Plan, Train, and Report](#) to prepare businesses & employees. Security tools/resources can be accessed through the DHS's [Hometown Security Campaign](#).

Stay Informed

- The U.S. Government will provide additional information about any emerging threat as additional information is identified. The public is encouraged to listen to local law enforcement and public safety officials.
- We urge Americans to continue to travel, attend public events, and freely associate with others but remain vigilant and aware of surroundings.
- The Department of State issues [international travel alerts and warnings](#).
- For additional information visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).

If You See Something, Say Something™.

Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or call 911.

Get Full PDF Version: https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/ntas/alerts/20_0104_ntas_bulletin.pdf

EMS World: Protecting EMS from Cyberthreats

Read full story: <https://www.emsworld.com/article/1223681/protecting-ems-cyberthreats>

Get info on Radon & a Free Radon Detector

(CHFS) The Kentucky Radon Program works in partnership with the United States Environmental Protection Agency to provide education and awareness of the health hazards caused by radon to the citizens of Kentucky. Led by the Kentucky Department for Public Health, the program works to promote statewide knowledge of the harm radon may bring.

Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas that comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water. Radon gets into the air you breathe through cracks, crevices and openings in the foundation. Radon gas is not visible and has no odor or taste. It is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, estimated to cause thousands of deaths annually. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths.

Any home not constructed to be radon resistant may have a radon problem. Nearly one in 15 homes in the U.S. has elevated radon levels.

Request a Free Radon Test Kit: The Kentucky Radon Program provides radon test kits free of charge to Kentucky residents through grant funding from the EPA State Indoor Radon Grant. **If you are a Kentucky resident and your health department is on the [radon program list](#), you may request a free kit from your health department.** If your county is not listed, please complete the form on the [Free Radon Test Kit offer website](#).

Get more info: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dphps/emb/Pages/radon.aspx>

Kentucky Bill Would Ban Plastic Bags, Styrofoam Container

(WFPL) A bill filed ahead of this year's legislative session would ban retailers from providing certain kinds of plastic bags and limit the use of plastic straws and foam containers.

Every year more than eight million tons of plastic end up in the oceans, costing at least \$8 billion in damages to marine ecosystems, according to a [UN Environment report](#). Among the largest sources of this pollution are plastic bags and single-use plastics.

[Bill Request 999](#) would ban businesses from offering customers plastic bags used to carry goods, though it would exempt plastics used to prevent cross-contamination for things like vegetables and meats.

Eight states including California and Vermont have passed similar bans, according to the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#). Meanwhile, Indiana, Missouri and Tennessee are among the states that have banned the bans — prohibiting local governments from regulating the use of plastic bags.

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/kentucky-bill-would-ban-plastic-bags-styrofoam-containers/>

Mystery Illness' Hits Chinese City

So far, 59 people have been diagnosed with the respiratory illness

(Newser) Looks like the Chinese city of Wuhan is ground zero for a mystery illness—but officials say it isn't a reemergence of the 2002-2003 SARS epidemic that originated in China and killed over 700 people, the [Guardian](#) reports. Little is known, but a Wuhan health commission says the most typical symptoms are shortness of breath, fever, and occasionally lung infection. The commission adds that "influenza, avian influenza, adenovirus infection and other common respiratory diseases" are off the list, per [LiveScience](#), and World Health Organization rep says "severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus is not yet confirmed or excluded as the cause of the outbreak."

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/285219/mystery-illness-hits-city.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.