



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 10, 2020

## Wind and Flood Threat Saturday Strong winds and Flash Flooding possible

(NWS Louisville) The National Weather Service has issued a Wind Advisory for all of central Kentucky and southern Indiana for Saturday, because of their confidence in 40-50 mph wind gusts - especially in the Bluegrass Region.

Also, persistent moderate rains are expected today over southwest Indiana and some of our central Kentucky counties west of I-65. Given this rain soaking the grounds and the potential for heavier rainfall ahead of a cold front Saturday, Flood Watches have gone up for portions of the area. These could be expanded eastward later today, depending on how today's rain pattern sets up.

Lastly, the Storm Prediction Center bumped us up to a Marginal Risk for severe storms Saturday. We will probably see a line of storms move in from the west Saturday morning, and it could strengthen as the day goes on. Lots going on in the next 24-36 hours!

NWS Louisville Weather Story slides: <https://www.weather.gov/lmk/weatherstory>

NWS Paducah Weather Story slides: <https://www.weather.gov/pah/weatherstory>

NWS Jackson Weather Story slides: <https://www.weather.gov/jkl/weatherstory>

National page to find Watches and warnings: <https://www.weather.gov/>

## HHS grants waiver to aid health care response to Puerto Rico earthquakes

(AHA Today) Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar Wednesday [declared](#) a public health emergency for Puerto Rico, and waived or modified certain Medicare, Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program [requirements](#), giving health care providers greater flexibility to meet emergency health needs following a series of earthquakes and aftershocks this week in the U.S. territory. HHS's Office for Civil Rights also has issued [guidance](#) to help ensure equal access to emergency services and appropriate sharing of medical information following the earthquakes. "Across HHS, we have worked closely with the territory's health and human services authorities on disaster recovery, and will continue to do everything we can to help ensure the health and well-being of people across the island," Azar [said](#). The Food and Drug Administration is not currently aware of any potential shortages of critical medical products, the agency said. Puerto Rico is home to many drug and device manufacturing facilities. According to HHS's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, two of the three hospitals that initially evacuated are now receiving patients.

**Related CBS story: Power is intermittent as thousands sleep outside in quake-wary Puerto Rico**

See and read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/puerto-rico-earthquake-power-intermittent-thousands-sleeping-outside/>

## KY Governor Restores Occupational Safety & Health Board

(Frankfort) In an effort to strengthen workplace and worker safety, Gov. Andy Beshear today announced he is reestablishing a state board that sets workplace safety regulations. The Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board is comprised of twelve members.

View the Executive Order: [https://governor.ky.gov/attachments/20200108\\_Executive-Order\\_2020-014.pdf](https://governor.ky.gov/attachments/20200108_Executive-Order_2020-014.pdf)

View full press release: <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=18>

## January 11 - Wear Blue day brings increased awareness to human trafficking

(EMR-ISAC InfoGram) January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. [Blue Campaign](#) national public awareness campaign is designed to educate the public, law enforcement and other industry partners to both recognize indicators of human trafficking and know how to respond to suspected cases.

Reporting indicators of trafficking is the first step to getting someone out of a horrible situation. It could even save their life. First responders are in a great position to spot the signs of human trafficking. Earlier this year, the U.S. Fire Administration produced an awareness video to educate fire and EMS personnel. Fire department leadership should consider using the short video to train personnel.

Blue Campaign hosts several events and educational activities throughout January. This weekend is the Blue Campaign's largest initiative: [#WearBlueDay on January 11](#).

To raise awareness of human trafficking, people may take photos of themselves, friends, family and colleagues wearing blue clothing and share them on social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram – along with the [#WearBlueDay](#) hashtag. Anyone can participate, all you need is a piece of blue clothing!

[Follow the campaign on Twitter @DHSBlueCampaign](#) for more information on #WearBlueDay and National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, or go to: <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>.

The Blue Campaign offers law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel free training and information on how to identify and report possible victims of human trafficking. Visit the website for more resources. There is also a [victim identification handout](#) available in multiple languages.

### Boeing Red-Faced on 'Appalling' Messages About 737 Max

(Newser) Lawmakers are calling newly revealed messages from Boeing employees on the company's beleaguered 737 Max—involved in two [horrific crashes](#) that killed 346 people. The [Verge](#) has [links to the emails and texts](#), redacted messages sent by Boeing to Congress last month, including one worker's 2017 slam that "*this airplane is designed by clowns, who are in turn supervised by monkeys.*"

Full story link: <https://www.newser.com/story/285426/boeing-workers-mock-737-max-plane-designed-by-clowns.html>

### Rural Americans Increasingly Concerned About Opioid Addiction, Study Finds

(WFPL & Ohio Valley Resource) Researchers at Harvard University and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that rural Americans identified drug addiction and economic concerns as the most serious problems facing their communities.

[An open-ended survey of 2700 rural adults](#) aimed to identify the major concerns of rural voters, and found that 25 percent of rural Americans said drug addiction was their biggest concern for their community, and 21 percent said the same about economic concerns. The striking illustrate the dramatic toll of addiction on rural communities, which have generally struggled to recover from the 2009 recession.

A higher share of respondents, about four in 10, ranking opioid addiction the most serious problem facing their community was significantly higher in Appalachia, where the opioid epidemic struck sooner and harder than in other parts of the country.

Read more: <https://wfpl.org/rural-americans-increasingly-concerned-about-opioid-addiction-study-finds/>

### Many caregivers of children with autism suspect vaccines, study finds

([CIDRAP News Scan](#)) Data on more than 16,000 US children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) reveal that 16.5% of their caregivers (one in six) wrongly believe vaccines could be a cause of the children's autism, according to a study yesterday in *Vaccine*.

US researchers analyzed data on 16,525 children with ASD from SPARK, a national research cohort started in 2016. About 80% of the children are boys, with a mean age of 8.1 years among the entire group.

Information on beliefs of the children's caregivers revealed that 16.5% believed childhood immunizations could be a cause of autism—a notion that has been roundly debunked. They researchers also report that caregivers with less education and lower income, as well as ethnic minorities, were more inclined to believe vaccines could be a contributing factor.

The authors conclude that such caregivers could benefit from targeted educational efforts.

Jan 8 *Vaccine* [abstract](#)

### FEMA upgrades Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

([EMR-ISAC InfoGram](#)) The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently integrated updates to the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), improving Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) and [giving authorities more capabilities when sending to cellular phones and other wireless devices](#).

The updates include Spanish-language capabilities, an increase from 90 to 360 characters per message and an expanded alert category allowing the public to opt-in to a test message category for state and local officials. The updates also include more accurate geo-targeting capabilities for alerts. Television and radio alerts via the Emergency Alert System are not affected by this upgrade.

The enhancements require updates to wireless provider networks across the nation and updates to customer phones. All updates are being coordinated with the Federal Communications Commission. [FEMA IPAWS Site: https://www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system](#)

### Boy, 5, Attacked by Coyote—in Chicago

*The child was outside a nature museum in Lincoln Park; man was attacked hours later*

Read full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/285398/boy-5-attacked-by-coyote-in-chicago.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 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.