



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 12, 2020

Transportation problems, lack of confidentiality among barriers to accessing rural syringe exchanges

(KyForward & KY Health News) Rural residents who inject drugs say they are less likely to access syringe exchange programs because of transportation problems, inability to get to the service at times it's open, and concerns about stigma, lack of confidentiality and law enforcement. So says a newly published study examining barriers that can prevent people who inject drugs (PWIDs) from accessing syringe service programs (SSPs) in Appalachian Kentucky. Kentucky leads the nation in the number of SSPs, partly because it has 120 counties.

The biggest barrier to SSP use was the lack of transportation, with 18.3 percent reporting it as the primary barrier. Other barriers were: inability to access the program during operating hours, which are often limited (12.9 percent); concerns about stigma, privacy, and/or law enforcement (9.1 percent), not enough syringes (5.4 percent); and the location of the program (4.8 percent).

Participants' concerns varied based on the degree of their county's rurality. In Clark and Knox counties, the least rural, transportation was the most frequently cited barrier. But in Owsley, the most rural county, fear of stigma and lack of confidentiality ranked highest.

Full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/transportation-problems-lack-of-confidentiality-among-barriers-to-accessing-rural-syringe-exchanges/>

Department for Public Health announces first vaping-related death

(LEX 18) — The Kentucky Department for Public Health has announced the state's first probable fatality related to vaping. The unidentified victim passed away due to what the department calls to 'e-cigarette or vaping product use-associated lung injury (EVALI).'

There have been 48 reports of possible EVALI, 13 of which have been confirmed as "probable cases." The fatality is among the latter. A probable case means that someone has a lung injury believed to be caused by vaping, but they also may have other health issues, like the flu or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Read more: <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/department-for-public-health-announced-first-vaping-related-death-in-ky>

Canadians got an emergency alert about a nuclear power plant incident, but It was sent in error.

(CNN) An emergency alert sent to residents of Canada's Ontario province that warned about an "incident" at a nuclear power plant was sent in error, the Ontario Power Generation said.

On Sunday morning at about 7:20 a.m., an "incident" was reported at the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station near Toronto, triggering the government to send an emergency alert to local residents. The bulletin, sent to people within 10 kilometers of the nuclear plant, did not offer details about the incident.

"There has been NO abnormal release of radioactivity from the station and emergency staff are responding to the situation. People near the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station DO NOT need to take any protective actions at this time," said a mobile alert seen by CNN. But shortly afterward, officials said the alert had been sent in error.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/12/world/pickering-nuclear-power-plant-alert/index.html>

California could be 1st state to sell own prescription drugs

(AP) California could become the first state to make its own prescription drugs under a proposal announced Thursday by Gov. Gavin Newsom, who says it would "take the power out of the hands of greedy pharmaceutical companies."

The Democratic governor wants the nation's most populous state to contract with generic drug companies to make medications on its behalf so it could sell them to its nearly 40 million residents. The goal is to lower prices by increasing competition in the generic drug market, Newsom said.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/fbf567dda715d7b277b1d7e161340ea5>

FDA announces more recalls of antacids containing traces of carcinogen

(NBC) The Food and Drug Administration has recalled several more lots of [heartburn medications](#), including more generic versions of Zantac, that have been found to contain trace amounts of a substance that may be linked to cancer. The [World Health Organization](#) has classified that substance, N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), as a "probable human carcinogen."

The FDA said that Denton Pharma Inc. had recalled several batches of unexpired ranitidine tablets due to the possible presence of NDMA. Ranitidine is the generic version of the [popular heartburn drug Zantac](#).

Federal regulators said other heartburn medications, such as famotidine (Pepcid), cimetidine (Tagamet), esomeprazole (Nexium), lansoprazole (Prevacid) and omeprazole (Prilosec) have not tested positive for signs of NDMA.

Full story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/fda-announces-more-recalls-antacids-containing-traces-carcinogen-n1113196>

China releases genetic data on new coronavirus, now deadly

(CIDRAP) In quickly moving developments last night, health officials from Wuhan, China, posted a novel coronavirus (nCoV) pneumonia outbreak update, which scaled back the number of cases to 41 and noted the first death, and researchers from China released the genetic sequence of the nCoV. And Saturday morning the World Health Organization (WHO) released several interim guidance documents, including advice on travel, lab testing, and medical evaluation. Based on the current reports, there's no obvious evidence of human-to-human spread yet.

Full story: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/01/china-releases-genetic-data-new-coronavirus-now-deadly>

Jan 10 WHO [travel advice](#) & WHO [coronavirus page](#)

Few Teens Who Survive Opioid OD Get Recommended Care

<https://news360.com/article/517352709>

'Traumatized' Puerto Ricans rocked by another strong quake

(CBS) A magnitude 5.9 quake shook [Puerto Rico](#) on Saturday, causing further damage along the island's southern coast, where previous recent quakes have toppled homes and schools. Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority said outages were reported across much of southern Puerto Rico and crews were assessing possible damage at power plants.

The quake, which initially had been calculated at magnitude 6.0, was the strongest shake yet since a [magnitude 6.4 quake](#) — the strongest to hit the island in a century — struck before dawn on Tuesday, knocking out power across Puerto Rico and leaving many without water.

Thousands have stayed in shelters and slept on sidewalks since Tuesday's earthquake, which killed one person, injured nine others and damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes and several schools and businesses in the island's southwest region.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/puerto-rico-earthquake-magnitude-6-0-hits-today-2020-01-11/>

U.S. Government Confirms Critical Security Warning For Firefox Users

Read the story & update: <https://news360.com/article/517364124>

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 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 (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.