



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 19, 2020

Virginia governor issues a temporary state of emergency ahead of a guns rights rally militia groups and hate groups could attend

(CNN) Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam on Wednesday said firearms and other weapons will be banned on state Capitol grounds in Richmond ahead of a gun rights rally on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. A [temporary state of emergency](#) is among several security precautions Northam said officials will take effect after law enforcement learned of "threats of violence" surrounding the rally that out-of-state militia groups and hate groups are expected to attend Monday. The [state of emergency](#) went in to place Friday evening and will go to Tuesday evening. The ban includes open and concealed firearms and other weapons like sticks, bats and chains, according to the emergency declaration order.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/15/us/virginia-state-of-emergency-weapons-gun-rights-rally/index.html>

Related story with update summary

With Virginia Facing Huge Gun Rally, President Tweets Organizers call for tens of thousands to carry guns into Richmond on Monday

(Newser) Tensions are rising over a pro-gun-rights rally scheduled for Monday at the Virginia State Capitol, [Reuters](#) reports. The rally's organizers, the Virginia Citizens Defense League, are urging 10,000 people to attend without guns in compliance with an emergency ban imposed by Gov. Ralph Northam last week; they're also asking tens of thousands more to bring guns and stand just outside the rally grounds. In other developments:

- **Trump tweet:** "Your 2nd Amendment is under very serious attack in the Great Commonwealth of Virginia," the president [tweeted](#). "That's what happens when you vote for Democrats, they will take your guns away."
- **Virginia laws:** The state Senate passed bills Thursday limiting residents to one handgun purchase per month, demanding background checks on firearm sales, and allowing the government to prohibit weapons in public buildings and other locations. Virginia Democrats took over the House and Senate in November, the [New York Times](#) recalls.
- **3 arrests:** The [arrest](#) of three suspected white supremacists Thursday is apparently connected to the Richmond rally. Northam said Wednesday that "credible evidence" suggests hate groups and armed militias will attend the event and possibly try to spark civil unrest, per [NBC News](#).
- **Militia:** "I'll be rolling into town early," said Christian Yingling, who heads the Pennsylvania Light Foot Militia and helped lead the 2017 Charlottesville rally. "I can't give you my exact time for security reasons." Yingling is among those who signed decrees never to show up armed in Charlottesville again, but that restriction doesn't apply to Richmond, per the [Washington Post](#).
- **Open carry:** One Virginia city official sparked controversy by showing up at a city council meeting with an AR-15-style semiautomatic rifle, [Fox News](#) reports. The Portsmouth Councilman, Nathan Clark, carried the weapon in opposition to Virginia's gun-control efforts and said "no one appeared intimidated."
- **Misunderstanding:** The state's only socialist lawmaker says he's received death threats after pro-gun activists misunderstood a bill he introduced that would let school teachers strike without losing their jobs, the [Guardian](#) reports. The lawmaker, Lee Carter, says he's now carrying a gun to protect himself.
- **Polling:** Yet polling shows most Virginians are in support of gun control, per [Slate](#). A December [poll](#) showed 86% in favor of universal background checks, while 73% are [said to](#) support "red flag" laws designed to keep the mentally ill from accessing firearms.

Source link: <https://www.newser.com/story/285781/2/with-virginia-on-edge-trump-fires-off-a-tweet.html>

Related story: 3 More Linked to Neo-Nazi Group Arrested in Georgia

Read more: <https://www.voanews.com/usa/3-more-linked-neo-nazi-group-arrested-georgia>

Senate Bill 8 Would Require Kentucky Schools to Have Armed Officers

(WFPL) Off-duty police officers hired to do security at Kentucky public schools would be required to carry guns under a bill sponsored by a top Republican in the state Senate. The proposal comes a year after the

legislature passed a [sweeping school safety bill](#) requiring every school in the state to employ a school resource officer. That bill didn't say that the officers had to be armed.

"A majority of the districts now, the SROs that are out there are armed, but we're going to make sure this would go above any other school board policy," said Wise, who is also chair of the Senate Education Committee. "If that SRO is not armed, then they would be with Senate Bill 8 this session."

Learn more: <https://wfpl.org/bill-would-require-kentucky-schools-to-have-armed-officers/>

Puerto Rico Governor fires EM director after aid is found sitting in warehouse

(CBS) Puerto Rico Governor Wanda Vázquez Garced fired the island's emergency management director on Saturday, after a video showing aid sitting unused in a warehouse went viral on social media. Some of the aid has allegedly been sitting in the warehouse since [Hurricane Maria](#) struck in 2017.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/puerto-rican-governor-fires-emergency-director-after-aid-is-found-sitting-in-warehouse-2020-01-18/>

China says 17 new cases in virus outbreak, Wuhan to restrict large gatherings

(Reuters) China said on Sunday that 17 more people had become infected with a new coronavirus strain, fanning fears it will spread further as hundreds of millions of people travel to celebrate the upcoming Lunar New Year. The virus belongs in the same family of coronaviruses as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which killed nearly 800 people globally during a 2002/03 outbreak that also started in China.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-health-pneumonia/china-says-17-new-cases-in-virus-outbreak-wuhan-to-restrict-large-gatherings-idUSKBN1ZI028>

Related story: [WHO Does Not Rule Out Human to Human Spread of New Coronavirus](https://news360.com/article/518172008)
<https://news360.com/article/518172008>

CDC HAN Alert 426 - Guidance on 2019-nCoV: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00426.asp>

Related story: Travelers at 3 US Airports to Be Screened for New Virus

(Newser) Passengers arriving at three US airports from a city in China will be screened for a [new type of coronavirus](#) starting Friday. The CDC is dispatching about 100 people to help staff the quarantine stations at New York's JFK and the Los Angeles and San Francisco international airports, the [Hill](#) reports. The screenings will apply to travelers from Wuhan, where the outbreak began. The CDC said its response could change as it learns more from its investigation of the virus.

Full report: <https://www.newser.com/story/285766/travelers-at-3-us-airports-to-be-screened-for-new-virus.html>

Four teachers sue Delta Air Lines over California fuel dump

(CBS) Four teachers from a Los Angeles-area school sued Delta Air Lines on Friday, saying they were exposed to jet fuel when a plane with engine trouble [dumped its fuel over a densely populated area](#), including several schools, while making an emergency return to the airport. At a news conference, the teachers described the fuel as drizzling down like raindrops with "overwhelming" fumes. They said their panicked students screamed and cried.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/delta-air-lines-sued-by-four-teachers-over-california-fuel-dump-today-2020-01-17/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

Did '13 Reasons Why' lead to a spike in adolescent suicides? Researchers are divided

(CNN) When Netflix [debuted "13 Reasons Why"](#) in 2017, some mental health experts argued the show was "[dangerous](#)" for its depiction of teen suicide. That argument was backed by a prominent [Nationwide Children's Hospital study](#) in 2019, which found that the rate of suicide among 10- to 17-year-old boys surged in the month after the show's premiere. But a [new study](#) published Thursday by a different author, examined the same data as the 2019 study -- and came up with a different result.

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/18/health/13-reasons-why-study-suicides-trnd/index.html>

What we've learned from the data on Crisis Counseling via Text Message

(NPR) Teens send tons of text messages to their friends, to their parents and, if they need to, to a crisis counselor. Since launching in 2013, Crisis Text Line has processed 129 million text messages, most of them from teens. Listen to podcast and read more: <https://www.npr.org/2020/01/17/797410284/what-weve-learned-from-the-data-on-crisis-counseling-via-text-message>

Experts Propose Support, Awareness to Address Human Trafficking

(WFPL - "In Conversation") Human trafficking affects a large number of Kentuckians, due in part to the commonwealth's [location](#), poverty and homelessness. Victims' advocates and a U of L researcher say more community support and awareness would help them better address the problem. The panel spoke on WFPL's In Conversation on Friday.

Listen to podcast: <https://wfpl.org/experts-propose-support-awareness-to-address-human-trafficking/>

St. Louis donations wipe away \$13 million in medical debt

Story link: <https://news360.com/article/518189720>

She sat for 2.5 Hours in the ER waiting room with a heart problem... She Didn't Survive

(Newser) When you're sick or injured, you might head to urgent care first, then to the emergency room. But for a Wisconsin woman, a trip to the emergency room for chest pains and shortness of breath led to a lengthy wait, so she left the ER to go to urgent care—and died in the parking lot before she could get inside. An initial X-ray showed she had cardiomegaly, or an enlarged heart, but instead of receiving immediate attention, she was sent back to the waiting room where she sat for over 2-hours.

Full report and more links: <https://www.newser.com/story/285733/she-left-the-er-after-waiting-for-hours-then-she-collapsed.html>

98.6 Isn't Our Normal Temperature Any More The human body may simply have changed over time, leading the current average down to 97.5 degrees.

Learn more: <https://www.newser.com/story/285756/986-isnt-our-normal-temperature-any-more.html>

Toxic Wastewater Discharges along the Ohio River has been mapped

(WFPL) The Clean Water Act has regulated the levels of pollutants discharged into U.S. waterways since 1972, but sport anglers on the Ohio River still have to check the [Ohio River Fish Consumption Advisories](#) to see if their catch is safe to eat

The Clean Water Act's original goal was to completely eliminate discharges into waterways [by 1985](#), requiring that anyone who intentionally discharged wastewater into a U.S. waterway obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System [NPDES] permit. Yet today, in the Ohio River watershed alone, there are still roughly 40,000 active NPDES permits.

Using public records, *Eye on Ohio* mapped out the roughly 6,900 toxic-containing wastewater discharges along the Ohio River, including how much they spew annually.

Another study examined data to determine how many facilities discharged more than their permit allowed between Jan. 1, 2016, and Sept. 30, 2017. West Virginia topped the list with 54% (26) of its facilities reporting exceedances greater than 100% of their permit limits at least once. Other states in the Ohio River watershed on the top-10 list of those with facilities that exceed their permit limits by greater than 100% at least once included Indiana at 32% (21 facilities), New York at 31% (37 facilities), and Illinois at 29% (19 facilities). Facilities with reported discharges greater than 500% of their permit limits also showed West Virginia at the top of the list with 31% (15 facilities).

One of the reasons the Ohio is ranked the dirtiest is because these bioaccumulative chemicals of concern are in the sediment and you'll never get rid of them unless you dredged the length Ohio River bottom.

Learn more: <https://wfpl.org/we-mapped-out-the-toxic-wastewater-discharges-along-the-ohio-river-heres-what-we-learned/>

Feds must implement tick-borne disease act swiftly

(AP) Two U.S. senators want the federal government to implement new measures to protect people from tick-borne diseases as soon as possible. Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine and Democratic Sen. Tina Smith of Minnesota authored and advocated for passage of the Kay Hagan Tick Act, which was signed into law last month. The proposal is designed to strengthen research, prevention, diagnostics and treatment for tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease.

Full story: <https://apnews.com/1770f5708c4928d1b2d9cd39fe6a0eb8>

Cardinal Health intends to recall surgical gowns, packs due to quality issue

(AHA Today) Cardinal Health has placed a hold on certain lots of its bulk surgical gowns, as well as surgical procedure packs containing the gowns, while it works with the Food and Drug Administration to address a manufacturing quality issue, the company said.

Learn more: <https://www.aha.org/2020-01-17-cardinal-health-intends-recall-surgical-gowns-packs-due-quality-issue>

[More from AHA Today...](#) Last week Jeffrey Shuren M.D., director of FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health, [said](#) there are numerous FDA-approved surgical gown alternatives on the market that provide Level 3 protection. Health care providers and others may notify FDA about potential or actual supply issues by emailing deviceshortages@fda.hhs.gov.

Sepsis Deaths May Be Twice Previous Estimates

(NPR) A medical condition that often escapes public notice may be involved in 20% of deaths worldwide, according to a new study. The disease is sepsis — sometimes called blood poisoning. It arises when the body overreacts to an infection. Blood vessels throughout the body become leaky, triggering multiple-organ failure.

It is surprisingly common in the United States: [One prominent study](#) estimates 1.7 million cases a year and 270,000 deaths. Sepsis in the U.S. can strike otherwise healthy people who get an infection that runs amok. Many other cases arise in the hospital. That occurs frequently in people who are already in poor health. It's an even bigger problem in the developing world, where childbearing women are at the greatest risk. Listen to podcast and read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/01/16/796758060/stealth-disease-likely-to-blame-for-20-of-global-deaths>

Not something to try on your next Florida vacation...

'It was going for my throat': Python hunters wrestle invasive snakes



Thomas Aycock's life flashed before his eyes one night in the Everglades as a 13-foot Burmese python squeezed his arm and a leg in its coils. Aycock, who was trying to bag the snake by himself, still recalls feeling its tail across his back.

"I knew what it was doing, it was going for my throat," said the 54-year-old Florida Army National Guard major who was able to wrestle free during that incident. That scare has not stopped him from returning again and again to the sprawling wetland, devoting almost every spare moment to searching the thick brush and sawgrass for more snakes, as he was doing during this interview.

The state encourages hunters to capture or kill the giant, invasive south Asian snakes that are decimating local wildlife.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-florida-python-hunt/it-was-going-for-my-throat-florida-python-hunters-wrestle-invasive-snakes-idUSKBN1ZG16F>

Georgia held a contest for better highway safety signs. The winners are hilarious

See the list: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/18/us/georgia-safety-message-highway-signs-contest-trnd/index.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 (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.