



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 20, 2020

Human-to-human transmission confirmed in China coronavirus

(AP) The head of a Chinese government expert team said Monday that human-to-human transmission has been confirmed in an outbreak of a new coronavirus, a development that raises the possibility that it could spread more quickly and widely.

Team leader Zhong Nanshan, a respiratory expert, said two people in Guangdong province in southern China caught the virus from family members, state media said. Some medical workers have also tested positive for the virus, the English-language China Daily newspaper reported.

The late-night announcement capped a day in which authorities announced a sharp uptick in the number of confirmed cases to more than 200, and China's leader called on the government to take every possible step to combat the outbreak.

The outbreak has put other countries on alert as millions of Chinese travel for Lunar New Year. Authorities in Thailand and in Japan have identified three cases, all involving recent travel from China.

South Korea reported its first case Monday, when a 35-year-old Chinese woman from Wuhan tested positive for the new coronavirus one day after arriving at Seoul's Incheon airport. The woman has been isolated at a state-run hospital in Incheon city, just west of Seoul, the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement.

At least a half-dozen countries in Asia and three U.S. airports have started screening incoming airline passengers from central China. Full story: <https://apnews.com/14d7dcffa205d9022fa9ea593bb2a8c5>

WHO calls emergency meeting as mystery virus spreads

(The Hill) The World Health Organization (WHO) called for an emergency meeting on Monday as a mysterious virus spreads across China.

The meeting on Wednesday will assess whether the outbreak of the new coronavirus constitutes an international health emergency and what measures should be taken, Reuters reports.

The health organization said "an animal source" appeared to likely be the primary source of the outbreak, adding that some "limited human-to-human transmission" occurred between close contacts, according to Reuters.

Read more: <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/479057-who-calls-emergency-meeting-as-mystery-virus-spreads>

Pro-gun rally by thousands in Virginia ends peacefully

(AP) — Tens of thousands of gun-rights activists from around the country rallied peacefully at the Virginia Capitol on Monday to protest plans by the state's Democratic leadership to pass gun-control legislation — a move that has become a key flash point in the national debate over gun violence

The [size of the crowd](#) and the expected participation of white supremacists and [fringe militia groups](#) raised fears that the state could see a repeat of the violence that exploded in 2017 in Charlottesville. But the rally concluded uneventfully around noon, and the mood was largely festive, with rally-goers chanting "USA!" and waving signs denouncing Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam.

Many protesters chose not to enter the designated rally zone, where Northam had imposed a [temporary weapons ban](#), and instead packed surrounding streets, many dressed in tactical gear and camouflage and carrying military-style rifles as they cheered on the speakers.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/2c997c92fa7acd394f7cbb89882d9b5b>

Major shootings in the news... Are you ready?

(#1) 2 Dead, 15 Injured in KC Nightclub Shooting

(Newser) Police say a gunman opened fire on a line of people waiting to get into a Kansas City nightclub Sunday night, with two people dead and 15 injured in the aftermath, reports the [Kansas City Star](#). Police think the gunman was one of the two people killed after being shot by a security guard. Police have not speculated about a motive. Read more: <https://www.newser.com/story/285844/2-dead-15-injured-in-nightclub-shooting.html>

(#2) 2 killed, 5 injured at San Antonio music venue

(CBS) The search for a suspect continued early Monday after two people were killed and five others were injured following a shooting during a concert at a San Antonio club. An argument broke out inside of the club and one person pulled out a gun and started shooting.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/san-antonio-shooting-2-dead-5-injured-concert-the-ventura-river-walk-suspect-at-large-today-2020-01-20/>

Puerto Rico distributes emergency supplies that were left in old warehouse for years

Read more: <https://abcn.ws/30GuP1S>

ICU death rate higher in hospitals primarily serving minorities

(Reuters Health) Death rates have been declining for critically ill patients in intensive care units (ICUs), but a new U.S. study suggests gains have been limited at hospitals with large numbers of minority patients. Data on almost 1.1 million ICU patients at more than 200 hospitals from 2006 to 2016 show a steady annual 2% decline in ICU death rates at hospitals with few minority patients, but not at hospitals where at least one-fourth of patients were Hispanic or African-American. African-American patients also appeared to fare better at hospitals that served fewer minorities. Mortality rates for this group fell 3% each year at hospitals with few minority patients while remaining fairly constant at hospitals serving large numbers of minorities, researchers report in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-minorities-critical-illness/icu-death-rate-higher-in-hospitals-primarily-serving-minorities-idUSKBN1ZJ2AR>

Mark your Calendars for EARTH EX IV/20 **Coming September 1-October 31**

Recent geopolitical threats from foreign advisories and frequent extreme weather events can cause wide-spread disruptions to the nation's power grid. Just imagine how disruptions to the grid will affect your key supply chain and the impact cascading effects it will have on our lifeline infrastructure on which we are dependent.

The Electric Infrastructure Security Council (EIS Council) ask, can your organization continue to operate if the disruption lasts for months or longer?

- Are you prepared for long-term power disruptions caused by cyber, EMP or natural disasters? Can you continue to achieve you primary missions?
- Can you protect your key technology and do you have a Continuity of Operation plan in place for resilience and recovery?
- Have you exercised you plans in the last year? Last two years? Ever??
- If not, participating in EarthEx 2020 will assist you in developing a plan, or can help you identify gaps in your current plan.
 - *Lessons learned from EarthEx will be useful to your emergency plans for severe storms, earth quake, and potential terrorism events!*

Remember - EARTH EX is Free, Self-Facilitated and Self-Assessed.

For more information, send an email to earthex@eiscouncil.org or contact: John Lile, Law Enforcement/ Local Public Health Sector Coordinator, EIS Council, john.lile@eiscouncil.org

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.