



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 24, 2020

**Chinese health officials say cases of Wuhan coronavirus  
have increased to 830 and deaths to 25.**

**Most of the new cases are relatives or health care workers  
in close contact with a sick person.**



(Bloomberg) China is struggling to contain rising public anger over its response to a spreading coronavirus even as it took unprecedented steps to slow the outbreak, restricting travel for 40 million people on the eve of Lunar New Year.

The government ordered travel agencies to suspend sales of domestic and international package tours after imposing transport curbs on cities near the center of the outbreak. The pressure is rising on China as it tries to come to grips with a disease that some fear could rival SARS, which 17 years ago claimed almost 800 lives. While global experts have mostly praised efforts to contain the virus, Chinese citizens are increasingly critical and anxious as travel restrictions grow to

encompass a population bigger than Australia.

Patients with the infection have been found in countries across Asia, including Singapore, Japan and South Korea. Outside the region, the U.S. has reported one case.

While the virus is moving from human to human, a situation that worries public health officials, it appears that close exposure is critical. Most cases have moved from patients to their close family members or to health-care workers who were caring for them.

Most of those who have died had other health conditions, including diabetes and heart disease, that weakened their immune systems. Symptoms include fever, cough or chest tightness, and difficulty breathing.

Full story: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-01-23/china-expands-travel-limits-who-says-virus-remains-local-crisis>

----- **Related stories in the news** -----

**[NPR: Wuhan Coronavirus 101:](#)**

**[What We Do — And Don't — Know About A Newly Identified Disease](#)**

**[China Hurriedly Building Quarantine Center in Six days to Contain Wuhan Virus](#)**

(Business Insider) The Chinese city of Wuhan is rushing to build a brand-new hospital within six days to treat patients of the coronavirus that has killed at least 26 people across the country and is overwhelming the quarantined city's health system. Doctors in Wuhan say that people have to queue for hours for medical attention, that screening the disease is difficult, that there is not enough protective gear, and that some doctors were told not to go to work over fears they could catch the virus. Wuhan authorities said Friday that a new, 1,000-bed hospital is being built for coronavirus patients to "address the insufficiency of existing medical resources," the Associated Press reported.

**(CIDRAP) WHO holds off on nCoV emergency declaration as cases soar**

The World Health Organization (WHO), in another split decision, held off on declaring a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) in response to China's novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak, as lockdowns were ordered for five more Chinese cities, part of an unprecedented step to slow the spread of the virus.

And to jump-start the development of vaccines and drugs against 2019-nCoV, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) announced a major push to develop vaccines, alongside news that cases in China soared past 600 and that Singapore and Vietnam have reported their first cases.

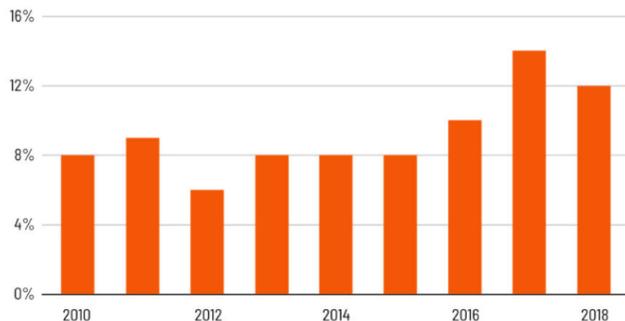
Full story: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/01/who-holds-ncov-emergency-declaration-cases-soar>

**WHO Update:** [https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov))

### In Ohio Watershed, Higher Water Lines and More Hazardous Cargo

(WFPL & KyCIR) Over the past decade in the Ohio watershed, which encompasses 15 states from southwestern New York to the northeast corner of Mississippi, extreme weather has been cited more and

**In the Ohio Valley region, the proportion of marine incidents classified as "serious" has risen.**



Source: U.S. Coast Guard Marine Casualty Database  
Graphic by Alexandra Kanik

more frequently as a contributing cause in serious marine accidents. At the same time, a KyCIR analysis found that shipping of hazardous materials like crude oil and kerosene are rising. As the conditions on the Ohio — and its cargo — become more hazardous, key regulatory organizations struggle to keep up with the growing demands of this water highway.

KyCIR analyzed federal data from 2010 to 2018 on serious marine accidents, which the U.S. Coast Guard defines as incidents involving death or serious injury, excessive property damage or a discharge of hazardous materials.

Nearly 3,400 marine incidents occurred in a nine-year period in the Ohio watershed. In 2010, about 8% were serious. By 2018, serious incidents accounted for 12%.

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/in-ohio-watershed-higher-water-lines-and-more-hazardous-cargo/>

### FDA alerts providers to cyber vulnerabilities in certain GE medical devices

(AHA Today) The Food and Drug Administration today alerted health care providers to cybersecurity vulnerabilities in certain GE Healthcare clinical information central stations and telemetry servers that may allow an attacker to remotely take control of these medical devices and silence, generate and interfere with alarms for connected patient monitors. The devices are used mostly in health care facilities to display a patient's physiologic information (such as temperature, heartbeat and blood pressure) and monitor patient status from a central location, such as a nurse's workstation. FDA currently is not aware of any related adverse events. GE Healthcare plans to issue a software patch to address the vulnerabilities and notify affected customers when the patches are ready. For more information, see the FDA [notice](#).

### U.S. Nurses: A Little More Diverse and Grayer

(MedPage Today) The U.S. nursing population has grown a bit more diverse in recent years, but most registered nurses (RNs) are still white and female, according to a [national survey](#) from the Health Resources and Services Administration -- and the average age is creeping upward.

According to the 2018 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses (NSSRN), close to 4 million licensed RNs in the U.S. were working as of Dec. 31, 2017, representing a 29% increase from the NSSRN's 2008 findings.

The U.S. nursing population has grown a bit more diverse in recent years, but most registered nurses (RNs) are still white and female, according to a [national survey](#) from the Health Resources and Services Administration -- and the average age is creeping upward.

According to the 2018 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses (NSSRN), close to 4 million licensed RNs in the U.S. were working as of Dec. 31, 2017, representing a 29% increase from the NSSRN's 2008 findings. The report also showed that almost three-quarters of nurses are non-Hispanic white, and that about nine in 10 are women. Also, the current RN population is "graying" -- the 2008 survey reported that 44.7% of RNs were over age 50; the 2018 NSSRN survey put that percentage at 47.5%.

Full story: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/nursing/nursing/84499>

## USFA Releases 20th edition of "Fire in the US"

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) recently released the 20th edition of "[Fire in the United States](#)." Data and findings presented focus on 2017, though this edition does provide a statistical overview of fire data from 2008-2017.

The United States averaged 1.3 million fires yearly from 2008 and 2017, resulting in an average of 3,190 civilian deaths, over 16,000 civilian injuries and over \$14 billion in direct property loss each year.

Civilian injuries from fires are down over 20 percent in the past 10 years. This shows solid progress and speaks volumes to the success of both public education programs and changes in fire and building codes nationwide.

Civilian deaths are up slightly in the past few years with 3,645 deaths in 2017. In 1974, the year USFA was established, civilian fire deaths were estimated at 12,000. USFA set a goal to reduce this number by half within a generation. By 2012, civilian fire deaths were at 2,855. The primary data source for this report is the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

Report download: [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/reports/fius\\_2008-2017.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/reports/fius_2008-2017.html)

## Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital to close by Sept. 30 1,000 jobs in Ashland area will be lost

Read more: <https://www.kyforward.com/our-lady-of-bellefonte-hospital-to-close-by-sept-30-costing-1000-jobs-in-ashland-area/>

## Emergency planning for behavioral health facilities

([EMR-ISAC InfoGram](#)) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) offers emergency managers and planners the "[Disaster Planning Handbook for Behavioral Health Treatment Programs](#)" (PDF, 976 KB), part of the Technical Assistance Publication Series. Emergency managers should consider contacting behavioral health treatment facilities within their jurisdiction to make them aware of this guide.

According to the handbook, behavioral health programs provide essential services as outlined in [Emergency Support Function #8](#) and are obligated to prepare for emergencies. The guide specifically targets the special needs of the populations involved, how to identify essential staff and financial considerations.

[In the Introduction section, it specifically says, *"This document provides guidance for program staff members on reducing their facility's exposure to threats and hazards and retaining and restoring the program's capacity to function when a disaster does occur. A disaster plan is an essential reference for program staff in a disaster situation—the planning process is the path through which preparedness becomes possible.*

*A disaster plan describes procedures for ensuring safety in a disaster, reducing the potential for damage from a disaster, and maintaining or rapidly resuming essential services during and after a disaster. The plan details procedures for the quick and efficient linking of clients to other appropriate sources of care when the program itself cannot provide that care. It also describes processes for the reengagement of clients once the program can again offer regular services."*]

The intended audience for this planning guide is facility disaster planning team members and any administrators, clinicians, trainers and senior staff who may work as part of such a team during emergencies. This handbook supplies many worksheets to aid the planning process and gives examples of effective processes and best practices. (More resources: [SAMHSA](#))

Handbook download: <https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/sma13-4779.pdf>

## Survey: 3 Out Of 5 Americans Are Lonely *Our Workplace Culture May Not Be Helping*

(NPR) More than three in five Americans are lonely, with more and more people reporting feeling like they are left out, poorly understood and lacking companionship, [according to a new survey](#) released Thursday. Workplace culture and conditions may contribute to Americans' loneliness. And loneliness may be on the rise. The report, led by the health insurer Cigna, found a nearly 13% rise in loneliness since 2018, when [the survey](#) was first conducted. The report surveyed over 10,000 adult workers in July and August 2019,

relying on a measure of loneliness called the UCLA Loneliness Scale, used as a standard within psychology research.

The report found several factors that were linked to increased feelings of isolation in 2019. Loneliness appeared to be more common among men. The survey found 63% of men to be lonely, compared with 58% of women.

Social media use was tied to loneliness as well, with 73% of very heavy social media users considered lonely, as compared with 52% of light users.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/01/23/798676465/most-americans-are-lonely-and-our-workplace-culture-may-not-be-helping>

-----  
**Drugs May Be Killing Twice as Many Americans than Previously Thought**

(Healthline) Government records may be severely underreporting how many Americans die from drug use, according to a new study by researchers from the University of Pennsylvania and Georgetown University. Researchers analyzed more than 44 million death certificates issued nationwide over an 18-year period to identify nearly 670,000 deaths that coded as drug-related. Their models showed these drug-coded deaths, which included drug overdoses and mental health and behavioral conditions related to drug use, only accounted for about half of all drug-associated deaths.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the [reportedTrusted Source](#) rate of drug-related deaths among 15- to 64-year-olds was 9 percent in 2016. This is already a significant rise from about 4 percent 7 years earlier, when the NCHS classified 63,000 deaths as drug-related.

However, that estimate didn't include deaths that aren't related to overdose but can still involve drug use, such as HIV, suicide, and blood vessel damage.

Full story: <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/drugs-may-be-killing-twice-as-many-americans-as-previously-thought#Drug-epidemic-more-serious-than-previously-thought>

-----  
**DHS Blue Campaign Announces Partnership with American Airlines**

(DHS Press Release) The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is pleased to announce a new <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHS/bulletins/277c1e4> industry partnership between the DHS Blue Campaign – the unified voice for DHS's efforts to combat human trafficking – and American Airlines. January is also recognized as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. While the fight to combat human trafficking exists year-round, January provides an opportunity to reaffirm shared commitment to end this heinous crime.

"The Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign is excited about its partnership with American Airlines. The airline provides human trafficking awareness training to nearly 60,000 team members, including flight attendants, pilots and customer service team members. This partnership is an invaluable opportunity to educate the public about the crime of human trafficking, how to recognize the indicators of trafficking when it happens, and what they can do to report it," said Trent Frazier, Executive Director of the Office of Campaigns and Academic Engagement.

Through the partnership, American and the Blue Campaign will work together to raise awareness of human trafficking by sharing awareness materials, engaging in events and public awareness campaigns, and amplifying a shared anti-trafficking message.

In addition to building vital partnerships which enhance public awareness efforts, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently released its first-of-its-kind [Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, the Importation of Goods Produced with Forced Labor, and Child Sexual Exploitation](#). Importantly, this document articulates the Department's priorities over the next five years to more effectively and efficiently combat the growing threat of these illicit activities to our Homeland.

-----  
**[Genetic modification could protect soldiers from chemical weapons](#)**

(*Johns Hopkins & Science*) Despite international bans, some countries, such as Syria, use deadly nerve agents against enemy soldiers and civilians. Existing treatments for these chemical weapon attacks must be given quickly and don't always prevent convulsions or brain damage. Now, U.S. Army researchers have created a gene therapy that allows mice to make their own nerve agent-busting proteins, providing protection against the toxicants for months.

***PFAS Chemicals Found in Drinking Water in Dozens of Cities  
Contamination may have been "dramatically underestimated" before***

Read more: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/publichealthpolicy/environmentalhealth/84489>

-----  
**FEMA EMI Training**

**E0418 Mass Care/Emergency Assistance Planning and Operations**

**Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to prepare Mass Care/Emergency Assistance (MC/EA) Coordinators and their teams to develop MC/EA plans to support and/or coordinate MC/EA disaster responses. Read more in [Training Opportunity 1572](#). This is a three day program, being offered three times, at FEMA's National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, MD. CEU's available, and typically travel and housing are provided.

-----  
**Insurers look to curb ransomware exposure as U.S. cyber rates rise**

(Reuters) - U.S. insurers are ramping up cyber-insurance rates by as much as 25% and trying to curb exposure to vulnerable customers after a surge of costly claims, industry sources said. The changes follow a challenging year of hackers using malicious programs, known as ransomware, to take down systems that control everything from hospital billing to manufacturing. They stop only after receiving increasingly hefty payments.

There were 6% fewer ransomware incidents in 2019 versus the prior year, according to Malwarebytes. However, attacks are now designed to spur deeper and more lasting technological problems, with hackers demanding bigger sums.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ransomware-insurance/insurers-look-to-curb-ransomware-exposure-as-u-s-cyber-rates-rise-idUSKBN1ZL1J2>

-----  
**Updated **CERT** Basic Training Is Here**

The updated CERT Basic Training is here! It features a revised Disaster Medical Operations section, updated Terrorism and CERT section, and new hazard-specific annexes. Find the new curriculum materials online and [order free copies from the FEMA publications warehouse beginning January 8, 2020](#). CERT members in leadership positions are encouraged to take the CERT Train-the-Trainer and Program Manager Courses. Find more information through the [Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\)](#) and signup for course offerings.

Learn more: <https://www.domesticpreparedness.com/updates/the-updated-cert-basic-training-is-here/>

-----  
**National Academies Report on Supply Chain Resilience Available: [Strengthening Post-Hurricane Supply Chain Resilience: Observations from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria](#)**

Learn more about the [National Infrastructure Protection Plan](#) (NIPP) sector partnership and risk management framework: <https://www.cisa.gov/national-infrastructure-protection-plan>

-----  
**NPR Podcast: Federal Government May Tighten Restrictions on Service Animals On Planes**

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2020/01/23/798662547/federal-government-may-tighten-restrictions-on-service-animals-on-planes>

-----  
****CDC Clinicians Call:** 2019–2020 Influenza Season Update and Recommendations for Clinicians**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020

**Time:** 2:00pm–3:00pm (ET)

**A few minutes before the webinar begins, please click the link below to join:** <https://zoom.us/j/209471168>

**Or join by iPhone one-tap:** US: +16468769923,,209471168# or +16699006833,,209471168#

**Or join by Telephone:** US: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 669 900 6833

**Webinar ID:** 209 471 168

**MORE INFO:** [https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo\\_012820.asp?deliveryName=DM17813](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_012820.asp?deliveryName=DM17813)

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 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](mailto: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.