



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 28, 2020

Death toll from Wuhan coronavirus tops 100 Infection rate accelerates

(CNN) Hong Kong announced Tuesday that it was closing many of its border crossings with mainland China in a bid to contain the [Wuhan coronavirus](#), as the [death toll from the outbreak topped 100](#), with more than 4,500 cases in the mainland. Authorities in Hubei, the Chinese province at the center of the outbreak, earlier said an additional 1,300 cases had been confirmed, bringing the total in the region to over 2,700. The majority of those are still in hospital, with more than 125 in critical condition. Between Sunday and Monday, [there was a 65% jump](#) in the number of reported cases in mainland China, from around 2,700 to over 4,500.

On Monday, the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [issued a level 3 alert](#) warning against "all nonessential travel to China" -- its highest alert on a scale of 1 to 3.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/28/asia/wuhan-coronavirus-update-intl-hnk/index.html>

Experts: nCoV spread in China's cities could trigger global epidemic

(CIDRAP) At a media briefing in Hong Kong January 27, experts from the University of Hong Kong (HKU) estimated that the number of cases in Wuhan as of Jan 25 was dramatically higher than the country's official totals and may be as high as 44,000. They also estimated that the city's cases will double over the next 6 days. They said that about 25,000 people in Wuhan are likely symptomatic and the others are still in the incubation period.

They warned 2019-nCoV may be about to become a global epidemic and that sustained human-to-human spread is already occurring in major Chinese cities. They said Chinese cities should take "substantial, draconian" measures to limit population mobility, such as cancelling mass gatherings, schools closures, and implementing work-from-home arrangements. The experts added, however, that quarantines would have limited impact.

Read more: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/01/experts-ncov-spread-chinas-cities-could-trigger-global-epidemic>

American Doctors Are Treating a Coronavirus Patient with a Robot



American doctors are taking extra precautions as they monitor and treat patients with 2019-nCoV, the coronavirus that emerged in China last month. In order to [prevent the coronavirus from spreading](#) within and beyond the hospital, the staff at Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett, Washington is relying on a robot that can measure the patient's vitals and act as a platform for video conferencing, [according to CNN](#).

The robot is little more than a platform on wheels with a built-in screen — nurses reportedly still need to enter the room to reposition its camera — though it does sport a stethoscope, like a real doctor. The hospital updated its robotic quarantine system, [CNN reports](#), in response to the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak. Learn more: <https://futurism.com/neoscope/american-doctors-coronavirus-patient-robot>

[After criticism, federal officials to revisit policy for reviewing risky virus experiments](#)

A long-running debate over US government-funded research that tweaks risky pathogens in ways that could make them more dangerous to humans is flaring up again. This time, at issue is whether officials should make public the work of a closed-door federal committee that weighs the risks and benefits of experiments proposed for funding by the National Institutes of Health, and in the past 2 years has greenlighted two controversial avian influenza studies. (Science, 1/24/20)

NBC: Our emergency response for coronavirus is working. [Why is US set to shrink it?](#)

<https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/coronavirus-threat-needs-national-emergency-response-trump-s-putting-ours-ncna1124171>

[IDSA Calls for Greater Health Funding, Resources in Wake of First Case of Wuhan Coronavirus in United States.](#)

The Infectious Diseases Society of America issued a warning this week on the discovery of the Wuhan coronavirus in the United States, stating strong prevention and control practices, safety equipment, and funding support are critical to moving forward. (Homeland Preparedness News, 1/24/20)

**[CDC Seasonal Flu Surveillance Update:
15 Million Illnesses, 140K Hospitalizations and 8,200 Deaths.](#)**

FDA to Purell: *Stop claiming your hand sanitizers eliminate Ebola, MRSA & flu*
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/27/business/fda-purell/index.html>

KY CHFS Names New Public Health Commissioner



Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) Acting Secretary Eric Friedlander has announced Dr. Steven Stack as the agency's new Commissioner of the Department for Public Health (DPH). Stack will begin his appointment on Feb. 10.

Stack is an emergency physician at Saint Joseph Hospital East in Lexington, where he also has served as Medical Director and Chair of the Emergency Department. He also has clinical experience at The Christ Hospital in Cincinnati, St. Joseph Mount Sterling Hospital in Mount Sterling, Bourbon Community Hospital in Paris, and other hospitals in Tennessee and Ohio.

He recently served as President of the American Medical Association. He served 13 years as a member of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government's Emergency Medical Advisory Board.
([See full CHFS Press Release](#))

Lexington organization hopes to save victims of human trafficking

(WLEX18) In 2018, nearly 11,000 cases of human trafficking were reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Kentucky was not excluded from those numbers. 'The Well of Lexington' is a safe haven for women who are victims of human trafficking, with the goal of giving them a normal life.

The most common form of trafficking in the state of Kentucky is called familiar trafficking. That is when family members sell children, grandchildren and other relatives into the trade.

If you or someone you know are a victim of trafficking, call the hotline at 1-888-373-7888. You can also text "Be-Free" to 233733.

Full report: <https://www.lex18.com/community/making-a-difference/lexington-organization-hopes-to-save-victims-of-human-trafficking>

An ER doctor was charged with abusing his baby. But 15 experts say there's no proof.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/er-doctor-was-charged-abusing-his-baby-15-medical-experts-n1123756>

Death toll rises to 36 and at least 1,607 hospitalized in Turkey earthquake

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/25/europe/turkey-earthquake-intl/index.html>

U.S. flood risk model to be publicly available

(Reuters) - A climate research organization will offer access to a risk model that predicts the probability of flooding for homes across the United States, giving the public a look at the data institutional investors use to gauge risk. First Street Foundation on Tuesday launched Flood Lab firststreet.org/flood-lab, a research partnership which provides eight universities with its model that maps previous instances of flooding as well as future risks. Using the dataset, Wharton business school at the University of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Johns Hopkins University among others will quantify the impacts of flooding on the U.S. economy. The data will be made available to the public in the first half of 2020 in an online database searchable by home address. About 62 million American homes have a moderate to severe risk of flooding.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-floods-realestate/u-s-flood-risk-model-to-be-publicly-available-in-boon-for-homebuyers-idUSKBN1ZD1G0>

Stupid kid challenges: **The Outlet iPhone Charger!**



It's a new social media challenge that has kids mixing pennies, outlets and phone chargers. The 'outlet challenge' has kids plugging a phone charger into a wall leaving enough space to drop a penny in between the wall and the outlet. When the copper of the penny hits the prongs of the charger, a rush of electrical current occurs. **What could possibly go wrong?**

<https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Outlet-Challenge-has-school-officials-warning-parents-of-safety-concerns-567338401.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.