



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 29, 2020

Health Officials Actively Monitoring for 2019 Novel Coronavirus

Kentucky is not reporting any cases of the illness at this time, nor are there any suspected cases.

([From CHFS Press Release](#)) DPH Deputy Commissioner for Clinical Affairs Dr. Connie White said that this is a very serious public health situation and the virus is being carefully monitored at federal, state and local levels to ensure the public's health and safety.

"We understand that some people are worried about this virus and how it may impact Kentuckians. Outbreaks of new diseases are always of concern, and with today's connected world, an outbreak anywhere can be a risk. While the available information suggests a low immediate health risk for the general public, we consider any new infectious disease a serious concern and we are carefully monitoring the evolving situation and taking precautions. Currently the biggest risk we have in Kentucky now for respiratory illness is the flu, which has resulted in 30 deaths so far this season. So we highly encourage everyone who has not received a flu shot to get vaccinated."

"Based on what has been learned from past outbreaks – including outbreaks of related coronaviruses – finding cases quickly and responding effectively is key," White said.

For more information on the 2019 novel coronavirus visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>.

CNN: Latest on Wuhan coronavirus

US evacuates consulate staffers & citizens

<https://www.cnn.com/asia/live-news/coronavirus-outbreak-01-29-20-intl-hnk/index.html>

HHS/CDC Corona Virus Press Conference Tuesday

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/leadership/secretary/speeches/2020-speeches/remarks-at-coronavirus-press-briefing.html>

CDC Clinician Call on

[Outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)—Interim Guidance for Clinicians](#)

Date: Friday, January 31, 2020

Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm (Eastern Time)

Related story: Where Did the New Coronavirus Come From? Potentially a Snake

(Healthline) In the beginning, many of those infected worked or shopped at a wholesale seafood market in Wuhan, China, which also sold live and freshly slaughtered animals. This is why experts suspect it crossed to humans from an animal host.

A new [study](#) published in the Journal of Medical Virology finds that this infection may originate from snakes.

"Taken together, our results suggest that homologous recombination within the spike glycoprotein may contribute to cross-species transmission from snake to humans," wrote the study authors. Learn more:

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/coronavirus-can-be-deadly-but-they-also-cause-the-common-cold-what-to-know#Evidence-it-originated-in-snakes>

Related story: Australia scientists claim first re-creation of coronavirus outside China

(Reuters) - A team of scientists in Australia said on Wednesday they have successfully developed a lab-grown version of the new coronavirus, the first to be recreated outside of China, in a breakthrough that could help quicken the creation of a vaccine. Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-health-australia/australia-scientists-claim-first-re-creation-of-coronavirus-outside-china-idUSKBN1ZR2YD>

Powerful Caribbean earthquake shakes buildings in Jamaica, Cuba - even downtown Miami

(CNN) A magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck Tuesday about 80 miles from Jamaica, shaking people in the Caribbean and as far away as Miami. A tsunami of 0.4 feet was recorded in the Cayman Islands at George Town, but no tsunami was observed at Port Royal, Jamaica, or Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. The tsunami threat alert was lifted Tuesday afternoon, a few hours after the quake.

There were several aftershocks, including one the US Geological Survey said had a magnitude of 6.1. The quakes come three weeks after a [magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck Puerto Rico](#).

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/28/americas/earthquake-caribbean-sea/index.html>

Carbon monoxide leak at vacation rental sends 25 to hospital

(AP) — Authorities say 25 people were hospitalized for carbon monoxide poisoning while staying at a vacation rental home in an Idaho mountain town.

Carbon monoxide is an odorless and colorless gas that is produced when fossil fuels are burned. Authorities recommend that homes that use fossil-fuel heating or appliances — such as gas, propane or oil — have carbon monoxide alarms installed to warn occupants if a leak has occurred.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion.

Read full AP story: <https://apnews.com/f43725ed95aef50613b52605c2bcde0e>

Download KY DPH info on CO Poisoning Dangers: <https://chfs.ky.gov/News/Documents/nrcarbonmonoxide.pdf>

Strike by Seattle nurses, staff closes emergency rooms

(AP) — Thousands of nurses and other employees at a Seattle hospital system began a three-day strike over staffing levels, wages and other issues Tuesday, forcing administrators to close two [of its seven] emergency departments and spend millions to bring in replacement workers from around the country.

A [recent study](#) done for the American Hospital Association found that thanks in part to efficiencies of scale, hospital mergers improve care and reduce costs for patients. Some economists [have found otherwise](#) and labor activists say it jeopardizes care. Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/106ced24f239ea09b709e8959c385e45>

CDC Clinician Call on Opioids

[*HHS Guide for Clinicians on the Appropriate Dosage Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Analgesics*](#)

Date: Thursday, January 30, 2020

Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm (Eastern Time)

**‘No place for shooter games in our schools’:
Fortnite banned from Ky. high school esports**

(WAVE-3) High school students competing in esports video game competitions won't be playing the popular video game Fortnite. The Kentucky High School Athletic Association has banned the game from all esports competitions in the state.

[According to a report from the Lexington Herald-Leader](#), KHSAA Commissioner Julian Tackett confirmed the ban in an email to school officials on Sunday, saying, “there is no place for shooter games in our schools”.

PlayVS, an esports programming platform and KHSAA's partner through the National Federation of State High Schools, has recently started offering Fortnite as one of the games allowed for competitive play in high schools. Tackett found out about the addition last week and was strongly opposed to the decision in his email.

“I want to personally assure you that we, along with the NFHS Network are proactively taking steps to have this decision reversed,” Tackett said. “There is no place for shooter games in our schools. This announcement was particularly troubling in that it came on the anniversary of one of Kentucky's darkest days, the Marshall County incident.”

The Marshall County High School shooting back in January of 2018 killed two students and injured several others. The shooter, Gabriel Parker, was charged with two counts of murder and 14 counts of first-degree assault.

Full story and video report: <https://www.wave3.com/2020/01/27/no-place-shooter-games-our-schools-fortnite-banned-ky-high-school-esports/>

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 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 (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.