



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for February 9, 2020

## Governor declares state of emergency in eight Eastern Kentucky counties in response to flooding

(KyForward News - Feb 9) Gov. Andy Beshear has declared a state of emergency in response to flooding in several southeastern counties.

“By declaring a state of emergency, I am enabling the mobilization of state resources to be utilized in support of cities and counties in need,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “We are acting swiftly to ensure the safety and security of Kentucky families and communities that have been impacted.”

The Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KYEM) activated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) on Thursday, Feb. 7, at a Level 4. To date, KYEM has received eight (8) county and three (3) city state of emergency declarations.

- County Declarations: Bell, Clay, Harlan, Knox, Leslie, Letcher, Perry and Whitley.
- City Declarations: Whitesburg (Letcher), Jenkins (Letcher) and Hyden (Leslie).

Since Feb. 3, Kentucky has experienced an extremely heavy rain event, which has caused significant flash flooding, landslides and mudslides across the southeastern portion of the Commonwealth. This has resulted in enhanced threats to citizens and major impacts on infrastructure, governmental properties, commercial properties, agricultural production and private properties.

Gov. Beshear has also issued an executive order implementing Kentucky’s price-gouging laws. The emergency order triggers Kentucky’s consumer protection measures the next 30 days. The protective measures may be extended beyond 30 days if needed. If anyone has information regarding possible price gouging, contact the Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Hotline at 888-432-9257.

Read full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/governor-declares-state-of-emergency-in-eight-eastern-kentucky-counties-in-response-to-flooding/>

-----  
**Related story: Flooding history being made in Whitley County**



(WYMT) Officials in Whitley County said history is being made by the flooding there. Water from the Cumberland River and other streams have crept into homes. Animals and people have had to be rescued. Some people said it is the worst flooding in more than 40 years.

"Once the water goes down, I'm sure the people in the county will need some help," said Danny Moses, the emergency management director  
Emergency Management Director Danny Moses said a flood wall was built to withstand a flood of 39 feet. This flood will reach just below 35 feet. The

river crest is expected to be 34.8 feet by the night of February 8. Many say this is the worst since 1977 and will possibly go down as the second-worst ever.

Full story: <https://www.wymt.com/content/news/Whitley-County-Officials-History-is-being-made-by-flooding--567700881.html>

-----  
**Coronavirus deaths climb as China corrals sick in quarantine facilities in outbreak epicenter**



(Washington Post - Feb 9) The number of people infected and killed by the novel coronavirus continues to climb worldwide but the vast majority of them — like the battle against the virus — are still concentrated in the original outbreak zone of Wuhan, central China. Authorities are struggling to build enough health facilities there in an effort to treat the thousands affected, many of whom have been stuck at home with the virus.

- The [global death toll](#) from the novel coronavirus reached more than 810 on Sunday, surpassing the 774 fatalities attributed to the outbreak of the SARS coronavirus in 2002 and 2003. Among the dead was the first American, a 60-year-old woman who died Thursday in Wuhan.

- Although Wuhan and Hubei province remain ravaged by the disease, Chinese officials say the number of new cases outside Hubei is declining, in a reflection of strict quarantine measures taking effect nationwide.
- Chinese authorities have labeled masks a “strategic resource,” and experts call for most [protective masks](#) to be reserved for medical workers amid global shortages.

Read full story: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/coronavirus-china-updates/2020/02/09/eb9e683c-4aa4-11ea-8a1f-de1597be6cbc\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/coronavirus-china-updates/2020/02/09/eb9e683c-4aa4-11ea-8a1f-de1597be6cbc_story.html)

-----  
**CDC~ Clinicians Outreach**

**MMWR Updates: Initial Public Health Response and Interim Clinical Guidance for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak; and Persons Evaluated for 2019 Novel Coronavirus — United States, January 2020**

The CDC would like to share with you two recently released *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWRs)* about novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

The first report, [Initial Public Health Response and Interim Clinical Guidance for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak — United States, December 31, 2019–February 4, 2020](#) (*MMWR Weekly/February 7, 2020. On February 5, 2020, this report was posted online as an MMWR Early Release.*), describes 9 of the first 11 U.S. 2019-nCoV patients who were exposed in Wuhan, China. CDC expects more U.S. cases and is collaborating with multiple other federal agencies, state and local health departments, and other partners to implement aggressive measures to substantially slow U.S. transmission of 2019-nCoV, including identifying U.S. cases and contacts and managing travelers arriving from mainland China to the United States. Interim guidance is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html> and will be updated as more information becomes available.

The second report, [Persons Evaluated for 2019 Novel Coronavirus — United States, January 2020](#), takes an in-depth look at how CDC responded to clinical inquiries regarding approximately 650 persons in the United States and tested 210 for 2019-nCoV, one fifth of whom reported no recent travel-related risk but had close contact with a 2019-nCoV patient or a person under investigation for 2019-nCoV in the United States. (*MMWR Early Release/February 7, 2020/69*)

-----  
**Related story: Coronavirus can stay infectious on surfaces for up to 9 days**

<https://news360.com/article/520008532>

**Related story: Coronavirus deaths top 800, surpassing SARS, as China heads back to work**

(Reuters) - China raised the death toll from its coronavirus outbreak to 811 on Sunday, passing the number killed globally by the SARS epidemic, as authorities made plans for millions of people returning to work after an extended Lunar New Year break.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-health-hubei/coronavirus-deaths-top-800-surpassing-sars-as-china-heads-back-to-work-idUSKBN2020SN>

-----  
**Lessons from Leprosy For Coronavirus: [Quarantine And Isolation Can Backfire](#)**

(NPR) One thing the history of leprosy tells us: When you restrict people's freedoms, they go underground, and fail to seek treatment.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/02/07/803533167/lessons-from-leprosy-for-coronavirus-quarantine-and-isolation-can-backfire>

-----  
**New coronavirus infected 40 staff in single Wuhan hospital: study**

(Digital Journal) Forty health care workers were infected with the novel coronavirus by patients at a single Wuhan hospital in January, a new study has found, underscoring the risks to those at the frontlines of the growing epidemic.

One patient who was admitted to the surgical department was presumed to have infected 10 health care workers, according to the paper that was authored by doctors at the Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University and published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* on Friday.

Seventeen patients who were hospitalized for other reasons also became infected by the coronavirus. A total of 138 patients got the virus in a period spanning January 1 to January 28, with hospital-associated transmission accounting for 41 percent of all cases.

The study comes just hours after a Chinese doctor who was punished for raising the alarm about the coronavirus died from the pathogen - sparking an outpouring of grief and anger over a worsening crisis that has now killed more than 630 people.

Read more: <http://www.digitaljournal.com/news/world/new-coronavirus-infected-40-staff-in-single-wuhan-hospital-study/article/566715#ixzz6DUJvJj00>

-----  
**Unsettling related tech story:**

**Coronavirus brings China's surveillance state out of the shadows**

(Reuters) - When the man from Hangzhou returned home from a business trip, the local police got in touch. They had tracked his car by his license plate in nearby Wenzhou, which has had a spate of coronavirus cases despite being far from the epicenter of the outbreak. Stay indoors for two weeks, they requested.

After around 12 days, he was bored and went out early. This time, not only did the police contact him, so did his boss. He had been spotted near Hangzhou's West Lake by a camera with facial recognition technology, and the authorities had alerted his company as a warning.

Chinese have long been aware that they are tracked by the world's most sophisticated system of electronic surveillance. The coronavirus emergency has brought some of that technology out of the shadows, providing the authorities with a justification for sweeping methods of high tech social control.

Artificial intelligence and security camera companies boast that their systems can scan the streets for people with even low-grade fevers, recognize their faces even if they are wearing masks and report them to the authorities.

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-health-surveillance/coronavirus-brings-chinas-surveillance-state-out-of-the-shadows-idUSKBN2011HO>

-----  
**Heart attacks in pregnant women are on the rise**

(CBS) A recent study found that about one in four pregnancy or postpartum deaths are caused by cardiovascular complications. Hypertensive disorders in particular cause increased risk of heart failure, heart attack and stroke. Dr. Tara Narula spoke to one new mother whose cardiovascular complications could have reached life-threatening levels. Video story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/heart-attacks-in-pregnant-women-are-on-the-rise/>

-----  
**FDA crackdown on vaping flavors has blind spot: disposables**

(AP) The U.S. government on Thursday began enforcing restrictions on flavored electronic cigarettes aimed at curbing underage vaping. But some teenagers may be one step ahead of the rules.

Parents, researchers and students warn that some young people have already moved on to a newer kind of vape that isn't covered by the flavor ban.

These disposable e-cigarettes are sold under brands like Puff Bar, Stig and Fogg in flavors such as pink lemonade, blueberry ice and tropical mango.

The Food and Drug Administration's crackdown narrowly targets reusable vaping devices like Juul, the blockbuster brand that helped trigger the teen vaping craze in the U.S. Under the new policy, only menthol and tobacco flavors are allowed for those devices.

Critics of the [FDA policy](#) fear teens will simply switch to the cheaper disposables, which are widely available at convenience stores and gas stations.

Read full AP story: <https://apnews.com/600c4aa443dde043aad6f70a00251fa0>

-----  
**A Lethal Problem Afflicts the Air Force  
Suicides spike after 5 years of relative stability**

Read more: <http://newser.com/s286709>

-----  
**Getting ahead of Next-Gen threats - Electromagnetic Pulse Protection**

*"Three or four (or maybe even one) nuclear weapons detonated in space would instantly shut down the U.S. economy."*

(FutureScience) Question... Do you know "Clarke's Third Law"? Here it is: "**Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.**" **Think about its implications!**

**Very few people in industrialized countries do work that is not directly assisted by electronic computers, although that computerized assistance is often quite invisible to the average person.**

Few people stop to consider what would happen if, in an instant, the magic went away. If our advanced technology were suddenly and completely destroyed, how would we manage to survive? A nuclear EMP

could make the magic go away. A nuclear EMP would be a seemingly magical attack upon our advanced technology, the technological infrastructure upon which our lives depend.

Among all of the kinds of electromagnetic disturbances that can occur, though, it is important to keep things in perspective. It is possible that a nuclear EMP may never happen where you live. On the other hand, a severe solar storm that will destroy most of the world's power grids appears nearly inevitable at this point.

**Protection against the damage of a severe solar storm could be done easily and rather inexpensively by the electrical utilities; however it is *not* being done, and there are few signs that it will be done.**

Read more about this subject, and how you can take some steps to protect your infrastructure:

<https://www.futurescience.com/emp/emp-protection.html>

-----  
**Registration for EARTH EX 2020 will be available SOON!**

## **Mark your Calendars EARTH EX IV/20 Is 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?**
- **If not, participating in EarthEx 2020 will assist you in developing a plan or identify gaps in your current plan.**

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

**For more information, send an email to [earthex@eiscouncil.org](mailto:earthex@eiscouncil.org) or contact: John Lile, Law Enforcement/ Local Public Health Sector Coordinator, EIS Council, [john.lile@eiscouncil.org](mailto: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 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 KHREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.