



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for February 18, 2020

Coronavirus Updates:

Wuhan hospital director dies as coronavirus death toll nears 2,000

(NBC) The head of a leading hospital in the city of Wuhan, the center of the novel coronavirus outbreak, died of the virus Tuesday. Wuhan Municipal Health Commission confirmed that Liu Zhiming, the director of Wuhan's Wuchang Hospital, died Tuesday at the age of 51. Liu is the ninth known fatality among medical personnel battling the epidemic in China.

- 1,868 dead, 72,436 confirmed cases in mainland China
- Quarantine on cruise ship in Japan could end as early as Wednesday
- Japan plans HIV drug trials for coronavirus

Read more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/coronavirus-updates-wuhan-hospital-director-dies-death-toll-nears-2-n1137841>

Public Health News Alert: CMS Develops New Code for Coronavirus Lab Test.

CMS developed a new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code for providers and laboratories to test patients for SARS-CoV-2. *Healthcare providers who need to test patients for Coronavirus using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2019 Novel Coronavirus Real Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Test Panel may bill for that test using the newly created HCPCS code (U0001).* This code will allow those labs conducting the tests to bill for the specific test instead of using an unspecified code, which means better tracking of the public health response for this particular strain of the coronavirus to help protect people from the spread of this infectious disease. (CMS, 2/13/20)

Researchers pinpoint facility near Wuhan seafood market as possible ground zero

A facility where a worker was covered in bat blood and urine may be ground zero for the coronavirus outbreak.

(News.com.au) Scientists from South China University of Technology in Guangzhou [wrote and published a paper](#) speculating that a center for disease control near a Wuhan seafood market may be ground zero for the virus. Botao Xiao and Lei Xiao wrote that the Wuhan Centre for Disease Control and Prevention was the possible source because it “hosted animals in laboratories for research purposes”, including bats, and was “within 280 meters of the Huanan Seafood Market where a number of early infections were reported”.

In the paper, titled "*The possible origins of 2019-nCoV coronavirus*", researchers explained that “41 people in Wuhan were found to have the acute respiratory syndrome and 27 of them had contact with Huanan Seafood Market”. The research facility was also adjacent to the Union Hospital where the first group of doctors were infected. A second laboratory, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, was 12km from the seafood market.

Full story: <https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/health/health-problems/researchers-pinpoint-facility-near-wuhan-seafood-market-as-possible-ground-zero/news-story/d51925ef5b00711e29e194ac73be7951>

Chinese doctors using plasma therapy on coronavirus

(Reuters) Doctors in Shanghai are using infusions of blood plasma from people who have recovered from the coronavirus to treat those still battling the infection, reporting some encouraging preliminary results, a Chinese professor said on Monday.

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-health-hospital/chinese-doctors-using-plasma-therapy-on-coronavirus-who-says-very-valid-approach-idUSKBN20B1M6>

'Every scenario on the table' in China virus outbreak

(Reuters) - The latest data provided by China on people infected with coronavirus indicates a decline in new cases but “every scenario is still on the table” in terms of the epidemic’s evolution, the World Health Organization said on Monday.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-health-who-evolution/every-scenario-on-the-table-in-china-virus-outbreak-whos-tedros-idUSKBN20B1OF>

How to Dispel Your Child's Fears about the New Coronavirus

(HealthDay News) With stories about the new coronavirus outbreak flooding the media, it's easy to get scared. And if you're scared, your kids might be, too -- but they don't have to be.

Honesty and directness are key when talking to your child about this new virus, said Diane Bales, associate professor of human development and family science at the University of Georgia, in Athens.

To relieve your child's fears about the virus, she recommends these steps:

- Monitor your child's social media.
- Remind your child that coronavirus isn't widespread in the United States.
- Explain the situation in ways he or she will understand.
- Give your child a sense of control.
- Emphasize that it's important to stay home if you're sick.

Read more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=228189>

Amid coronavirus fears, a second wave of flu hits US kids

Read AP story: <https://apnews.com/2019443fda5196409bba61e23180cec6>

[Experts Voice Concern About Drug Supply Chain, Safety During Coronavirus Epidemic.](#)

(Homeland Preparedness News) Wuhan, the epicenter of the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic, is also a production hub for pharmaceutical ingredients for the United States. As the virus spreads throughout China, the US drug supply remains vulnerable to reduced production and export of essential materials. There are 400 drug manufacturers in China. This was the testimony of experts on Wednesday to the US Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee during a roundtable discussion entitled, "Are We Prepared? Protecting the US from Global Pandemics." (Homeland Preparedness News, 2/14/20)

Emergency preppers on coronavirus:

Get supplies ready, take the virus seriously now

(Boston Herald) As coronavirus spreads across the world and public health officials warn about more cases coming to the United States, emergency preparedness experts are urging Americans to stock up on supplies now so they can shelter at home for weeks.

"By the time it's clear that coronavirus is spreading here, good luck getting what you want — whether it's food, respirators or gloves," John Stokes of The Prepared told the Herald on Sunday. "The time to really take it seriously is now."

Fifteen Americans have been infected with the coronavirus as of Sunday. More than 69,000 people around the world have fallen ill with the coronavirus, including 68,500 cases in mainland China. More than 1,600 people have died from the coronavirus in China.

Stokes' advice for Americans — including being able to shelter at home for at least two weeks without leaving for supplies or outside help — is similar to information on the website of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Full story: <https://www.bostonherald.com/2020/02/16/emergency-preppers-on-coronavirus-get-supplies-ready-take-the-virus-seriously-now/>

KY among the states with the highest risk for melanoma linked to UV rays

(CNN) States with the highest rates of melanoma cases linked to ultraviolet radiation are spread across the United States on the East and West coasts, in Hawaii and in landlocked states, according to a study published Monday in the International Journal of Cancer.

Melanoma is one of the most rapidly increasing cancers in the United States, jumping 2% per year between 2005 and 2015 in both men and women, the study found, with an estimated 151,000 cases a year by 2030 up from just over 96,000 in 2019, if current trends continue.

It is also the deadliest type of all skin cancers and linked to UV radiation exposure in nearly 95% of all cases in the United States. It's potentially preventable, because diagnoses are associated with "excessive sun exposure and indoor tanning," the authors said. The study found overall that UV exposure in the United States accounted for 91% of all melanoma cases diagnosed from 2011 to 2015 and that 94% occurred in non-Hispanic whites.

Multiple states had UV ray-linked melanoma cases above 25 per 100,000 for non-Hispanic whites, including Delaware, Georgia, California, Maryland, North Carolina, Florida, Oregon, South Carolina, Washington, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Vermont, Utah, Minnesota, Idaho, **Kentucky** and Alabama.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/17/health/melanoma-cancer-uv-rays-study/index.html>

New treatment changes prognosis of Kentucky's biggest cancer killer - *lung cancer*

Learn more: https://www.wdrb.com/news/new-treatment-changes-prognosis-of-kentucky-s-biggest-cancer-killer/article_9d68b090-4d3e-11ea-ba64-1b623d713213.html

Medtronic recalls certain MiniMed insulin pumps tied to 1 death

(CNN) Medtronic has recalled some of its insulin pumps after injuries and one death were reported due to the device malfunctioning, according to a [US Food and Drug Administration announcement](#) on Wednesday. The FDA identified it as a Class I recall, the most serious type of recall. Medtronic has recalled certain MiniMed 600 Series insulin pumps for delivering incorrect insulin dosing due to a [missing or broken retainer ring](#), which helps lock the insulin cartridge in place in the pump's reservoir compartment, the FDA announcement said. The recall includes about 322,000 devices.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/12/health/medtronic-recall-minimed-insulin-pump-fda/index.html>

Meth is back and flooding the streets in OH & KY - and its uglier than ever

(Recordnet.com) Cincinnati - The floor seemed filthy and she could not get rid of the grime.

Amie Detzel frantically scrubbed that nursing home floor with cleaning supplies she'd found when no one was looking. On hands and knees, dragging her IV pole with her, the gravely sick woman incessantly scrubbed.

Meth had found its way into the nursing home. She was suffering from addiction. So she used it.

The psychotic episode happened after Detzel had spent days (and nights) of pushing the drug into the intravenous catheter that her caregivers were using to infuse antibiotics into her infected heart. The infection had come from a contaminated needle. That catheter, the pathway for lifesaving antibiotics, became just another way to get a drug into Detzel's body to alter her brain.

This was not heroin, which she'd been through. This was not fentanyl, the deadly synthetic opiate that had rushed into Cincinnati several years ago. This was methamphetamine, the primary drug now flooding the streets of Cincinnati and other communities across the country. It's a psychostimulant. It can induce psychosis... That explains the scrubbing.

This new wave of meth is causing police and parents of users and even government officials to shift their focus from opioids to this stimulant – a drug that used to be common, then faded, but is resurging. This time, with much more purity, coming directly from Mexico, not backyard cookeries or houses or sheds.

The rise in meth tested at law enforcement crime laboratories across Ohio and Kentucky is staggering. The 23 drug task forces (including Northern Kentucky's) that are funded through the Ohio High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area agency saw a 1,600% jump in meth seized from 2015 to 2019 (and the 2019 numbers are incomplete).

Learn more: <https://www.recordnet.com/zz/news/20200217/meth-is-back-and-flooding-streets---and-its-uglier-than-ever>

Family Members Are Swiping Hospice Patients' Painkillers

(HealthDay) In another sign of just how bad the U.S. opioid abuse epidemic has become, a new study finds family members often steal painkillers from dying relatives in [hospice](#) care. In a survey of 371 hospices, 31% reported at least one case in which [drugs](#) were taken from a patient in the past 90 days. The thieves were most often relatives. Read more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=228090>

CDC Warning: Parents, Grandparents to Blame for Many Child Drug Poisonings

(MedicineNet) If you are sometimes less than careful with your prescription medications and have young kids at home, a new study shows how easily tragedies can occur. Researchers found that young children getting into medicines leads to about 400,000 poison center calls and 50,000 emergency department visits in the United States each year. In more than half of these cases, medications have been removed from child-resistant containers by an adult, according to the analysis of calls to five [poison control](#) centers.

Read more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=228168>

Largest Study of Sepsis Cases among Medicare Beneficiaries Finds Significant Burden.

(HHS) U.S. hospitals saw a 40 percent increase in the rate of Medicare beneficiaries hospitalized with sepsis over the past seven years, and in just 2018 had an estimated cost to Medicare of more than \$41.5 billion according to an unprecedented study by researchers from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

[Sepsis](#) is a life-threatening condition caused by the body's extreme response to an infection. The research team analyzed data from all Medicare beneficiaries from 2012 through 2018. The study included more than 9.5 million inpatient hospital admissions, making this the largest sepsis study based on contemporary Medicare data to be published in the United States. Research team members included the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and collaborators from Acumen LLC of Burlingame, California. The study appears in the journal *Critical Care Medicine*

Researchers determined that the increase in sepsis was not due to the growing number of American seniors enrolling in Medicare. From 2012 through 2018, the U.S. saw a 22 percent increase in the Medicare enrollment rates but a 40 percent increase in the rate of sepsis-related hospital admissions among beneficiaries.

Most patients with sepsis arrived at the hospital with the condition, rather than developing sepsis in the hospital, a possible indicator of success for CMS efforts to reduce hospital-based cases of sepsis. However, two-thirds of these sepsis patients had a medical encounter in the week prior to hospitalization. This finding represents an opportunity for improved education and awareness among patients and healthcare providers, as well as the need for diagnostics to detect sepsis early.

Full HHS Press Release: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/14/largest-study-sepsis-cases-among-medicare-beneficiaries-finds-significant-burden.html>

Canadian hospitals see significant decrease in antibiotic use

(CIDRAP News Perspective) A major reduction in the use of fluoroquinolones has driven a 12% decrease in total antibiotic use in Canadian hospitals in recent years, according to a new study in *Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control*.

In the retrospective surveillance study, acute care hospitals participating in the Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP) submitted annual data on all systemic antimicrobial use (AMU) from 2009 to 2016. From 2009 to 2016, the data showed a 12% reduction in total AMU (from 654 to 573 DDD/1,000 pd, $P=0.03$). Fluoroquinolones accounted for most of this decrease, with a 47% reduction in combined oral and intravenous use, (from 129 to 68 DDD/1,000 pd, $P<0.002$). The top five antimicrobials used in 2016 were cefazolin (78 DDD/1,000 pd), piperacillin-tazobactam (53 DDD/1,000 pd), ceftriaxone (49 DDD/1,000 pd), vancomycin (combined oral and intravenous use: 44 DDD/1,000 pd), and ciprofloxacin (combined oral and intravenous use: 42 DDD/1,000 pd).

The authors of the study say it's unclear whether the reduction in fluoroquinolone use is related to stewardship efforts, warnings of adverse effects associated with fluoroquinolone use in the United States and Canada, or a combination. Feb 13 *Antimicrob Resist Infect Control* [study](#)

6-Year-Old Held in Mental Health Center for 2 Days Without Mother's Consent

Florida's Baker Law allows this to happen

(CNN) When [Nadia King](#), 6, was removed from her school last week and taken to a mental health facility for an involuntary psychiatric evaluation, she was held under Florida's Baker Act, according to an incident report from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. There were 36,078 involuntary examination of minors in Florida between July 2017 and June 2018, according to a report from the state's Department of Children and Families.

Nadia has been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, a mood disorder and is being tested for autism, Falk's attorney said. Her mother said she is a special needs child who had "a temper tantrum at school. The incident report said she was "destroying school property, attacking staff, out of control, and running out of school." Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/17/us/florida-girl-mental-health-baker-act-explainer/index.html>

FEMA PrepTalk Released - "Left in the Dark: Power Outages in an Interconnected World"

<https://news360.com/article/519669791>

Extreme Weather Could Overload Urban Power Grids

(VOA News) -Paris- Extreme hot spells made increasingly likely by climate change could overload urban power grids and cause roving blackouts as an ever-greater share of humanity opt to live in cities, scientists said Monday. In a series of studies and comment pieces in a special edition of the journal *Nature Energy*, researchers examined how cities can better use renewable power sources and plan for more frequent and potent temperature swings.

With more than half of mankind expected to live in cities by 2050, existing infrastructure relying on power from fossil fuels is likely to prove insufficient to meet growing demand, as well as the exploding use of air conditioning as urban heat skyrockets in summer.

Learn more: <https://www.voanews.com/science-health/extreme-weather-overload-urban-power-grids-study-shows>

FEMA Funds Earthquake Safety for Los Angeles Hospital

<https://news360.com/article/518256899>

For Kids with Heart Defects, the Hospital Near Mom May Matter

(American Heart Association News & Medicine Net) -- [Heart](#) problems are often associated with older people. But every year about 1 in 110 children in the United States are born with congenital [heart disease](#), which include

a variety of defects ranging from holes in the heart to malformed or missing valves and chambers. These defects can increase the risk for irregular heartbeats, heart infections and [heart failure](#). In some cases, surgery or other procedures are needed to fix a defect.

It makes intuitive sense that children with congenital [heart disease](#) whose mothers live near a top-ranked pediatric cardiac center would fare better than those who don't, but is that really the case?

Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=228052>

Few Teen Boys at Risk for HIV Get Tested

(HealthDay News) -- Too few teenage boys at risk for [HIV](#) infection are tested for the [AIDS](#)-causing virus in the United States, researchers say. And this contributes to the growing epidemic of undiagnosed [HIV](#) in the nation. Close to 15% of [HIV](#) infections in the United States are undiagnosed, but the undiagnosed rate is more than 3.5 times higher (51%) among 13- to 24-year-olds, according to the study authors.

Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=228084>

Keep your teen moving to reduce risk of depression

(CNN) Science shows [moderate to vigorous aerobic exercise](#) is good for us -- it improves sleep; lowers blood pressure; protects against heart disease, diabetes and cancer; reduces stress; boosts mood; and fights anxiety and depression. It's especially important in adolescence, where the first signs of depression often begin, [studies](#) show. But unless your child is an athlete, it can be tough to wean them away from social media and the ever-present screen to swim laps or go for a blood-pumping jog.

[Loneliness: 5 things you may not know](#)

A new study has some good news: even light exercise may help protect children against developing depression. The study, [published Tuesday](#) in the journal Lancet Psychiatry, found that 60 minutes of simple movement each day at age 12 was linked to an average 10% reduction in depression at age 18. The types of movement ranged from running and biking to walking, doing chores, painting or playing an instrument.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/11/health/teen-depression-exercise-wellness/index.html>

As Liquor Stores Close, Murder Rates Decline

(MedicineNet) Having fewer liquor stores in cities may lead to lower murder rates, a new study suggests. The implication of [alcohol](#) zoning regulations can have life-or-death consequences -- at least in Baltimore, according to study author Pamela Trangenstein, of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and colleagues. "There is an ongoing violence epidemic in Baltimore, with recent years breaking records for number of homicides," the authors said. "This study suggests that there is potential to prevent violent crimes by reducing [alcohol](#) outlet density in Baltimore City." Previous research has found that 50% of violent crime is associated with access to alcohol, the authors noted. Read more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=228161>

Military Still Struggles to Diagnose Brain Injuries

(Newser) The official count of US service members who suffered brain injuries in an Iranian attack at a base in Iraq last month [has gone up](#) several times. Part of the reason, the [New York Times](#) reports, is that there's still no reliable way of diagnosing a brain injury. Major research efforts have made progress, but patients are still being assessed the same way.

It's true outside the military, too: Patients are asked whether they're dizzy or blacked out and other questions. At the Iraq base, service members were given the same paper questionnaires to fill out that the military has used for years. "You are relying on people to report what happened," said an emergency physician in Rochester, New York. "But the part of the brain most often affected by a traumatic brain injury is memory. We get a lot of false positives and false negatives."

Full story: <https://www.newser.com/story/287018/brain-injuries-still-defy-quick-accurate-diagnosis.html>

Beware: This malware fakes incoming SMS text messages to steal banking details
<https://news360.com/article/520761600>

With proposed bill, Kentucky lawmakers push to ban all cellphone use while driving
Could become known as "Phone-Down Kentucky Act."

(WDRB) A bill that would prohibit Kentucky drivers from holding a cellphone while behind the wheel could be brought to a vote in 2020. Kentucky would be one of several states, including Georgia and Tennessee, to adopt a "hands-free" driving law if lawmakers pass House Bill 255.

"In other states that have done this, we've already seen a reduction in a percent of accidents and fatalities," said state Rep. James Tipton, R-53. Tipton and other lawmakers, including state Rep. Steve Sheldon, R-17, introduced House Bill 255 in January. The proposed legislation is waiting to be read in front of a committee.

Texting and driving was prohibited in Kentucky in 2010, but legislators admit many drivers have found ways to get around the ban, which has been difficult to enforce. The ratified legislation also included no restraints on talking on the phone while behind the wheel.

The sometimes-deadly consequences of using a phone while driving were put on display when [a semi-truck driver hit and killed another driver](#) in September 2019 in Franklin County, Kentucky. An investigation determined that the driver of the semi, Jerry Elder Jr., was watching videos on his phone and didn't see the other vehicle. Elder was indicted for murder and two counts of assault in connection with the crash.

Read more: https://www.wdrb.com/news/with-proposed-bill-kentucky-lawmakers-push-to-ban-all-cellphone/article_a350c05a-4f74-11ea-8aed-67b2a13e9b99.html

[HB 255 was posted in the House Transportation Committee on January 22.
Follow the bill here: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/20rs/hb255.html>]

FBI report reveals Americans lost billions to internet crimes

<https://news360.com/article/520696225>

Microsoft pulls security update for Windows 10

Microsoft has removed a standalone security update from its Windows update after confirming user reports about freezes, boot problems, and installation issues. The security update, KB4524244 was released on Feb 11, 2020, as part of the normal Patch Tuesday release cycle, and was targeted for all Windows 10 versions via Windows Update, the company said on Saturday. It was intended to address a security vulnerability affecting third-party Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI) boot managers. (Source: <http://www.canindia.com/microsoft-pulls-security-update-for-windows-10/>)

500 malware extensions in Chrome browser deleted

<https://news360.com/article/520634039>

How's your CPR skills?

Aussie Man Walks Into a Bar and Ends Up Saving a Life

(NPR) An Australian man found an unresponsive gecko floating in his beer. After chest compressions had no effect, his drinking buddies made a suggestion: mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. It worked!

Listen to a short NPR Podcast: <https://www.npr.org/2020/02/18/806886930/a-man-walks-into-a-bar-and-ends-up-saving-a-life>

OR - Watch the video from NY Post: <https://nypost.com/video/man-performs-mouth-to-mouth-resuscitation-on-gecko-that-drowned-in-his-beer/>

[Bet we made you smile!]



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.