



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 15, 2021

Foreign and domestic groups contribute to heightened terrorist threat

(Washington Post) The Department of Homeland Security issued an updated [national terrorism bulletin Friday](#) warning of continuing threats to the homeland from foreign and domestic terrorists, and from “individuals and groups engaged in grievance-based violence.”

The bulletin — the third of its kind issued by the Biden administration — warned of the influence of online forums and social media in the spread of “violent extremist narratives,” including those suggesting resistance to covid-19 restrictions and that the 2020 election was marked by fraud. The bulletin also mentioned the risk of “targeted violence” around the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington and around religious holidays.

Full WP story: https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/report-foreign-and-domestic-groups-contribute-to-heightened-terrorist-threat/2021/08/13/c6477a54-fc66-11eb-9c0e-97e29906a970_story.html

Actual DHS bulletin: <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2021/08/13/dhs-issues-new-national-terrorism-advisory-system-ntas-bulletin>

Covid vaccine mandates in job listings jump by 34%

(CNBC) Job postings requiring a Covid-19 vaccine have jumped sharply in the past month among a wide range of businesses, according to a new analysis published Thursday by job site Indeed.

The increase comes as the highly contagious delta variant has fueled a surge in virus cases, vaccines have become more broadly available and more businesses mandate vaccination as they bring their workforces back to the office.

Full story: <https://www.cNBC.com/2021/08/13/covid-vaccine-mandates-jump-in-new-job-posts.html>

T-Mobile investigating claims of customer data breach

(Reuters) T-Mobile ([TMUS.O](#)) is investigating a claim on an online forum post which says the personal data of over 100 million users have been breached, the company said.

"We are aware of claims made in an underground forum and have been actively investigating their validity. We do not have any additional information to share at this time," a T-Mobile spokesperson said in a statement to Reuters.

U.S.-based digital media outlet Vice first [reported](#) the claims of a data breach. Reuters has not been able to check the veracity of the forum's post.

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/t-mobile-investigating-claims-customer-data-breach-vice-2021-08-15/>

La Niña is likely to form, raising concerns of increased hurricane activity, just like in 2020

(CNN) The chances of La Niña weather patterns occurring have now increased just weeks before peak hurricane season in the Atlantic, which forecasters say could lead to a very busy rest of the season. La Niña's tendency to reduce vertical wind shear -- the changing of wind direction and wind speed with height -- is important because too much shear tears apart hurricanes.

The Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) latest forecast update, [issued Thursday](#), further shows their confidence that La Niña could form this autumn. In fact, the La Niña Watch has now increased to 60% for this fall.

Read and see more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/13/weather/la-nina-hurricanes-increase/index.html>

Inconvenient truth: Droughts shrink hydropower, pose risk to global push to clean energy

(Reuters) Severe droughts are drying up rivers and reservoirs vital for the production of zero-emissions hydropower in several countries around the globe, in some cases leading governments to rely more heavily on fossil fuels.

This year, climate-driven droughts have triggered the biggest disruptions in hydropower generation in decades in places like the western United States and Brazil. China is still recovering from the effects of last year's severe drought on hydro production in Yunnan province in the southwestern part of the country.

Learn more: <https://www.reuters.com/business/sustainable-business/inconvenient-truth-droughts-shrink-hydropower-pose-risk-global-push-clean-energy-2021-08-13/>

Your compostable cups and containers aren't reversing the plastic problem

(Popular Science) It looks like plastic, it feels like plastic, and it holds your favorite beverage like plastic. But somewhere on the cup you've been handed is a label that reads “100 percent compostable”. How is that possible? Simply put, this plastic-y material is [polylactic acid \(PLA\)](#), a polymer made from lots of little bits of

lactic acid molecules derived from the fermentation of starch like corn, cassava, or potato plants. Single-use cups and take-out containers made from PLA, sometimes called bioplastic or biopolymer, have become increasingly common in recent years, under the assumption that a compostable container is better for the environment than a standard plastic one. In actuality, it depends on where you are and who you ask. Compostable plastics like PLA do generally compost under the right circumstances. But contrary to what you might think, just because it composts, doesn't mean a product is automatically "green".

Learn more: <https://www.popsoci.com/environment/truth-about-compostable-cups/>

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 Preparedness@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.