



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 11, 2022

Upcoming Kentucky Public Health COVID-19 Healthcare and Public Health Webinar #23
Tuesday, April 12, 11:30 AM (ET)

>>[Registration](#)<<

Information BAMETE Expiry Dates

KY Public Health sent out an advisory last week that some bamlanivimab and etesevimab products are reaching the expiration dates from the last extension. Once the expiration dates have been reached, the product should be destroyed according to your jurisdiction/facility protocols.

FDA link for more information on expiring products, and some expiration date extensions: [Expiration Dating Extension | FDA](#)

FYI - 72 people at high-profile D.C. dinner test positive for COVID

Listen to or read more from NBC: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/67-attendees-test-positive-covid-high-profile-dc-dinner-rcna23763>

Much of healthcare workforce returning to normal; long-term care is one exception

(Becker's Hospital Review) While much of the healthcare workforce is on track to return to pre-pandemic levels of turnover, turnover rates have been slower to recover among long-term care workers, health aides and assistants, marginalized racial minorities, and women with young children, according to a [study](#) published April 8 in *JAMA Health Forum*.

The study of 125,717 full-time U.S. healthcare workers comes from researchers at the University of Washington in Seattle and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. For the study, researchers examined data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey to compare pre-pandemic turnover rates (January 2019 to March 2020; 71,843 observations from CPS) with the first nine months of the pandemic (April 2020 to December 2020; 38,556 observations) and the next eight months of the pandemic (January 2021 to October 2021; 44,389 observations).

They defined turnover as "being unemployed or out of the labor force in a month subsequent to a month when [a respondent] reported being actively employed in the healthcare workforce."

Overall, estimated healthcare turnover rates peaked in the first nine months of the pandemic but largely recovered by the next eight months, except for long-term care workers and physicians, according to the study.

Researchers said an average of 3.2 percent of healthcare workers reported turnover in the pre-pandemic period, compared with 5.6 percent in the first nine months of the pandemic and 3.7 percent in the latter eight months of the study.

Read more: <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/much-of-healthcare-workforce-returning-to-normal-long-term-care-is-one-exception.html>

Regulatory roundup from AHA:

CMS releases payment regulations, guidance on vaccinations and waivers

([AHA Today](#)) CMS this week released a number of payment regulations for fiscal year 2023, as well as guidance for the field on important issues. See highlights and summaries on several CMS postings below.

- [Inpatient rehabilitation facility prospective payment system proposed rule](#)
- [Inpatient psychiatric facility prospective payment system proposed rule](#)
- [Final updates and changes to the Medicare Advantage and Part D payment methodologies for calendar year 2023](#)
- [A proposed rule to delay the Radiation Oncology Model start date](#)
- [Updated guidance on COVID-19 vaccination mandate for health care workers](#)
- [The phasing out certain COVID-19 emergency blanket waivers for nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities and other settings](#)
- [FAQ on providing good faith estimates to uninsured and self-pay patients.](#)
- [FAQ for health care providers](#) on the law's requirements and prohibitions, and the independent dispute resolution process

[Can We 3D Print a Better Face Mask?](#)

(Vox) US hospitals relied heavily on overseas suppliers, especially in China, for PPE, and there are no regulations requiring hospitals or states to keep a certain level of stock in case of a crisis. Most didn't; US health care operates under tight financial pressures, and just-in-time sourcing is — in normal times — more cost-effective. The result was a supply crunch that hampered our response against the pandemic. As the country waited for US manufacturers to scale up PPE production and for supply chains to stabilize, a fascinating stopgap solution emerged: 3D printing. In the face of a shortage of masks, a coalition of private, public, and volunteer groups coalesced to fill a void, their efforts centered on producing and distributing 3D-printed masks. Their work, to be sure, was not nearly enough to meet the shortfall. But as a stopgap, they undoubtedly helped, especially at the local level where such operations were focused — and it all suggests a limited but promising role for 3D printing in the fight against future pandemics.



[The Next Leap in Coronavirus Vaccine Development Could Be a Nasal Spray](#)

(Washington Post) As the omicron variant of the coronavirus moved lightning-fast around the world, it revealed an unsettling truth. The virus had gained a stunning ability to infect people, jumping from one person's nose to the next. Cases soared this winter, even among vaccinated people. That is leading scientists to rethink their strategy about the best way to fight future variants, by aiming for a higher level of protection: blocking infections altogether. If they succeed, the next vaccine could be a nasal spray.

Considerations for the Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection System

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released the new Medicare ground ambulance data collection system. CMS picked ground ambulance providers to participate in the [Medicare ground ambulance data collection system](#) (GADCS), a program running January 1, 2020, until 2024. Providers on the list must collect information on costs, utilization, revenue, and other elements for 12 months and report that data within five months after the data collection period ends. CMS has chosen representative samples of the approximately 10,600 ambulance organizations to collect data from each year.

CMS posted a list of organizations selected for year one and year two in the [Ambulances Services Center](#). Distribution of notification letters began in November 2021 and is still in progress. Monitor email and regular mail for communications from your Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) regarding selection. Organizations that don't submit the required information will see a 10% reduction of payments under the ambulance fee schedule for one year unless they qualify for a hardship exemption or an informal review determines they won't be subject to the reduction.

Full story: <https://www.mossadams.com/articles/2022/04/medicare-ground-ambulance-study-starts>

CIDRAP: [Testing finds antibiotics in 'Raised Without Antibiotics' cattle](#)

The problem is USDA testing doesn't verify claims of no antibiotics

Avian flu strikes Montana flocks, reappears in Indiana

(CIDRAP) Federal officials today reported Montana's first two highly pathogenic H5N1 avian flu outbreaks, part of ongoing high-path avian flu activity affecting half of US states, as Indiana reported another commercial farm outbreak, its first in about a month.

Meanwhile, Indiana—the first state that reported H5N1 in poultry in the nation's 2022 avian flu outbreak—had gone more than a month without a new outbreak. Yesterday, however, the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) reported a new event, this time in Elkhart County on the Michigan border, well north of two earlier affected counties.

In a [statement](#), the BOAH said testing at a commercial duck farm in Elkhart County resulted in a presumed positive for highly pathogenic H5N1. It said the facility houses 4,000 to 5,000 ducks. So far, surveillance in the area has not identified any other outbreaks.

Full story: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2022/04/avian-flu-strikes-montana-flocks-reappears-indiana>

Related story from NPR - [What We Know About the Deadliest U.S. Bird Flu Outbreak in 7 Years](#)

FDA clears Fitbit device that passively monitors heart rhythms

(UPI) The Food and Drug Administration on Monday cleared a Fitbit feature that passively monitors the heart rhythms of users. The device periodically checks the rhythms of the heart of the person using it and alerts them if there is a sign of irregularity that puts people at risk for a stroke.

Fitbit said its clinical validation is supported by data from its 2020 heart study with 455,699 participants over five months. The data found that the Fitbit PPG detections correctly identified AFib episodes 98% of the time, confirmed by ECG patch monitors.

Full story: https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2022/04/11/Fitbit-monitor-heart-rhythms-Afib/9951649692591/

President to Nominate New ATF Director, Unveil Ghost Gun Regulation

The [AP](#) (4/10, Balsamo) reports President Biden “is nominating an Obama-era U.S. attorney to run the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, as his administration unveils its formal rule to rein in ghost guns...six people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.” The President “is expected to make the announcement nominating Steve Dettlback, who served as a U.S. attorney in Ohio from 2009 to 2016, at the White House on Monday, the people said.” The Administration “will also release the finalized version of its ghost gun rule, which comes as the White House and the Justice Department have been under growing pressure to crack down on gun deaths and violent crime in the U.S.” The AP says Dettlback’s confirmation “is likely to be an uphill battle.”

[CNN](#) (4/10, Liptak) reports on its website that Senate Majority Leader Schumer “again decried the use of ghost guns during a press conference Sunday, calling for a crackdown on the rise of the privately made firearms and speaking about a deadly shooting in the Bronx Friday.” Schumer “blamed Republicans for holding up gun reform legislation, while pressing Biden’s administration to go further.” The regulation “on so-called ‘ghost guns’ – unregulated, untraceable weapons made from kits – would address a critical gap in the government’s ability to track them.”

As scientists call for urgent action, Ky. lawmakers see a ‘cult of climate change’

WFPL Story: <https://wfpl.org/as-scientists-call-for-urgent-action-ky-lawmakers-see-a-cult-of-climate-change/>

Research Adds to Case Against Gas Stoves

Scientists say potentially harmful emissions are worse than thought

Learn more: <http://newser.com/s319054>

Register today! ASPR TRACIE Webinar – April 18 from 2:30 – 3:30 PM ET **Climate Change Resilience and Healthcare System Considerations**

Climate models predict an increase in adverse health effects over the next century that will intensify existing and emerging health threats. Incorporating climate change impacts into your facility’s emergency preparedness and response planning initiatives is key to healthcare and community resilience.

Join presenters from the federal and private sectors as they discuss ASPR TRACIE’s newly released [Climate Change Resilience and Healthcare System Considerations document](#) and accompanying [Topic Collection](#); current and future HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) and Office of Climate Change and Health Equity (OCCHE) efforts and priorities as they pertain to climate change; and the critical role of health systems in advancing environmental stewardship to achieve health equity.

March breaks record for most tornadoes in a single month

It was a chaotic meteorological transition into spring as March saw the highest number of tornadoes in a single month in U.S. history. At least 218 tornadoes occurred in March, with many of the tornadoes happening toward the end of the month, according to the National Weather Service. [<Read more >](#)

US disaster resilience bill sent to Senate

(Insurance News) The US House of Representatives has passed a bill that aims to boost disaster mitigation resourcing and improve resilience, with supporters now looking for Senate support. The Resilient America Act was initiated by the BuildStrong Coalition, which includes insurers, firefighters, emergency responders, engineers and other groups focusing on resilience. [<Read more >](#)

GETS/WPS Preparation for the 2022 Kentucky Derby and Oaks

As part of preparations for the 2022 Kentucky Derby and Oaks, CISA is encouraging local area Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) and Wireless Priority Service (WPS) subscribers to place familiarization calls using these services in advance of the event. The event is scheduled for May 6 through 7, 2022. User organizations needing new GETS / WPS service or replacement GETS cards should contact the Priority Telecommunications Service (PTS) Center at support@priority-info.com, 866-627-2255, or 703-676-2255 as soon as possible. Further information on GETS is available [here](#).

The PTS Dialer app is now available to assist in placing GETS and WPS calls. More information is available [here](#).

As reminders of the GETS and WPS dialing procedures:

To make a GETS call:

1. Dial the GETS access number, 1-710-627-4387
2. After the tone, enter your PIN (GETS card number)
3. When prompted, dial destination number

To make a WPS call, from a WPS-enabled phone:

1. Dial *272 (star 272)
2. Enter destination number
3. Press Send

Because of special processing features, users may need to wait 30 seconds or longer for their calls to connect. If you experience problems or have questions about making GETS or WPS calls, call User Assistance at 800-818-4387 or 703-818-4387. Additional calling tips are available [here](#). Please distribute to your subscribers as appropriate.

If you have questions about your account, contact the Priority Telecommunications Service Center at support@priority-info.com, 866-627-2255, or 703-676-2255.

At Small and Rural Hospitals, Ransomware Attacks are Causing Unprecedented Crises

(STAT News) The reality of being locked up by ransomware is no longer a concern reserved solely for major health systems, once a primary target. Regional hospitals and specialty clinics are now also constantly warding off, and falling prey to, malicious cyberattacks as ransomware groups grow more opportunistic than ever. Federal databases detail a number of small providers — from pediatrics clinics to hearing centers, chiropractors and child abuse prevention non-profits — caught up in the sweep of attacks targeting the health care system. Full story: <https://www.statnews.com/2022/04/11/ransomware-hospitals-rural-cyberattack/>

NASEM Webinar 1 (of 3-parts)

Using Innovative Data Science to ID Populations at Risk for Suicide

Webinar-1: April 28, 2022 / 11 AM to 4 PM ET

Learn more and REGISTER for Webinar-1:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/innovative-data-science-to-identify-high-risk-suicide-populations-webinar1-tickets-276952972797>

Webinar 2 | May 12, 2022 11:00am-4:00pm ET

Webinar 3 | June 30, 2022 11:00am-4:00pm ET

Baptist Health Richmond Opening New Adult Mental Health Treatment Facility

WEKU story/Podcast: <https://www.weku.org/lexington-richmond/2022-04-06/richmond-hospital-plans-to-open-new-inpatient-behavioral-health-facility>

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 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.