



# KCER Watch

Safety and Health Topics: Emergency Preparedness Bulletin

February 2017

## In this Issue

### Hot Topics

- [Flu Season Starting to Peak According to the CDC](#)
- [Facebook Expands 'Safety Check' to Help People Find Food, Shelter, and Transportation After Crisis](#)
- [Chlorhexidine Gluconate: Drug Safety Communication – Rare but Serious Allergic Reactions](#)
- [KCER Wants to Hear from You: Take Part in the KCER Needs Assessment](#)

### Education/Communication

- [FEMA Accepting Applications for 13 Open Positions on the National Advisory Council](#)
- [Get Ready Now: March is Severe Weather Preparedness Month](#)
- [KCER Wants You: Join the National KCER Patient and Family Engagement Learning and Action Network](#)

## Hot Topics

### Flu Season Starting to Peak According to the CDC

While seasonal influenza (flu) viruses can be caught year-round, they are most common during the fall and winter. This year every state is reporting flu outbreaks. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), at this time last year the flu seasons was relatively mild in comparison to the outlook for the flu season this year. But it's not too late to get a flu shot! The current flu vaccine protects against three or four strains of the flu.



Read more: <https://goo.gl/slq6M2>

[BACK TO TOP](#)

### Facebook Expands 'Safety Check' to Help People Find Food, Shelter, and Transportation After Crisis



Facebook hopes to be the one-stop shop for people after a natural disaster or crisis. The company's *Safety Check* tool, which already allows people to mark themselves as "safe" in an emergency, has been expanded. The new *Community Help* tool let's people post offers or requests for help. Posts are organized by location and nature of service or need. You can offer or request help with housing, food, transportation, and more.

Learn More: <https://goo.gl/RNPTQr>

[BACK TO TOP](#)

## Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Warning: Rare but Serious Allergic Reactions to Products Containing Chlorhexidine Gluconate

The FDA is warning people about rare but serious allergic reactions to products containing chlorhexidine gluconate. The solution is a widely used topical antiseptics. The number of reports of serious allergic reactions to these products, though rare, has increased over the last several years.

The FDA wants to make people aware of the potential danger associated with the solution. They are requesting that the makers of over-the-counter (OTC) antiseptic products made with chlorhexidine gluconate add a warning about this risk to Drug Facts labels.

Read more: [www.kcercoalition.com/alerts](http://www.kcercoalition.com/alerts)

[BACK TO TOP](#)

---

## KCER Wants to Hear from You: Take Part in the KCER Needs Assessment

The KCER Program works with the dialysis community to help patients and providers prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. KCER is inviting dialysis patients, families, and providers to participate in an emergency preparedness needs assessment by completing a short feedback form to tell us what they need—before an emergency happens.

The assessment, available in English and Spanish, can be found online at [www.kcercoalition.com/2017NeedsAssessment](http://www.kcercoalition.com/2017NeedsAssessment). There are separate assessments for in-center hemodialysis patients, peritoneal dialysis patients, and providers.

Taking part in this important activity will help impact the safety and wellbeing of all dialysis patients. The deadline to participate in the evaluation is March 1, 2017. Provide feedback at [www.kcercoalition.com/2017NeedsAssessment](http://www.kcercoalition.com/2017NeedsAssessment).



[BACK TO TOP](#)

## Education/Communication

### The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is Accepting Applications for Participation on its National Advisory Council (NAC)

FEMA may be looking for you! The agency is accepting applications for 13 open positions on its NAC until March 15. The NAC advises the Administrator on all aspects of emergency management. FEMA wants to make sure they receive input from a wide variety of experts in the emergency preparedness community. Volunteers will weigh-in on:

- The development and revision of plans and strategies.
- Grant programs.
- The development and evaluation of risk assessment methodologies.

Learn More: <https://goo.gl/guhyg1>

[BACK TO TOP](#)

## Get Ready Now: March is Severe Weather Preparedness Month

Severe weather can happen anytime, in any part of the country. It can include hazardous conditions produced by: thunderstorms, including damaging winds; tornadoes; large hail; flooding and flash flooding; and winter storms associated with freezing rain, sleet, snow and strong winds.



Get Your Severe Weather Preparedness tools at [www.ready.gov/severe-weather](http://www.ready.gov/severe-weather).

[BACK TO TOP](#)

---

## Get Involved: Join the National KCER Patient and Family Engagement Learning and Action Network (N-KPFE-LAN)

Are you a dialysis or kidney transplant patient? Do you have ideas about how to improve emergency preparedness for the kidney community? Well then, KCER may be looking for your help.

The KCER Program helps to improve the emergency planning process for ESRD patients and providers by sharing tools, resources, and education. We are looking for patients to volunteer to be Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) as part of the N-KPFE-LAN. LAN SMEs participate by:



- Providing input into KCER activities through phone calls and emails
- Reviewing and developing patient educational materials and quality improvement projects
- Promoting patient and family involvement in KCER emergency preparedness planning

Join the KCER LAN today: [www.kcercoalition.com/volunteer](http://www.kcercoalition.com/volunteer)

Visit [www.kcercoalition.com/NKPFE-LAN](http://www.kcercoalition.com/NKPFE-LAN) for additional information, or contact Jerome Bailey at 813.865.3542 or [jbailey@ncc.esrd.net](mailto:jbailey@ncc.esrd.net).

[BACK TO TOP](#)

---

You can find this month's KCER Watch and past editions on our website:

[www.kcercoalition.com/kcerwatch](http://www.kcercoalition.com/kcerwatch)

### What do you think about KCER Watch?

We want your feedback! Please click here to complete a short survey: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/KCERWatchFeb2017](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KCERWatchFeb2017)



[www.kcercoalition.com](http://www.kcercoalition.com)



[www.facebook.com/KCERCoalition](http://www.facebook.com/KCERCoalition)



[@KCERProgram](https://twitter.com/KCERProgram)

This material was prepared by the Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) contractor, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy nor imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. CMS Contract #: HHS-500-2006-00007C Publication No.: FL-KCER-7K2T3A-02172017-01