



KCER Watch

Safety and Health Topics: Emergency Preparedness Bulletin

December 2016

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Hot Topics

Transportation Requirements and Dialysis Care

Many dialysis patients depend on public transportation to get to and from dialysis treatment. However, public transportation may be limited during a disaster situation; patients may be forced to either delay dialysis or skip treatment, putting their health at risk, or they may have to go to a hospital for treatment. This KCER Coalition study takes a look at the barriers and possible solutions to the transportation needs of dialysis patients during a natural disaster or major community emergency.



Learn more: <https://goo.gl/ERY7DD>

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Texas Officials Report Locally-Transmitted Case of Zika Virus



Texas reported its first known local case of the Zika virus infection last month, making it the second state in the United States with the mosquito-transmitting virus. The Zika virus is primarily transmitted through the bite of infected mosquitoes. Zika has spread far and wide across Central and South America and the Caribbean. Florida has reported more than 200 locally-acquired cases.

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

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Handwashing Awareness Month

Handwashing is a crucial element in infection control, and infection control can save lives. Celebrate Handwashing Awareness Month this December, and keep germs at bay. Handwashing, one of the simplest means of preventing the spread of infection, can significantly reduce the transmission of germs that cause illness at school, work, and home. So, give the gift of clean hands this month and make it a habit!



Learn More: <https://goo.gl/L5HLLn>

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Education/Communication



Don't Let Jack Frost Get the Best of You this Winter

Jack Frost is out there waging a cold war—artic winds are blasting much of the country with ice and snow, making travel difficult for you, your pets, and even your car. Preparation is key to ensuring you have a safe journey. Santa, the ultimate winter warrior, prepares for the cold, and you can, too! Learn about some of the preemptive actions you can and should take now if you live or are planning to travel in the colder regions.

Read More: <https://goo.gl/jlzrjL>

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Flu Vaccine Coverage Remains Low this Year

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as of the beginning of November, only two out of five people in the United States reported having gotten this season's flu vaccine. Officials at the CDC are concerned about the decline in flu vaccinations among adults 50 years and older, as data indicate that there was a three percent drop in the number of people who received the vaccine last flu season as compared to the 2014–2015 flu season. CDC officials are concerned about the decline in vaccinations for this older population because the age group tends to have medical conditions that put them at a higher risk of serious flu complications.



Read More: <https://goo.gl/gZc4c5>

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President Obama Declares Major Disaster for Tennessee

After President Obama declared Tennessee to be a major disaster area due to devastation caused by wildfires in the eastern part of the state in late November/early December, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released disaster assistance to affected individuals in Sevier county. This federal aid will supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area. Individuals and business owners who sustained damages due to the wildfires in the designed area can apply for assistance by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov.

Read More: <https://goo.gl/Pllghe>

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www.kcercoalition.com/resources/kcer-watch

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