Hot Topics

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Rabid Bat 2017

- Rabid bat in camp trailer
- Frying pan bat
- 12 animals submitted

Lasting damage that Ebola virus disease (EVD) causes survivors- 1st study

- 27 Ebola survivors followed in Sierra Leone for 1 year after diagnosis and found they were 7 times more likely than their close contacts to report a disability.
- Disabilities included major limitations in vision, mobility, and cognition.
- 77.8% reported a disability 1 year post-infection, compared with 11.1% of their close contacts.

Clinical Infectious Diseases
Lasting damage that Ebola virus disease (EVD) causes survivors- 2nd study

• No evidence that Ebola virus specifically damages the liver or kidney, but they did find strong evidence to suggest that the virus destroys muscles and the body's coagulation system.
• 10 biomarkers, including bilirubin, creatinine, and Ebola viremia were used to determine which organ systems were under attack during an Ebola infection.
• Though the study provided no evidence that Ebola affected the kidneys, kidney damage is often seen in Ebola patients.
• The authors said this was because Ebola viremia was strongly related to evidence of rhabdomyolysis, the rapid breakdown of muscles, which stresses the kidneys.

• ProMed EBOLA UPDATE (36): NEWS, RESEARCH Mon, 28 Aug 2017 15:07:26 +0000
• http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2017/08/study-finds-high-disability-rate-ebola-survivors
• Clinical Infectious Diseases
HHS emPOWER Map

• Over 2.5 million Medicare beneficiaries rely upon electricity-dependent medical and assistive equipment, such as ventilators and wheelchairs, and cardiac devices in our communities.

• Severe weather and disasters that cause power outages can be life threatening for these individuals.

• Power outages increase the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and food spoilage.

https://empowermap.hhs.gov/
emPOWER

- Wildfires, hurricanes, radar, flood, precipitation, flood & storm prediction, short & long hazardous weather, USGS seismic data

https://empowermap.hhs.gov/
Five public health crises facing Houston after Harvey

Contaminated water

- Huge swaths of Houston are submerged in water - as much as 30% of Harris County.
- "Pick a toxin, that's going to be in the water," said Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association. "Oil and grease and chemicals."
- Houston is a major center for the oil and gas industry, adding to those worries.
- ExxonMobil said Tuesday that two of its refineries were damaged and released pollutants. The full extent of the damage was not yet clear.
- Contaminated water could lead to rashes, burns, or a range of other symptoms.
- A chemical plant owned by the company Arkema is also in danger. Executives said they had no way of preventing the chemicals from exploding after the plant flooded.
Mosquitoes

• All of the stagnant water will also provide new pools for mosquitos to breed, bringing with them diseases.
• "We're gonna have an explosion of mosquitos cause there's so much standing water which is all breeding sites," Dr. David Persse, director of Houston's Public Health Authority, told CBS.
• Mosquitoes carry diseases like West Nile Virus, Zika, chikungunya and dengue.
• "The impact on mosquito-borne illnesses could be around for another year," Hotez predicted.

Lost medicines

- In addition to a range of new health dangers, the storm makes it harder for people to treat health conditions they already had.
- Many of the thousands of people who had to leave their homes behind could be without access to the prescription drugs they take.
- Benjamin said it would be a "real nightmare" getting people the medication they need, noting that many seniors do not know the names of all the drugs they take.
- Some people also need access to medical equipment, such as those who need dialysis.
- Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price told reporters that his department is working to find people places for dialysis treatment, and to help people who need other equipment, like oxygen machines.

Mold

- Mold is a longer-term issue that evacuees may not realize is a problem until after the flood waters recede.
- CDC investigators found mold in the walls in half of 112 water-damaged homes two months after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans.
- She advised residents who return to previously flooded homes to gut the interiors and rebuild, rather than wasting time and money to test for mold that's almost an inevitability.
- Mold can trigger allergic reactions and asthma attacks. In some extreme cases, exposure to mold can cause death.

Spread of infectious diseases

• With thousands of people crowding into shelters after their homes were evacuated, the risks for disease to spread due to close contact will spike.

• "There's going to be infectious diseases," Benjamin said, naming the common cold and norovirus as the most frequent.

• The Federal Emergency Management Agency says that are over 30,000 people are in 230 shelters across Texas, providing plenty of opportunities for disease to spread from person to person.

• "The solution is good hygiene and handwashing," Benjamin added.

• Any health problems will be more dangerous for the most vulnerable - such as the elderly and the poor, said Lichtveld.

• Long term, depression and mental health concerns "linger much longer than physical consequences. We're still seeing that 12 years after Katrina," Lichtveld said.

Acts of nature are public health emergencies

- Nursing home residents sitting in wheelchairs, waist-deep in flood water waited for help to arrive.
- Volunteer rescue groups heard common pleas such as “East Houston, 9:53 p.m.: Needs evacuation, one elderly person in a wheel chair” and “Northeast Houston, 5:36 a.m.: He’s on bottled oxygen now, and running out. Nausea from lack of oxygen has already started.”
- The Houston area hospitals were well prepared with back-up generators but hampered by the extremity of the weather and flooded roadways to evacuate patients and bring in emergency vehicles, food, and supplies.
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center was able to continue the critical work of caring for cancer patients through Hurricane Harvey because they had planned for staffing, transportation, and flood barriers. A thousand staff rode out the storm and kept their patients alive.
DOH Purchase of Westernshelter.com

https://www.youtube.com/user/WesternShelterSystem
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Moment of Silence

- Freeman High School shooting 9/13/17
  - DMCC has been activated at Deaconess Hospital
  - WATrac command center is active and being used for situational awareness
  - WATrac indicates that hospitals are operating as normal
  - Patients have been transported to Providence Sacred Heart after coordination with CCC and DMCC. Not expecting more patients at this time.
  - GSEM is on scene, coordinating additional resources that may include family assistance or mental health services

- Hurricane Harvey
- Hurricane Irma
- Hurricane Maria

- Earthquake in MX

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Atlantic_hurricane_season#/media/File:2017_Atlantic_hurricane_season_summary_map.png
Questions?