



DELAWARE
ACADEMY of
MEDICINE



Update October 2020

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WordSmith

2020 came in with a bang: there were massive bushfires in Australia, political turmoil in the United States, the death of Kobe Bryant, tension between the US and Iran, and Brexit in the United Kingdom. Honestly, I thought January was going to be the biggest month of the year, news-wise. I was so wrong!

In February, Harvey Weinstein was convicted (and the #MeToo movement was back in the spotlight), and we started to pay a bit more attention to the virus that was causing issues in Wuhan, China.

In March, the world shut down.

By April, we added "zoom bombing," "social distancing," and "coronavirus" to our vocabulary. Small businesses were feeling the stress of forced closure, and teachers were trying to teach virtually. Air pollution in major cities got better. Marine life returned to well traveled waterways.

In May, George Floyd was killed, which sparked protests in support of the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Locusts swarmed in Africa. The U.S. recorded its 100,000 death from the pandemic. Two astronauts were sent to the International Space Station from US soil for the first time since 2011.

Summer vacations this year saw confederate statues coming down all over the country, protests for and against police reform, and pharmaceutical companies making progress towards a vaccine against SARS-CoV-2.

September is normally a time of transition - the end of summer, back to school, cooler air, and shorter days. This year, students are transitioning to a virtual, hybrid, or in person school day; California has experienced some of the worst wild fires (and air quality) in the state's history; and businesses are discussing re-opening strategies, sick leave, and unemployment benefits.



2020 has been an ongoing education in public health. Suddenly, people around the world know exactly what we do and why we do it. They understand why it is so important to fight climate change, they can see how the Social Determinants of Health and the need for access to health care have impacted different communities around the world, and everyone is waiting with baited breath for a vaccine to emerge against the virus.

This year has showed us the flaws in our system. In all our systems. It has made us aware of what we have, of what we need, and what we could lose. We have to do better. The good news is, we can all make a difference. In case you were hiding from your news feed (I don't blame you!), there's an election coming up.

I'm not going to tell you who to vote for - one of the best things about democracy is that you have the choice to vote for whomever suits you and your needs and wants. But I am asking you to vote - for someone most likely to represent what you believe in. As public health professionals, we strongly support science and action to improve the health of everyone, but it's your call. You can [vote by mail](#), vote in person, and/or help to [staff a polling place](#). Do some research and figure out who you want standing for you in the State offices, in Washington, and in the White House. And on November 3rd, make sure everyone knows it.

The year isn't over. Who knows what we'll have seen by the time the ball drops on December 31st?

2020 APOCALYPSE

B	I	N	G	O
MASSIVE EARTH QUAKES	MASS HYSTERIA	POWERFUL STORMS	METEOR IMPACT	ALIEN INVASION
DEATH OF FIRSTBORN CHILDREN	WIDE-SPREAD FAMINE	NUCLEAR WINTER	GLOBAL PANDEMIC	MORAL DECAY
CELEBRITY DEATHS	SOLAR ECLIPSE 12/14/20	FREE SPACE	SWARMS OF LOCUSTS	THE DEAD BECAME ZOMBIES
FALL OF CIVILIZATION	RAGING WILDFIRES	HISTORIC FLOODS	WATER TURNS TO BLOOD	MASS EXTINCTION
BRINK OF WORLD WAR III	VOLCANIC ERUPTION	STOCK MARKET CRASH	COMING OF ANTI-CHRIST	GLOBAL WARMING

Academy Updates

Learn more and register here:

<https://delamed.org/upcoming-events/>

John Scholz Stroke Education Conference

October 10, 2020 | 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Delaware PrEP

October 14, 2020 | 8:00 am - 12:15 pm

American Planning Association - Delaware Fall Conference

October 29, 2020 | 9:00 - 11:40 am

October 30, 2020 | 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Communicable Disease Summit

November 9, 2020 | 8:20 am - 12:30 pm

Delaware Journal of Public Health

Check out the new DJPH Website: <http://djph.org>

Public Libraries and Public Health

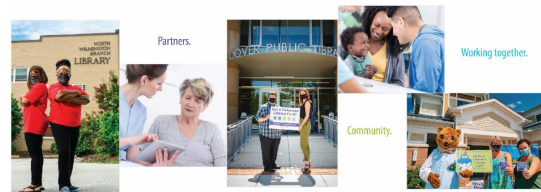
"Public libraries are free and accessible to all and are centers of community engagement and education, making them logical choices as partners for improving population health. Library staff members routinely assist patrons with unmet health and social needs."
(Whiteman, et al, 2018)

This statement is certainly true in the State of Delaware, and we are pleased to welcome Annie Norman, EdD, Delaware's State Librarian, as the guest editor for this issue of the Journal.

Delaware is fortunate to have fifteen public libraries in New Castle County, six public libraries in Kent County, and fourteen public libraries in Sussex County. As participants in the statewide Delaware Library Consortium, these public libraries provide full services which are available to all Delawareans, and act as an access gateway to other essential services.

The key to Delaware's Public Libraries full resources is simple: obtain a free library card. Even without a library card, there is still much that can be accessed. At all times, and especially during these tumultuous times of world-wide pandemic and social strife, our public libraries continue to play a critical role on behalf of our public's health and wellbeing. We applaud the critical role of libraries in taking us on the arc from Data to Wisdom, ultimately to improved health for all Delawareans.

[Read more!](#)



Public Libraries & Public Health



Upcoming Issues

The *Delaware Journal of Public Health* has two more issues on deck to round out 2020.

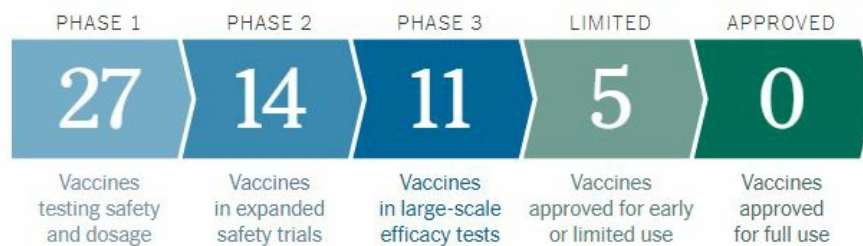
For our issue on **Racism**, DJPH staff have turned the entire journal over to guest editors, authors, and artists of color, so they can discuss racism the way it needs to be discussed in Delaware.

We also have a timely issue of **One Health** (the intersection of human, animal, and environmental health) slated for publishing in or around December.

<https://djph.org/>

COVID-19

Coronavirus Vaccine Tracker



Twenty-seven vaccines being developed to fight SARS-CoV-2 are in Phase I human trials.

Vaccines must go through stringent processes to be approved for use in humans, and not all of them will succeed.

Check back often for updates!

[New York Times Coronavirus Vaccine Tracker](#)

Coronavirus Resources

Delaware Resources:

- de.gov/coronavirus

From the CDC:

- [Guidance](#)
- [Summary of Current Situation](#)
- [Information for Travel](#)
- [Information for](#)
 - [Businesses](#)
 - [Pregnant Women and Children](#)
 - [Schools](#)
- [Information for Health Professionals](#)
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services - [Coronavirus Front Page](#)
- Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) - [May 19 COVID Newsletter](#)

Johns Hopkins

- [Resource Center](#)
- [Preparedness Pulsepoints Newsletter \(subscribe\)](#)

National Academies - [Resources](#)

University of Washington - [Resources](#)

United States - [Government Response](#)

Coronavirus Funding Monitor

Frontiers has curated list of open funding calls and other support for researchers, non-profit organizations and commercial organizations, specifically for COVID-19 and coronavirus-related research. The list is updated daily.

National News

Virtual Annual Meeting and Expo

Creating the Healthiest Nation: Preventing Violence



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
For science. For action. For health.

The APHA Annual Meeting and Expo is the largest and most influential yearly gathering of public health professionals, bringing the public health community together to experience robust scientific programming, networking, social events, poster sessions and more.

In light of the current public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the APHA 2020 Annual Meeting and Expo, which was scheduled to take place in San Francisco, will be an all-virtual event. The virtual meeting will take place Oct. 24-28.

[More Information](#)

October is...

Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Down Syndrome Awareness Month
National Medical Librarians Month

[And Much More!](#)

Additional Resources

Delaware Division of Public Health: [The DPH Bulletin](#)
Trust for America's Health: Wellness and Prevention Digest - [Subscribe](#)

The Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association

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