



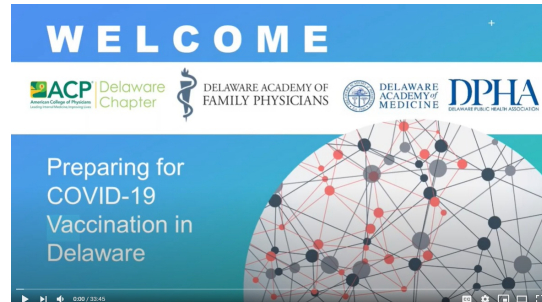
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Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccination

A Q&A with Dr. Rick Hong (video)

There are now two vaccines available for use in the United States to protect against COVID-19!

Last week, Delaware began receiving its doses from the federal government and immediately began immunizing health care providers at Bayhealth, ChristianaCare, Tidal Health, St. Francis, Beebe Healthcare, and the Division of Public Health!



On Thursday, the **Academy/DPHA**, the **Delaware Chapter of the American College of Physicians**, and the **Delaware Academy of Family Physicians** held a virtual Q&A with DPH medical director Dr. Rick Hong about COVID-19 vaccination in Delaware. **Check it out on YouTube [here](#).**

Enroll Now!

The Delaware Division of Public Health is working with federal, state and local stakeholders to plan for an efficient and equitable distribution of a vaccine to all Delaware communities.

It is the goal of DPH to make safe and effective COVID-19 vaccination available to health care workers, including those who care for vulnerable populations, and other first responders first, followed closely by vulnerable populations and then work to include all who live, work or go to school in Delaware.



**DELAWARE HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

To order or administer the COVID-19 vaccines, **providers must complete enrollment with the Delaware Immunization Program**. An administration site will not be able to order or administer vaccine in Delaware without completing the enrollment process - it is critical for the DPH to track every dose administered.

Enrollment takes approximately 30 minutes, and includes:

- Completing enrollment interest [survey](#)
- Registering for DelVAX
- Designating key vaccine administration roles
- Completing the [CDC training module](#)
- Completing the Vaccine Provider Listing and Vaccine Storage Equipment forms

Contact the Immunization Program with questions: 1-800-282-8672 or COVIDVaccine@delaware.gov

Happy Holidays from the Academy!

Dear Colleague,

2020 has tested all of our resolve to be better caregivers, educators, healers, and public health professionals, and we at the Academy/DPHA thank you very much for your service to our community.

Founded in 1930, this year marks the Academy's 90th year of service in Delaware, and while the observances were put on hold, our work on behalf of the well-being of our community never wavered.

We pivoted activities to online engagement, published a full slate of issues of the Delaware Journal of Public Health, including two theme issues on COVID-19 impact and research in Delaware, and were honored by the American Public Health Association as their "Affiliate of the Year."

The intersection of medicine and public health has never been more evident than during this past year and will continue in 2021 and for the foreseeable future.

We wish you a very happy holiday season, and a brighter new year!



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The Khanversation

Human beings figured out pretty quickly that to go automobile racing, you put on a helmet, distance from other racecars, wear gloves, and put on your seatbelt. And yes, this is yet another obvious analogy...

As of this writing we are around 320,000 deaths since the COVID-19 pandemic began. That's about 19%, or about a fifth, of the world's 1.7 million COVID-19 deaths (for comparison, the US comprises just 4.2% of the planet's population). We are also 18M of the world's 77M total cases (about 23% of the planet's cases, from 4% of its population!). Deaths due to COVID-19 are now the leading cause of mortality in the US, at around 3500 deaths per day. That is astonishing considering we regard cancer and heart disease as so substantial – previously the leading causes of death in the US. Yet they are at [1600 deaths per day and 1700 deaths per day](#), respectively.

We (I) have genuinely run out of ways to express our shock and surprise. Not at the death count or the rising cases: that was unfortunately inevitable. But rather at the lack of widespread crisis-mode action across the country. At the realization that this is still even a discussion.



From my perspective, this is also a time of learning, opportunity and gratitude. We have learned what works. Appropriate masking, hand hygiene, physical distancing, and appropriate ventilation. And now, vaccination. Opportunity, of an interesting and somewhat unwanted sort. We know what we are capable of. Our community of healthcare professionals never want our full capacity to be utilized; we work closely with those in our public health community to prevent disease and illness for that purpose. It reminds me of residency, when I asked our program director why (in the days before the 80 hour work week limitations), we had to be up for so many hours, with so many patients and doing so many cases. "So that when you have to do the same as an attending, you don't even hesitate." He was right. Put another way, folks will sometimes ask why one has a car capable of going 120 mph. Easy: so you can go 65 mph without

breaking a sweat.

Well, we are breaking a sweat. No engine can run at top speed forever. Moving parts - people - break. But that is where we are, folks. We are at a critical juncture, perhaps one we have never been at before: both our clinical system and our public health system are stretched thin. Yet in this same tension, there is hope: all the effort put in to develop safe & effective vaccines is paying off. We have started vaccinating front line providers. There is hope across the state to scale this up rapidly through the new year.

And thus we come to gratitude: for this opportunity given to us – you, the readers, our colleagues of the ever-so-aptly named Delaware Academy of *Medicine/Delaware Public Health* Association - to be needed, relevant, helpful, essential as never before. For every Delawarean, from our President-elect , to your humble scribe, we all play a role. Whether staying home or staying at work, whether interrupting transmission or finding a cure: you are all essential. And we are all in this together.

There has, in fact, never been a more important time to reflect on what we have been given. And how little it takes to achieve so much: to save lives just by being careful. So be safe out there. Get your flu shot, mask up, wash your hands.

Enjoy your loved ones' company, in ways you can keep them safe. And even though you may not be packing up the car for your usual family gatherings, still, go for a drive.



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Upcoming Events

Learn more and register here:

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

Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

January 14-15, 2021

<https://midatlantic.org/>

Delaware Journal of Public Health

<http://djph.org>

Racism & Health

Health indicators have improved for most Americans; however, Black/ African Americans and other minorities are not having that same experience. Couple that with systemic racism manifested in the quality of care and you have a reality that's hard to miss. Black/African American Health needs to matter. If Black/African Americans are not well, then the health of all Americans is compromised.

In this final issue of 2020, "**Racism & Health**," we dive into this difficult topic. DJPH staff have turned the issue over to our guest editors, Marsha' T. Horton, PhD and Jacqueline A. Washington, EdD, MS. They, in turn, have selected content



experts, so that they may have the platform to tell the story of Black Health in the way it needs to be told - by Black and African Americans.

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National News

National Public Health Week
April 5-11, 2021

Building Bridges to Better Health

We may be physically distant from each other, but now it's more important than ever to come together. That's why our 2021 theme is "Building Bridges to Better Health."



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

Making communities safe and healthy is public health's top priority. COVID-19 has made that even more important. Even though we won't gather in person, social media and virtual platforms make it easier than ever for us to connect, create and take action.

NPHW 2021 will take place completely virtually April 5-11, 2021. Stay tuned for updates on daily themes and lots of ways to get involved. We know that by building connections, we make our communities healthier, safer and better for all.

[Read more](#)

Food Insecurity Quality Measure Testing Project

Quality Insights is recruiting one practice with patient populations with risk factors for

food insecurity to consider collaborating on a project that aims to screen and provide clinical support to alleviate food insecurity.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Quality
Insights

Student Spotlight

Emilee Maull



Emilee Maull is a senior undergraduate student at the University of Delaware where she is majoring in Health Behavior Science and minoring in Public Health.

Emilee is currently interning at the Delaware Academy of Medicine and Delaware Public Health Association working on promoting various programs in the state such as Speak For Health, an initiative of the American Public Health Association, National Public Health Week, and promoting data from the County Health Rankings State Reports.

Emilee is a native Delawarean born in Lewes, and hopes to pursue a career in the public health or law field in the future.

Welcome, Emilee!

December is...

National Influenza Vaccination Week
National Handwashing Awareness Week

[And Much More!](#)

Additional Resources

Delaware Division of Public Health: [The DPH Bulletin](#)

Trust for America's Health: Wellness and Prevention Digest - [Subscribe](#)

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