



DELAWARE  
ACADEMY of  
MEDICINE

DPHA  
DELAWARE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

July 2021

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## WordSmith

When President Biden told us his goal was to have 70% of eligible Americans vaccinated against COVID-19 by July 4th, many were skeptical, but Delaware rose to the challenge! We are one of the few states that met that goal, and our [numbers](#) keep increasing.

The SARS-CoV-2 vaccines are being studied and tested in younger ages, many mask mandates have been dropped, and on July 13, Governor Carney [lifted](#) the State of Emergency we have been under since March of 2020.

Businesses are reopening, concerts are happening, the beaches are full of happy people ready to get some much needed Vitamin D, and I went to the movie theater for the first time in almost a year and a half!

But it's not over yet.

Variants of the virus (naturally occurring mutations of the SARS CoV-2 virus, and indicated by Greek letters) are spreading among individuals in the US and account for growing proportions of new coronavirus cases across the world.

Research is suggesting that the Delta variant may be the most transmissible variant yet (40-60% more contagious than the Alpha variant first seen in the UK). The [CDC](#) states that the Delta variant now makes up more than half of coronavirus cases in the US. It may also be [more likely](#) to infect those who are only partially vaccinated. People infected with the delta variant are more likely to need hospitalization than those infected with earlier strains of the virus, but data show that the COVID-19 vaccines are extremely effective in protecting fully vaccinated people from spreading the virus.

So what can we do?

**Get vaccinated**, if you haven't already done so. The Division of Public Health has opened four stand alone COVID-19 [vaccination clinics](#). Appointments can be made by calling 1-833-643-1715. Keep masking up and remaining physically distanced from those outside your immediate family until **14 days** after your final dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

We're so close, Delaware; keep it up!

Kate Smith, MD, MPH  
Program Manager

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## Delaware Journal of Public Health

### Technology & Public Health

Since the early days of the internet and personal computers,



analysis to equitable care, health informatics to data mapping, we hope you enjoy this issue of the Journal.

[Read the Issue](#)

we have seen explosive growth in the use of technology in the delivery of human services, planning, and more recently in managing “big data.” Even in the early days of the internet, a core group of thought leaders met in Washington, DC, on a monthly basis to discuss things like information and access redlining – that phenomenon that saw low income, remote, and rural communities with little or very primitive access to the “information superhighway” for decades.

Within the human services and health care delivery realms, the importance of – and dependence on – technology has been in place for some time. This issue covers some of the many ways in which technology is deployed to address individual and public health challenges. From big data

## Academy Events & Conferences

We have an awesome slate of educational conferences and events in the upcoming months! Check them out below!

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### Public Health Grand Rounds

**Thursday, August 19, 2021 from 8:00 - 9:00 am**

Join us as we give the inaugural Public Health Grand Rounds at ChristianaCare! More details soon!

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### John Scholz Stroke Education Conference

**Saturday, October 16, 2021 from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

The John Scholz Stroke Education Conference is co-sponsored by the Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association, and the [Delaware Stroke Initiative](#). It is dedicated to the memory of John P. Scholz, PT, PhD, a highly regarded movement scientist renowned for his ability to take complex theoretical concepts of motor control and apply them to the understanding and treatment of neurologic problems.

The Medical Society of Delaware designates this activity for a maximum of **3.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™**. Continuing education for occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech language pathology has been requested.

This year's conference will be held virtually, through zoom. The agenda and registration information can be found [here](#).

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### American Planning Association - Delaware Chapter Conference

**Wednesday, December 1 - Thursday, December 2, 2021**  
Save the Date - More Details Soon!

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### Communicable Diseases Summit

## **"How 2020 Changed the World"**

**Monday, December 13, 2021 from 7:30 am – 3:15 pm**

The 2021 Communicable Disease Summit will be a hybrid conference this year – we hope to see as many of you in person as we can! The event will be moderated by Dr. Kate Smith, Program Manager of the Immunization Coalition of Delaware. The agenda and registration can be found [here](#).

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## **Mid-Atlantic Regional Public Health Conference**

**Thursday, January 13 - Friday, January 14, 2022**

Join us for the second annual conference led by the Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania Public Health Associations! Details to follow.

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## **Delaware Public Health Institute Inaugural Chronic Disease Conference**

**March, 2022 from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
Save the Date - More Details Soon!

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## **Academy Updates**

### **Student Financial Aid**

The Delaware Academy of Medicine approved \$60,000 in loans for the 2021/2022 school year for 5 Delaware students studying medicine. Of the 5 students, 4 are enrolled at Sidney Kimmel Medical College under the DIMER program and 1 at the University of Pittsburgh.

The Academy's Student Financial Aid program was established in 1961 to help encourage Delaware students to study medicine and dentistry. To date, over 300 students have received close to \$2 million in loans.

Funds are made available through endowments established by doctors, dentists, and other benefactors. The Delaware Academy of Medicine has six separate funds specifically for the purpose of issuing student loans.

For more information about the Academy's SFA program, click [here](#).

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### **July is...**

Cord Blood Awareness Month  
International Group B Strep Awareness Month  
Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

[And Much More!](#)

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### **Additional Resources**

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

## The Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association

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