



If you would prefer NOT to receive this update, please update your profile by clicking "Update Profile" at the end of this e-mail.

## President's Message

I welcome everyone to the first edition of the Academy/DPHA newsletter for 2022. The beginning of the year, unfortunately, seemed like a reprise of the last two years, with the Omicron variant dominating the scene. However, it does seem that we may be turning a corner as evidenced by falling new positive cases, percent of tests positive and average daily hospitalizations. COVID-related deaths (though increased) appear to be less than prior waves, with increasing numbers of fully vaccinated Delawareans and also on the decline based on state data from 01/15/2022 - 01/21/2022. A dashboard and access is included in the newsletter.



Oral antivirals for COVID have received emergency approval by the FDA. [Weinstock et al](#) published an article in the International Journal of Infectious Disease possibly linking symptoms of long-COVID patients to aberrant mast cells, thus suggesting possible therapeutics for this group. We seem to be turning the corner, but we have seen this before. Until the all clear is sounded, vaccination and mask wearing still seem like pretty sound advice to me.

But the work of the Academy/DPHA must go on, and despite cancellations and moves from in-person back to Zoom, the staff continues to deliver. New funding sources have been found and received or accepted for support of the important work on health care staffing in our state.

Our efforts to improve the health care of the persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) in our state has led Mr. Gibbs and our staff to include consideration for this population in our interactions with speakers. For example, the **Hoopess Medical-Dental Lecture** this year will be given at the end of March by Dr. Andrew Swiatowicz, DDS, a resident expert in the dental care of persons with IDD who will share his best practices. Our hope is that this can be done in person.

Mr. Gibbs and I are working with a group of local advocates, service providers and the State to secure funding for a pilot study to assess needs for residential services for persons with IDD in Delaware. Ongoing and more to come.

The well-received **Mini-Medical School** is back and will take place starting on 24 February through 31 March on consecutive Thursdays. More information on the lectures and registration is available in the body of the newsletter.

As I said, the work of the Academy/DPHA continues - improving the health of all Delawareans. Hopefully, the trend continues, therapeutics continue to improve, herd immunity is achieved and we get to the other side of COVID sooner than later. That work will be a lot easier. Until next time, good health.

S. John Swanson, MD  
President

Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association

# Academy Updates

## COVID-19 Pandemic

The data snapshot below was taken from MyHealthyCommunity.org, the State of Delaware's Environmental Public Health Tracking Network, and is current as of January 26, 2022.

[Click here to visit MyHealthyCommunity.](#)

### Percentage of 18+ Population Vaccinated With At Least One Dose

**91.7%**

Data Source - CDC

[Learn about how it differs from other DE data here](#)

### Percentage of Total Population Vaccinated With At Least One Dose

**70.8%**



### Percentage of Tests Positive

**23.8%**

7-Day Average



## OTHER KEY COVID METRICS

### New Positive Cases

**1643.0**

7-Day Average

[View more case data](#)



### Total Vaccine Doses Administered

**1,632,398**

[View more vaccine data](#)

### Current Hospitalizations

**550** with **59** critical

[View more hospital data](#)

## Mini Medical School

This spring the Academy/DPHA will once again be partnering with [ChristianaCare](#) to bring you Mini Medical School!

This six-week series of lectures is designed for individuals who want to gain a deeper understanding of the world of medicine. This free program is offered to all adults from high school students to adult learners. Attendees learn about important trends in diagnosing and treating illness, as well as general health topics. Faculty provide in-depth lectures, and a question and answer session enhances each presentation. There are no tests or grades, and no previous medical training is required. Students attending all six sessions receive a Certificate of Achievement.

These virtual classes will be held from **7:00 - 9:00 pm** on Thursdays, from **February 24 - March 31**.

## 2022 Syllabus

2/24: Trauma-Informed Care  
3/03: Breast Reconstruction/Plastic Surgery  
3/10: Sports Medicine  
3/17: The Growth of Telehealth and the Virtual Experience  
3/24: Anesthesiology – the Silent Force Behind the Scenes  
3/31: Childhood Development

[Click here for registration and more information](#)

## Welcome to the Delaware Mini-Medical School



## Delaware Public Health Institute Chronic Disease Conference



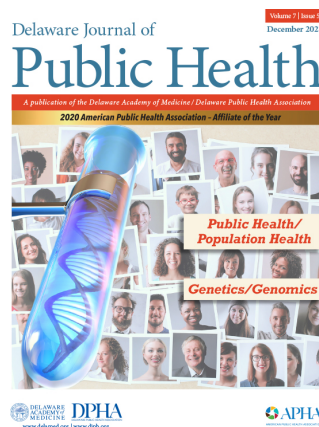
We invite you to join us for the 2022 Delaware Public Health Institute Annual Conference: “Chronic Disease: From Prevention to Management.”

The event will take place virtually on **March 7, 2022** from **8:30AM to 3:30PM**. Join students, professionals and partners across Delaware in the opportunity to learn about and engage in discussions on chronic disease detection, treatment and management.

[Learn more and register here](#)

## Delaware Journal of Public Health

### Genetics / Genomics



Human biology and genetics is one of the recognized Determinants of Health. It is only recently that we have seen the growth of novel interventions like CRISPR gene editing, gene therapies, and interventions that can act on a biological level.

[Read the Issue](#) to learn more about newborn screening, genetic counseling, the development of cell lines, CRISPR Gene Editing, and more!

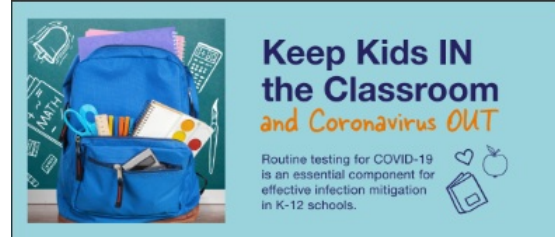
We are grateful to Guest Editors Dr. Louis Bartoshesky and Dr. Eric Kmiec for their superb collection of authors and topics.

## National Updates

### COVID-19 Testing in Schools

It takes four or more days from the date of

infection with COVID-19 for the first symptoms to be detected, which means that individuals of any age can be on school grounds for almost a week, unknowingly spreading the virus, potentially longer if they aren't showing symptoms.



Proactive and comprehensive testing will allow school districts to identify those who are infected and may be asymptomatic. Testing in schools is supported by government funds to help limit the costs for schools, is less invasive, and the most effective way to monitor the prevalence of COVID-19.

[Check Out a Webinar Here](#)

## Additional Resources

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

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

Johns Hopkins Infectious Diseases COVID-19 Grand Rounds - [View Schedule](#)

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

### Academy of Medicine 2021 - 2023 Board of Directors

**President:** S. John Swanson, MD  
**President Elect:** Lynn Jones, FACHE  
**Vice President:** Professor Rita Landgraf  
**Secretary:** Stephen Eppes, MD  
**Treasurer:** Dr. Jeffrey M. Cole  
**Immediate Past President:** Omar A. Khan, MD, MHS  
**Executive Director:** Timothy E. Gibbs, MPH

#### Directors

David Bercaw, MD  
Lee P. Dresser, MD  
Eric T. Johnson, MD  
Erin M. Kavanaugh, MD  
Joseph Kelly, DDS  
Joseph F. Kestner, Jr, MD  
Brian W. Little, MD, PhD  
Arun V. Malhotra, MD  
Daniel J. Meara, MD, DMD  
Ann Painter, MSN, RN  
John P. Piper, MD  
Charmaine Wright, MD, MSHP

#### Emeritus

Robert B. Flinn, MD  
Barry S. Kayne, DDS

### DPHA Advisory Council

**Co-Chair:** Omar Khan, MD, MPH  
**Co-Chair:** Professor Rita Landgraf  
**Executive Director:** Timothy E. Gibbs, MPH

#### Members

Louis E. Bartoshesky, MD, MPH  
Gerard Gallucci, MD, MSH  
Richard E. Killingsworth, MPH  
Erin K. Knight, PhD, MPH  
Melissa K. Melby, PhD  
Mia A. Papas, PhD  
Karyl T. Rattay, MD, MS  
William Swiatek, MA, AICP

The Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association  
302-733-3952 | [delamed.org](http://delamed.org)

STAY CONNECTED

