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In this newsletter:

- Academy/DPHA News
- Delaware News: H5 in KC, Nemours/Beebe Expansion, Chemours Hub
- National News: Alcohol v Cancer, Red Dye Ban, TB in KS
- Global News: Surge in HMPV, Disease "X"?

New Year, New Look!



We're excited to introduce the revamped Academy/DPHA Newsletter!

Designed as a comprehensive digest, this updated format will keep you informed about affiliated events and news while also bringing you a curated selection of the latest developments in public health at the state, national, and global levels.

Our goal is to create an engaging resource that connects you to the broader health community and keeps you informed about the topics that matter most. Stay tuned for updates each month!

delamed.org | djph.org

Important: Starting with the March issue, our newsletter will **only be sent to Academy/DPHA members**. Ensure you don't miss out by becoming a member today!

[Click Here to Become a Member!](#)

The Academy/DPHA News

Ensuring Access to Public Health Information

On January 21, the Trump administration directed federal health agencies—including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—to pause all external communications until approved by a presidential appointee. This [directive](#), which took effect one day after the new administration assumed office, applies to health advisories, weekly scientific reports, website updates, and social media posts.

While some review during a transition is expected, officials have expressed

confusion over the broad scope and uncertain duration of the pause. The affected agencies play a critical role in providing timely health information, including CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWR), clinician health alerts, and public health data releases. It remains unclear whether urgent communications—such as foodborne illness outbreaks, drug approvals, or updates on the H5N1 avian flu outbreak—will be impacted.

The Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association is committed to keeping Delawareans informed. We will continue to share vital public health updates as they become available to ensure our community has access to critical health information.

Delaware Mini Medical School is Back!

This series, co-sponsored by Nemours Children's Health, will focus exclusively on children's health and pediatrics.



DELAWARE MINI MEDICAL SCHOOL
Wednesdays, 6:30-8pm



FEB 26 **WHAT IS A RESPIRATORY THERAPIST?**
MIKE TREUT, RESPIRATORY CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR AND KEITH JAMES, RESPIRATORY CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR

MAR 5 **JOURNEY TO A PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN**
DR. ANNA BARTON, FELLOW EMERGENCY SERVICES AND DR. MEGAN FEICK, FELLOW EMERGENCY SERVICES

MAR 12 **LIFE AS A PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY ROOM PHYSICIAN**
DR. AMANI SANCHEZ, PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN

MAR 19 **BECOMING A PEDIATRIC ICU DOCTOR; FROM AFRICA TO THE US**
DR. ODIRAA NWANKWOR, CRITICAL CARE STAFF INTENSIVIST

MAR 26 **PEDIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS, WHO WE ARE / WHAT WE DO.**
DR. STACEY BACHMAN, VIP AMBULATORY AND ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING

APR 2 **JOURNEY TO BECOME A PEDIATRIC NURSE**
JULIE FAUSNAUGH, NURSE MANAGER, ACUTE CARE

APR 9 **MAKE UP SESSION - ONLY IF NEEDED**



DELAWARE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE | DPHA DELAWARE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
DHF Delaware Health Force | in partnership with NEMOURS CHILDREN'S HEALTH.

The opening session starts Wednesday, February 26th, at 6:30 PM. Please join a few minutes early!

Please visit <https://delawareminimed.org> and **bookmark that page**. There, you will find recordings of past webinars, PDFs of past presentations, and information about upcoming series!

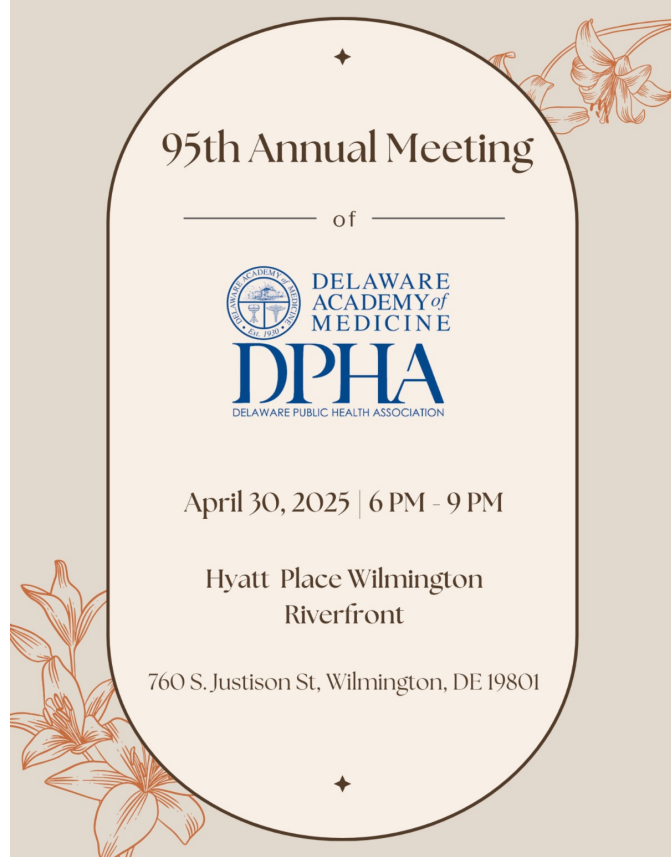
This is also the home of the **Delaware Youth Medical Academy**.

[Register Here](#)

Advanced registration is required. ONE REGISTRATION PER EMAIL ADDRESS.

The Academy/DPHA 2025 Annual Meeting

Join President, **Lynn C. Jones, LFACHE**, and the board and staff of the Academy/DPHA at the Hyatt Place Wilmington Riverfront as we honor Dr. Anand Panwalker, and Delaware State University, hear from Sidney Kimmel Medical College Dean (Thomas Jefferson University) **Dr. Said Ibrahim**, and welcome new Academy/DPHA President, **Stephen C. Eppes, MD!**



[Register Here](#)

Health Student Loan Program

The Academy/DPHA offers two financial aid programs:

Legacy Program: For 33 years, this program has provided low-interest loans to Delaware residents pursuing MD, DO, DDS, or DMD degrees.

2023 Workforce Initiative: Introduced in 2023, this interest-free loan program supports Delaware residents attending local schools who commit to working in Delaware post-graduation. Funded by the US Treasury through Delaware's Department of Labor, it targets health provider shortage areas and communities heavily impacted by COVID-19.

Eligible fields include nursing, behavioral health, dental/medical assistants, and other allied health roles. Visit the [FAQ](#) for a complete list of approved degrees and certifications. [Apply here!](#)

Delaware News

H5 Avian Influenza in Kent County

The Delaware Department of Agriculture has confirmed highly pathogenic H5 avian influenza (HPAI) on a Kent County poultry farm. Flock owners should monitor for symptoms like respiratory distress, swelling, or discolored combs and legs, and report concerns to the Delaware Poultry Health Hotline (302-698-4507 or poultry.health@delaware.gov).

Precautions include keeping birds away from wild birds, housing them in outdoor coops, and quarantining new birds for 30 days. Register your flock at de.gov/poultry to stay informed. Avoid handling sick or dead wild birds, and use DNREC's Sick and Dead Wildlife Reporting Form for wildlife concerns.

Nemours & Beebe Expand Pediatric Cardiac Care to Sussex County

Nemours Children's Health and Beebe Healthcare have opened a new cardiac specialty care clinic in Selbyville, located at Beebe's facility on 36450 Tidal Road. This partnership, first established in 2021, aims to enhance pediatric services across Sussex County.

Nemours already provides cardiology care for pediatric patients across Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, and this new clinic brings specialized care closer to families in the Selbyville area. For more information about available services, visit Nemours or Beebe Healthcare online.

Chemours Community Discovery Hub Opens in Wilmington

The Chemours Community Discovery Hub at EastSide Charter School in Wilmington has opened its 41,000-square-foot facility to all Delawareans. The \$26.5 million hub offers STEM programs like coding, robotics, and biology, while partnerships with Chemours, Barclays, and others connect adults to career opportunities. Additional services include after-school programs by Wilmington Library and health services from Westside Family Healthcare. The project was supported by the Delaware General Assembly and congressional delegation.

Surge in Communicable Diseases Strains Christiana Hospital ER

Christiana Hospital in Stanton is overwhelmed by flu, COVID-19, RSV, and other illnesses, causing long ER wait times. Delaware faces "very high" levels of respiratory illnesses, according to the CDC. ChristianaCare urged residents to visit urgent care or primary care for non-emergencies to preserve ER resources. The hospital has increased staff, reallocated resources, and canceled nonessential activities to manage the surge.

ChristianaCare operates 16 GoHealth urgent care centers in Delaware and Maryland, with most open daily until 8 p.m. Severe symptoms like breathing trouble or high fevers should be directed to the ER or 911.

National News

Former Surgeon General Highlights Link Between Alcohol & Cancer Risk

Former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy has issued a new advisory highlighting the connection between alcohol consumption and an increased risk of at least seven types of cancer, including breast, liver, and oral cancers. Alcohol is the third leading preventable cause of cancer in the U.S., contributing to 100,000 cases and 20,000 deaths annually.

The advisory calls for stronger public awareness campaigns, updated health warning labels on alcohol products, and reassessed drinking guidelines to address this underrecognized risk. Public health efforts are urged to focus on educating individuals and healthcare providers about alcohol as a modifiable cancer risk factor.

FDA Bans Red No.3 in Food & Drugs

U.S. regulators have banned Red 3, a food dye linked to cancer risks, nearly 35 years after it was prohibited in cosmetics. The FDA granted a 2022 petition citing studies showing the dye caused cancer in lab rats, invoking the Delaney Clause, which mandates banning additives linked to cancer.

Red 3, also known as erythrosine, will be removed from foods, dietary supplements, and oral medicines by January 2027, with drug manufacturers given until January 2028. Although still allowed in some countries, it is banned for food use in Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, with California and other states moving to restrict its use further.

Kansas Faces 'Unprecedented' TB Outbreak with Nearly 70 Cases

Kansas is facing one of the largest TB outbreaks in U.S. history, with 67 confirmed active cases—60 in Wyandotte County and seven in Johnson County—along with 79 latent cases. The outbreak was first reported in January 2024, and health officials continue to monitor its spread. Wyandotte County, which includes part of Kansas City, has been the hardest hit. So far, two deaths have been linked to the outbreak, both occurring last year. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the CDC are working to contain the spread.

What else we are reading:

- [Study Clarifies BRCA2 Cancer Risk](#)
- [First U.S. Bird Flu Death Reported in Louisiana](#)
- [Woman Sets Record for Pig Organ Transplant Survival](#)
- [Navajo Leaders Alarmed by Detention of Indigenous People in Immigration Sweeps](#)
- [Heart Disease Remains the Leading Cause of Death in the U.S.](#)
- [Bird Flu Now Widespread in Massachusetts, Officials Warn](#)

Global News

Seasonal Surge in HMPV Cases

A seasonal increase in human metapneumovirus (HMPV) cases in China has sparked fears of a pandemic similar to COVID-19, fueled by widely shared images of overcrowded hospitals. However, health experts emphasize that HMPV is not a new virus and has existed for many years.

The current rise in cases aligns with typical winter trends, both in China and globally. In the United States, HMPV cases have also increased since

November, with 1.94% of weekly tests returning positive as of December 28, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Experts urge calm, noting that the surge in HMPV is seasonal and not indicative of a novel pandemic threat.

"Disease X" in DRC Linked to Malnutrition and Common Illnesses

An outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, initially labeled "Disease X," sickened 900 people and caused 48 deaths, mainly in malnourished children. WHO identified respiratory infections, malaria, and severe malnutrition as the causes.

Experts emphasize improving primary healthcare systems to address malnutrition, prevent illness, and better manage outbreaks, urging caution against alarmist terms like "Disease X."

What else we are reading:

- [WHO Responds to U.S. Intent to Withdraw](#)
- [Suspected Marburg Virus Outbreak in Tanzania](#)
- [Extreme Heat Could Claim 2.3M Lives by 2100](#)
- [Uganda Confirms New Ebola Outbreak with One Death](#)

Become a Member and Stay Connected!

Want to become a member?

Join today!



OR [CLICK HERE](#)

Additional Resources

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

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

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