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## The Academy/DPHA News

### Save the Date: Clinician's Guide to PFAS Virtual Conference

**Clinician's Guide to PFAS: Exposure, Effects, and Action against the Forever Chemical**

**Save the Date!**

**Thursday, September 11, 2025**

**12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Learn More**  
<https://delamed.org/education/educational-series/conferences/2025-pfas-conference/>

**Date:** September 11, 2025  
**Time:** 12:00 – 4:00 PM (Virtual)

Join the Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association and the Delaware Division of Public Health for the inaugural [Clinician's Guide to PFAS virtual conference](#). This half-day event will equip healthcare professionals with the latest knowledge on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)—also known as "forever chemicals"—including their sources of exposure, associated health effects, and actionable steps clinicians can take to protect patient and community health.

### Save the Date: 2025 Delaware Healthcare Workforce Summit

Mark your calendar for the second annual [Delaware Healthcare Workforce Summit](#), taking place on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at the Bayhealth Conference Center in

Dover. Hosted by the Delaware Academy of Medicine/DPHA and partners, this summit brings together leaders and stakeholders to explore critical issues shaping the state's healthcare workforce.

Planned topics include:

- Updates on the potential for a Delaware School of Medicine in Sussex County.
- Medicaid and our Workforce - working together on behalf of Delawareans in challenging times
- Chronic Disease Management and Outcomes and our Healthcare Workforce - a Delaware study
- From the Bedside to the C-Suite - managing burnout and retention, addressing recruitment
- Innovation in the Field of Dentistry - for the growth of that workforce segment
- Developments from Washington, DC
- What Delaware is doing from the Cabinet-level Perspective
- Lessons from the Founding Director of the Bowen Center for Health Workforce Research and Policy
- Focus on Behavioral Health
- Emergency Medical Technicians and Mobile Health Unit Challenges and Solutions - in rural areas
- Rodel Foundation on Early to Post-Secondary Education in Delaware



**Innovating the Future of Healthcare: Strategies for Improving Work Environments, Expanding Pipelines, and Enhancing Quality and Access.**

**Wednesday, September 24, 2025  
8:30 AM to 3:00 PM  
Bayhealth Conference Center  
Dover, DE**

[Register Here](#)

## Wear Your Support: Limited Edition National Public Health Week T-Shirt Now Available

Celebrate National Public Health Week in style with our limited edition grey t-shirt, featuring the winning design by **Shira Akoglu** from our NPHW Contest. The vibrant artwork on the back captures the power and purpose of public health in our communities. Whether you're a professional, student, or passionate advocate, this shirt is a great way to show your support and spark meaningful conversations.



T-shirts are available for \$24.99 each. If ordering more than one, please list all

shirt sizes in the applicable field at checkout. Get yours while supplies last!

[Purchase Here](#)

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## Delaware News

### [29th Annual Delaware Healthcare Forum](#)

The Delaware Healthcare Association, in partnership with the Healthcare Leadership Network of the Delaware Valley and Bayhealth, presents the 29th Delaware Healthcare Forum on **Wednesday, December 10, 2025**, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at Bally's Dover Casino Resort. As the only statewide event attended by all Delaware hospitals and health systems—from CEOs to department managers—the Forum offers a unique opportunity for networking, learning, and collaboration across the healthcare continuum. Attendees can earn ACHE face-to-face education credits, and nursing contact hours are available through Bayhealth, an approved provider of nursing continuing professional development. Sponsorship opportunities are available for organizations looking to connect directly with key healthcare decision-makers. Registration is coordinated internally for employees of Bayhealth, Beebe Healthcare, TidalHealth Nanticoke, and Nemours Children's Health; all others should register through their usual internal processes.

[View  
Flyer](#)

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### [Delaware Legislature Advances Key Bills Ahead of Summer Recess](#)

During the week of June 9–13, Delaware legislators advanced several major bills ahead of adjournment:

- Offshore Wind: The Senate passed [SB 159](#), overriding Sussex County's denial of a substation permit critical to an offshore wind project. The bill moves to the House.
  - Veterans Affairs: [HB 1](#), creating a state Department of Veterans Affairs, cleared the Senate committee and heads to the Senate floor.
  - Same-Sex Marriage: [SB 100](#), to enshrine same-sex marriage in the state constitution, passed the Senate. It must pass again in the next session to take effect.
  - Utility Relief: [HB 116](#), allowing reduced utility rates for low-income residents, passed the House and moves to the Senate.
  - Immigration Enforcement: Bills limiting local law enforcement's role in federal immigration actions in schools, churches, and hospitals ([HB 94](#), [HB 93](#)) cleared House committees.
  - School Cellphone Use: [SB 106](#), requiring districts to set cellphone policies, passed the House Education Committee.
  - Suicide Prevention: [HB 54](#), creating a state Office of Suicide Prevention, passed the House and awaits Senate review.
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## [DE Becomes a Shield State for Gender-Affirming Care with New EO](#)

On June 21st, Governor Matt Meyer signed Executive Order 11, establishing Delaware as a legal refuge for patients and providers of gender-affirming care. The order prohibits state agencies from cooperating with out-of-state investigations targeting care that is legal in Delaware and bars professional licensing boards from penalizing providers solely for offering gender-affirming services. Signed at CAMP Rehoboth with lawmakers and LGBTQ+ advocates present, the move aligns Delaware with at least 14 other states and D.C. that have enacted similar protections. Advocates, including Rep. DeShanna Neal and members of the Delaware LGBTQ+ Commission, praised the order as a life-saving, evidence-based policy rooted in empathy and privacy. This action continues Delaware's longstanding commitment to LGBTQ+ rights and access to inclusive healthcare.

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### **What else we are reading:**

- [DSB and BioConnect DE Announce STAR Fund](#)
- [Gov Meyer Convened Statewide Roundtable on Medical Debt Solutions](#)
- [DHSS Announces Health Fund Applications Due August 31](#)
- [Tobacco Tax Hike Introduced in Delaware House](#)
- [Military Families Can Visit Select Museums for Free this Summer](#)
- [AG Jennings launches Open Doors Project](#)
- [Delaware HOSA Shine on Global Stage at 48th Annual HOSA Conference](#)
- [Fireworks Guidelines for the 4th of July in DE](#)
- [DNREC Issues Violation to Delaware City Refinery for Emissions Incident](#)
- [DE Officials Issue Summer Tick Safety Tips as Peak Season Begins](#)

## **National News**

### [Medicaid Cuts Could Cause Up to 24,600 Preventable Deaths Annually](#)

A new analysis warns that Medicaid cuts proposed by Congressional Republicans could result in 8,200 to 24,600 medically preventable deaths per year. The current House bill includes multiple major reductions to Medicaid funding, which the authors say would undermine health coverage, financial stability, and care access for low-income Americans. The impact could be even greater if states are unable to compensate for lost federal funds, a likely scenario given state budget constraints. Additional health harms, including increased uninsurance, hospital stress, and negative effects on children, may go unaccounted for in current projections.

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### [U.S. Supreme Court Upholds TN Ban on Youth Gender-Affirming Care](#)

In a 6-3 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Tennessee's ban on gender-affirming medical treatments for transgender minors, ruling it does not violate the Constitution's Equal Protection Clause. The law, passed in 2023, prohibits healthcare providers from prescribing puberty blockers or hormones to individuals under 18 for gender dysphoria, though it allows those treatments for other medical conditions. The conservative majority cited ongoing medical debate and deferred to state legislatures, while the liberal justices dissented sharply, warning the ruling abandons transgender youth to "political whims."

The Biden administration opposed the law, while the returning Trump administration supported it and has issued additional policies targeting transgender rights, including banning transgender individuals from military service and restricting youth gender-affirming care nationwide.

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### **[CDC Vaccine Panel Under Fire for False Citation & Controversial Overhaul](#)**

A CDC briefing on thimerosal, a mercury-based preservative used in some vaccines, came under scrutiny. The report, titled "[Thimerosal as a Vaccine Preservative](#)," was presented by Lyn Redwood, a former leader of the anti-vaccine group Children's Health Defense. It referenced a 2008 Neurotoxicology study allegedly co-authored by UC Davis Professor Emeritus Robert Berman. However, Berman publicly stated that the study did not exist and that his [actual research](#) had been misrepresented. The controversy arose amid a shakeup of the CDC's vaccine advisory panel by Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who recently [fired all 17 members and appointed eight new ones](#), several of whom had ties to the anti-vaccine movement. The report and panel changes drew bipartisan criticism, with Senators Bill Cassidy and Patty Murray calling for the meeting to be postponed. In contrast to Redwood's claims, CDC staff released a [separate report](#) stating there was no evidence linking thimerosal-containing vaccines to autism or other neurodevelopmental disorders—though that report was [later removed](#) from the CDC website. CDC data also showed that 96% of flu vaccines during the 2024–25 season were thimerosal-free, with only 0.3% of doses administered to pregnant women containing the preservative.

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#### **What else we are reading:**

- [Cornell Finds Rifampin 99.9% Effective Against Drug-Resistant Typhoid](#)
- [Judge Orders Reinstatement of 800 Cut NIH Projects, Citing Discrimination](#)
- [COVID Variant NB.1.8.1 May Now Drive Over a Third of U.S. Cases](#)
- [KFF Health Tracking Poll: One Big Beautiful Bill](#)
- [Abortion Bans Worsen Violence in Relationships, Study Finds](#)
- [Ohio Lawmakers to Introduce Bill Banning & Criminalizing Abortion](#)
- [Marine Microplastics Linked to Cardiometabolic Disease in U.S. Coastal Areas](#)
- [Trump Admin to Shut Down LGBTQ+ Suicide Hotline Program in July](#)
- [FDA Approves Lenacapavir as First Twice-Year HIV Prevention Option](#)
- [Trump Travel Ban Blocks Medical Residents Needed at U.S. Hospitals](#)
- [Supreme Court Allows Vape Firms to Challenge FDA Denials in Preferred Courts](#)

## **Global News**

### **[Global Conflict at Post-WWII High, Peace Declines for 11th Straight Year](#)**

According to the 2025 Global Peace Index, global conflict levels are at their highest since the end of World War II, with 59 active conflicts spanning more than 35 countries. The world has seen a steady decline in peace for 11 straight years, marked by rising political instability, increased conflict-related deaths, and growing geopolitical fragmentation. Since 2008, 100 countries have become less peaceful while only 62 have improved. The number of people forcibly displaced has surged by 185%, with over 122 million now displaced worldwide. Seventeen countries report that more than 5% of their populations

are either refugees or internally displaced. The report also notes a shifting global power landscape. The geopolitical influence of major powers like the U.S., Russia, and China is declining, while smaller nations are increasingly asserting themselves as regional powers. The findings underscore a world that is becoming increasingly unstable, polarized, and fragmented.

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### **Funding Cuts Jeopardize Uganda's HIV Progress & ARV Access**

Recent U.S. funding disruptions to HIV programs in Uganda, including a temporary halt to antiretroviral (ARV) medication distribution, forced clinic closures and deepened fears of a resurgence in HIV cases. Though some cuts were reversed, uncertainty persists following the U.S. Congress's failure to reauthorize PEPFAR. The Rakai Health Sciences Program, which has helped reduce new HIV infections by up to 90%, warns that care disruptions and a shift to under-resourced primary care clinics threaten treatment access for the 1.4 million Ugandans living with HIV. Experts fear rising infections, drug resistance, and preventable deaths without restored support.

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### **Pre-Pandemic Research Capacity Key Predictor of COVID-19 Research Response**

A new study published in *Annals of Global Health* reveals that a country's COVID-19 research output was most strongly linked to its pre-pandemic research activity—far more than to GDP, population size, or COVID-19 case numbers. By analyzing global publication and clinical trial data, researchers found that pre-COVID health science output was the single most significant predictor of pandemic-era research response. In fact, pre-pandemic research activity accounted for nearly 90% of the variation in COVID-19 research output across countries. The study underscores the urgent need to invest in national research systems as a core component of global health emergency preparedness.

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#### **What else we are reading:**

- [WHO Responds as Dengue Fever Cases Surge to 3,900 in War-Wearry Yemen](#)
  - [UK Parliament Votes to Decriminalize Abortion](#)
  - [Laos' Secret Tax Deal Keeps Cigarettes Cheap and Smoking Rates High](#)
  - [Ketamine Use in SA: Promising Treatment or Risky Unregulated Trend?](#)
  - [UN Warns of 'Weaponised Hunger' and Rising Death Toll as Gaza Faces Humanitarian Catastrophe](#)
  - [For the First Time, Women Scientists Win \\$1M Climate Research Prize](#)
  - [1.3 Million Haitians Displaced by Ongoing Violence](#)
  - [Asia is Warming 2X Faster than the Global Average](#)
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## **Additional Resources**

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

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