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## Academy News



### We've Rebranded!

The Delaware Academy of Medicine | Delaware Public Health Association is now **The Delaware Academy of Medicine and Public Health**, or simply **“The Academy.”**

With a refreshed look and updated colors, our commitment remains the same: advancing health through education, partnerships, and public engagement while continuing the programs and initiatives you know and trust.

Stay tuned and keep an eye out for our new branding!

[Visit Our Website](#)

### Late Fall Mini Med Registration is Now Open!

*In partnership with Beebe Healthcare*



The Delaware Mini Medical School returns this late fall with a new series hosted by Beebe Healthcare, running Wednesday evenings from November 5th to December 17th (6:30–8:00 PM).

This session explores the many facets of modern healthcare—from nursing education and advanced practice roles to physical rehabilitation, healthcare technology, and community outreach. Presenters include Beebe Healthcare professionals and leaders across clinical, educational, and community settings.

Registration is now open! Don't miss this opportunity to learn directly from healthcare experts and gain a deeper understanding of the systems, skills, and people shaping the future of care in Delaware.

[Register Here](#)



## Save the Date

The 96th Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony will be held on April 29, 2026, at the Hyatt Place Wilmington Riverfront, celebrating the organization's new name and honoring outstanding contributions to health and medicine.



## Save the Date

The 2025 Immunization Summit will be held on December 18, 2025, at DTCC Terry Campus. Registration will open soon!

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## Delaware News

### New DHSS Secretary Christen Linke Young

Governor Matt Meyer announced the confirmation of Christen Linke Young as Secretary of the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). A nationally recognized health policy leader with over 15 years of experience, Young succeeds Josette Manning and was formally sworn in at Legislative Hall in Dover. Young previously served as Deputy Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council and Deputy Assistant to the President for Health and Veterans, leading national initiatives on prescription drug pricing, mental health, and maternal health. As DHSS Secretary, she will focus on strengthening public health, expanding access to care, and supporting Delaware's healthcare workforce.

### New DE Law Removes Medical Debt from Credit Reports

A new Delaware law effective today ensures that medical debt can no longer appear on consumer credit reports, protecting families from long-term financial harm. Sponsored by Sen. Spiros Mantzavinos and Rep. Kim Williams, **Senate Bill 156** passed unanimously and was signed by Governor Matt Meyer in July. Governor Meyer also announced a partnership with the nonprofit Undue Medical Debt, using \$500,000 in state funds to eliminate up to \$50 million in medical debt for more than 17,000 Delawareans. Eligible residents will begin receiving debt relief notifications in the coming weeks. The law and relief initiative aim to reduce financial burdens, support economic stability, and give Delawareans a chance to rebuild their credit and financial well-being.

### Delaware Declares State of Emergency to Protect Families as Federal SNAP Funding Halts

Governor Matt Meyer has declared a State of Emergency in Delaware as the federal government shutdown halts funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which supports over 120,000 residents monthly. The declaration authorizes the state to redirect emergency funds to the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to continue SNAP payments on a week-by-week basis through November. It also expands support to the Food Bank of Delaware to meet rising food insecurity. "Promises

will not keep our families fed,” Meyer said, criticizing federal inaction. “We’re making sure every Delaware family can eat, and no child goes to bed hungry.” The order will remain in effect for 10 days unless renewed. Residents are encouraged to monitor DHSS updates and assist local food pantries and community organizations helping families during the funding lapse.

### What else we are reading:

- [Gov Meyer Joins Governors Public Health Alliance](#)
- [DE Kicks Off Mispillion Station II Affordable Housing Project in Milford](#)
- [DOL Relaunches Delaware Career Resource Network to Guide Students](#)
- [Paid Leave to Waive Penalties for Late Submissions During First Year](#)
- [Delaware Caregiving Leaders Harness Smart Technology to Support Aging in Place](#)
- [DE Libraries to Offer Free Mental Health Services](#)
- [DCF Awards \\$13M to UD for Alzheimer’s Research Expansion](#)
- [City Council Advances Bonds for Wilmington PFAS Water Treatment System](#)
- [Bayhealth Named Among America’s Best-In-State Employers by Forbes for 2025](#)
- [DE Becomes Second State to Launch Statewide Rent Reporting Pilot Program](#)

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## National News

### U.S. Risks Loss of Measles-Free Status Amid Falling Vaccination Rates

The U.S. and Canada are at risk of losing their measles-free status due to declining vaccination rates and lapses in government vaccine commitments. Canada has reported over 5,000 measles cases this year, prompting the Pan American Health Organization to likely revoke its measles-free designation in November. The U.S. may soon face the same label. In Florida, public health experts and pediatricians have **been restricted from speaking** about changes to childhood vaccination requirements, limiting public awareness. Epidemiologists stress the importance of community vaccine champions to prevent further outbreaks, while officials like Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo have dismissed modeling potential outbreak impacts, prioritizing parental choice over scientific guidance.

### VA Cites Trump’s “Biological Truth” Order to Restrict Coverage for Male Breast Cancer in Veterans

A new Department of Veterans Affairs policy, citing President Trump’s executive order on “restoring biological truth,” has ended automatic coverage for male veterans diagnosed with breast cancer. The change, revealed in a memo obtained by ProPublica, reverses Biden-era PACT Act provisions that made such cancers presumptively service-connected. Now, affected veterans must individually prove their illness was caused by military service, a difficult standard that could delay or deny care. Critics, including VA oncologists and veterans’ advocates, say the rollback ignores science, stigmatizes men with the disease, and places politics above veterans’ health.

### RFK Jr. Walks Back Claim Linking Tylenol to Autism, Urges “Caution” Instead

U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. softened his earlier stance on Tylenol’s alleged link to autism, saying Wednesday that current evidence is “not sufficient to say it definitely causes autism,” though it remains “very suggestive.” The statement marks a shift from Kennedy’s earlier implication that the common pain reliever could cause autism when taken during pregnancy.

(Please note: there is no evidence that Tylenol or acetaminophen causes autism. In 2024, a major **study in Sweden** compared siblings: one exposed to acetaminophen during pregnancy, and the other who had not been exposed. Any association disappeared when

comparing siblings. Pregnant people should discuss pain or fever relief with their physicians.)

### What else we are reading:

- [Texas Sues Tylenol Over Autism Claims](#)
- [Marketplace Open Enrollment Starts November 1](#)
- [RFK Jr. Orders CDC Probe into Offshore Wind as Trump Targets Renewables](#)
- [2024–25 COVID Vaccines Halved Severe Illness Risk, Though Protection Faded](#)
- [Man Lives 9 Months With Genetically Modified Pig Kidney in U.S. Medical First](#)
- [UCLA Discovery Reveals How Bacteria Build Antibiotic-Resistant Biofilms](#)
- [Severe Colon Disorder Rising Among Americans Under 50](#)
- [Flu and COVID-19 Infections Greatly Increase Short-Term Risk of Heart Attack](#)

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## Global News

### Brazil Achieves Major Drop in Teen Pregnancy Through Expanded Access and Education

Over the past 25 years, Brazil has reduced teenage births by 44%, from roughly 750,000 in 2000 to an estimated 281,000 in 2025. The decline is largely attributed to expanded access to contraception through the national health system, including free birth control, condoms, and IUDs. Community outreach programs like Saude da Familia have also played a key role by educating families about family planning. Broader social improvements, poverty reduction, better education, and expanded internet access, have further empowered young women and contributed to this public health success.

### Diphtheria Resurges in Conflict Zones, Threatening Children Worldwide

Diphtheria, once largely controlled by vaccines, is making a dangerous comeback in regions affected by conflict and climate-driven displacement, including Chad, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. Contributing factors include mass displacement, COVID-19 disruptions, vaccine hesitancy, global aid cuts, and weakened health systems, leaving millions of children vulnerable. While cases in the U.S. remain rare, vaccination coverage **has slipped** from 95% in 2020 to 92% in 2024–25. In low-resource settings, diphtheria can kill up to 25% of infected children, prompting Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to launch emergency funding for booster campaigns and support countries in responding to outbreaks.

### Global Progress Against Neglected Tropical Diseases Persists Despite Funding Gaps, WHO Reports

A new World Health Organization (WHO) report finds that global efforts to combat neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) continue to yield progress toward 2030 targets, even amid financial and operational challenges. **The Global Report on Neglected Tropical Diseases 2025** highlights major gains, including a 32% drop in people requiring NTD interventions since 2010, treatment of 867 million people in 2023, and the elimination of at least one NTD in seven countries last year. However, the report warns that funding shortfalls, data gaps, and persistent challenges in water, sanitation, and vector control threaten continued success. Development assistance for NTDs has fallen 41% since 2018, emphasizing the need for renewed investment and stronger cross-sector collaboration to sustain momentum against these preventable diseases.

### What else we are reading:

- [Yale Researchers Warn of “Rwanda-Style” Genocide Unfolding in Sudan](#)
- [Indigenous Voices Warn of Escalating Threats Ahead of Cop30](#)

- [As Greece's Birth Rate Plummetts, Island Schools Empty and Villages Face Extinction](#)
- [WHO Urges Global Action to Make Cities Healthier, Fairer, and More Sustainable](#)
- [IARC and ESMO Launch New Online Course on Breast Cancer Early Detection](#)
- [Bangladesh Achieves 100% Cholera Vaccination Coverage in Rohingya Camps](#)
- [WHO Adds MERS-CoV Isolate to BioHub to Boost Global Pandemic Preparedness](#)

## Additional Resources

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

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

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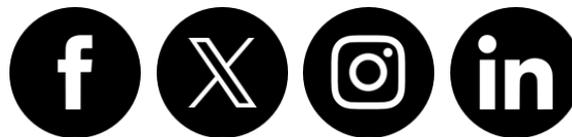
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