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## Academy News



### Support Public Health this Giving Tuesday!

This Giving Tuesday (12/2), The Academy is raising support to expand the Delaware Youth Medical Academy, strengthen vaccine education through the Immunization Coalition of Delaware, and uplift families through a **50% contribution to the Food Bank of Delaware**. Your gift helps advance youth education, public health, and community well-being across Delaware.

[Support](#)



### 2025 Immunization Summit

Join the Immunization Coalition of Delaware in partnership with the Delaware Division of Public Health for our 2025 Immunization Summit. This event brings together public health leaders and clinicians to discuss vaccine guidance, emerging research, and strategies for maintaining vaccine integrity in today's political environment.

- **When:** Thursday, December 18, 2025 | 11:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **Where:** Delaware Technical Community College, Terry Campus, CTC Conference Room 400, Dover, DE 19904 (Virtual option available)

This live activity offers **up to 4 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™** for physicians.

[Register Here](#)



**DELAWARE MINI MEDICAL SCHOOL**  
Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

**NOV 5** FROM CLASSROOM TO CARE: HOW BEEBE TEACHES TOMORROW'S NURSES  
ALISON WATSON, EDD, MSN, RN, CEN, CNE

**NOV 12** THE GROWING ROLE OF THE ADVANCED PRACTICE CLINICIAN (APC)  
AMANDA CONROYER, DNP, PMHC-HI, APRN, CNP, CENP

**NOV 19** PHYSICAL REHAB  
JOSEPH SKOCYFFIC, DPT, LSSGB

**DEC 3** HEALTHCARE IT AND EPIC  
MIKE MAKSYMOW, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

**DEC 10** CARING FOR NICHE COMMUNITY  
LOGAN JARRELL, BSN, RN, GRN\*, CDP\*

**DEC 17** COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER/COMMUNITY OUTREACH ROLE IN HEALTHCARE  
ELIDIA MARTINEZ, COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER, & ANOIE SCOTT, COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

**DEC TBD** BACKUP SESSION - ONLY IF NEEDED



in partnership with



## Sessions Left!

*In partnership with Beebe Healthcare*

This series started on November 5th, but there is still a chance to join! 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

2026  
ANNUAL MEETING

April 29, 2026 | 6 PM

Hyatt Place  
Wilmington Riverfront



## 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.

## Delaware News

### DE Seeks \$1B in Rural Health Transformation Funding to Expand Access, Cut Costs, and Grow Workforce

Governor Matt Meyer announced that Delaware submitted a \$1 billion application to the Rural Health Transformation Program to expand healthcare access, reduce costs, and strengthen the medical workforce in Kent and Sussex counties. The plan includes establishing the state's first four-year medical school, creating new rural Hope Centers, expanding mobile health units and telehealth programs, and funding workforce training and residency programs. It also supports school-based health centers, diabetes and nutrition initiatives, and statewide health IT improvements. The proposal aims to improve outcomes for nearly 40% of Delawareans living in rural areas, with funding awards expected by year-end.

### Delaware Sees Major Increase in Workers' Compensation Providers Following Passage of SB164

The Delaware Department of Labor announced a significant rise in healthcare providers participating in the state's workers' compensation system after the passage of **SB164** in June. The new law, sponsored by Sen. Jack Walsh and Rep. Ed Osienski, updated evaluation and management reimbursement rates, which had previously fallen below Medicare levels and discouraged provider participation. Since the reform, more than 200 additional providers have joined the system, improving access to timely, high-quality care for injured workers. State officials and members of the Workers' Compensation Oversight

## New Castle County Hospitals Lead DE in Latest Safety Grades

The Leapfrog Group's latest hospital safety grades show New Castle County hospitals at the top, with ChristianaCare's Stanton and Wilmington locations earning "A" grades for patient harm prevention and critical care. St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington earned a "B," while Kent County's Bayhealth Dover campus received a "C," struggling in nursing care. Sussex County hospitals saw mixed results: Bayhealth Sussex improved to a "B," TidalHealth Nanticoke dropped from "A" to "B," and Beebe Healthcare rose from "D" to "C." Nemours Children's Hospital continues to rank highly nationally, with pediatric orthopedics at No. 8 in the U.S.

### What else we are reading:

- [Delaware Delivers First State Food Relief Funds to 60,000 Households](#)
- [OHS Kicks Off Annual Holiday Road Safety Campaign with Sober Rides Initiative](#)
- [Governor Meyer Acts to Avert \\$400 Million Revenue Loss](#)
- [Beebe's Doll Therapy Initiative Offers Comfort and Purpose to Patients With Memory Loss](#)
- [NorthStar Anesthesia & Bayhealth Partner in Central Delaware](#)
- [DE Agencies Promote Winter Driving Safety with Free Car Safety Packs](#)
- [ChristianaCare to Bring Full Cancer Services to Middletown by 2027](#)

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## National News

### ED's Narrow Definition of Professional Degrees Threatens Graduate Programs

The Department of Education (ED) recently concluded the **RISE** negotiated rulemaking committee for the **One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)**, moving closer to finalizing student loan regulations. While progress has been made, ED's narrow definition of "professional degrees" is deeply concerning. Programs such as nursing, public health, physical therapy, and physician assistant, long recognized as essential graduate-level professions, are excluded from this designation, stripping many master's programs of the borrowing power traditionally afforded to professional students. This exclusion limits access to federal loans for students pursuing critical careers in healthcare and allied fields and undermines the financial viability of these programs. Other provisions under discussion, including legacy loan protections, adjustments for less-than-full-time enrollment, and new repayment options like the tiered Standard plan and Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP), offer some guidance, but they cannot compensate for the harm caused by the overly restrictive professional degree definition. Advocacy remains crucial to ensure that all graduate students in professional healthcare and related fields have equitable access to federal loan support.

### CDC Website Edits Fuel Outrage as Kennedy Pushes Debunked Vaccine–Autism Claims

A controversial **rewrite of a CDC webpage**, ordered directly by Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., has drawn sharp condemnation from scientists, physicians, and autism experts who say the changes promote the false claim that vaccines may cause autism. The revised page suggests that studies showing a link have been "ignored," contradicting decades of research involving more than 25 major studies that found no association between vaccines and autism. Experts warn the move is part of a broader effort to undermine childhood immunization policy and legitimize anti-vaccine narratives, noting that Kennedy's appointees include longtime vaccine opponents and that his advisory committee may soon recommend altering newborn and childhood vaccine schedules. Public health leaders say the edits jeopardize trust in the CDC, which has

already faced significant staff losses and leadership turnover under Kennedy. Autism researchers, pediatricians, and former CDC officials say the changes will confuse parents, endanger children, and divert attention from real scientific findings about autism's genetic and developmental origins. While anti-vaccine activists celebrated the edits, major autism advocacy groups denounced them as misleading and dangerous.

## Washington Reports World's First Human Infection With H5N5 Avian Flu Variant, Risk to Public Remains Low

A Grays Harbor County resident undergoing treatment for H5N5 avian influenza has died, marking the first known human infection with this strain worldwide, according to the Washington State Department of Health. The individual, an older adult with underlying health conditions, was hospitalized since early November. Testing by UW Medicine and confirmation from the CDC identified the rare H5N5 variant. Health officials emphasize that risk to the public is low, with no evidence of human-to-human transmission. Those who had contact with the patient or their backyard flock are being monitored, but no additional cases have been detected. Environmental sampling found avian influenza in the patient's backyard poultry setting, making exposure to domestic or wild birds the likely source. Officials urge residents with backyard birds to report sick or dead animals and avoid direct contact. They also encourage widespread seasonal flu vaccination to prevent co-infection scenarios that could increase viral risk.

### What else we are reading:

- [Broader Lung Cancer Screening Could Prevent 26,000 Deaths Each Year in the U.S.](#)
- [FDA Approves Trial of Paradromics Brain-Computer Interface Aimed at Restoring Speech](#)
- [Study Finds No Link Between Water Fluoridation & Cognitive Decline in Children or Adults](#)
- [Whales May Hold New Clues for Cancer Prevention, Study Finds](#)
- [Semaglutide Falls Short in Alzheimer's Trials but Offers Clues for Future Research](#)
- [Gavi-UNICEF Cut R21 Malaria Vaccine Price Below \\$3, Protecting 7 Million Children](#)
- [Pregnancy Complications Can Signal Long-Term Heart and Stroke Risk](#)

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## Global News

### WHO Report Labels Violence Against Women a 'Deeply Neglected Global Crisis'

A new WHO report highlights that approximately 840 million women worldwide have experienced intimate partner or sexual violence in their lifetimes. Over the past year, 11% of women and girls ages 15 and older, including 16% of adolescent girls ages 15–19, faced physical or sexual violence. Experts warn that **cuts to global health aid** are undermining sexual and reproductive health services, critical access points for survivors. The report calls for strengthened survivor-centered health, legal, and social services, improved data tracking, and stronger enforcement of existing laws, including protections against online abuse. Some progress is seen in country-level initiatives, such as **Cambodia's domestic violence reforms** and national action plans in Ecuador, Liberia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uganda supported by domestic financing.

### Rising Temperatures Drive a Growing Epidemic of Climate-Linked Kidney Failure Among Vulnerable Workers

A severe form of kidney failure known as CKDu is rapidly spreading among agricultural and migrant workers exposed to extreme heat, first identified in El Salvador's sugarcane fields and now documented across Central America, South Asia, and beyond. Mounting research links the disease to chronic heat stress and dehydration—conditions worsening with climate change. Workers like Gamez, whose kidneys failed in his 30s, rely on scarce and costly dialysis in health systems that lack enough machines, specialists, and

resources to meet growing demand. Prevention programs offering water, rest, and shade **have shown promise**, while new education initiatives aim to protect migrant laborers facing extreme temperatures abroad. Experts warn the crisis reflects broader human rights and climate vulnerabilities and demands urgent action to protect at-risk workers and strengthen health systems before the epidemic expands further.

## Romania's Measles Crisis Highlights EU's Lowest Vaccination Rates

Romania is facing a severe measles crisis, with the lowest vaccination coverage in the EU, only about two-thirds of people fully immunized, resulting in over 30,000 cases and 23 deaths in 2024, including infants. Decades of declining coverage are linked to a complex mix of factors: historical mistrust stemming from mandatory vaccinations under the Communist regime, politicized campaigns such as the 2008 HPV rollout, chronic underfunding of healthcare infrastructure, and COVID-era disruptions that limited access. Public health leaders are now deploying evidence-based strategies, including **motivational interviewing**, to rebuild trust, combat misinformation, and encourage vaccination among hesitant populations. Experts warn that Romania's experience offers a cautionary example for other nations, highlighting how social, political, and structural challenges can rapidly erode immunization coverage and endanger public health.

### What else we are reading:

- [Ethiopia Confirms 10 Marburg Cases as Death Toll Rises to Five](#)
- [Tehran Faces Possible Mass Evacuation as Iran's Water Crisis Deepens](#)
- [Simple Hospital Program Cuts Severe Maternal Infections by 32%](#)
- [Study Finds Children with ARFID Face Greater Developmental Challenges](#)
- [Europe Urges Animal Workers to Get Flu Shots Amid Dual Influenza Threat](#)
- [Overcrowded Prisons in Ghana Fuel Spread of TB, Measles, and Neglected Diseases](#)

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## Additional Resources

Delaware Health and Social Services - [Public Health Information Portal](#)

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

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