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## Academy News



### The Academy Launches *Dela Who What Where?* Podcast on Public Health in Delaware

Kick off the new podcast *Dela Who What Where?* with an engaging first episode featuring host Dr. Kate Smith, Executive Director of the Delaware Academy of Medicine and Public Health, in conversation with Dr. Stephen Eppes, President of the Academy's Board and a pediatric infectious disease physician at ChristianaCare.

Together, they break down what public health really means, reflect on its successes and challenges, discuss immunizations, and explore the Academy's goals for 2026 and the state of public health in Delaware. Tune in for an accessible, thoughtful discussion that sets the stage for the conversations ahead.

### 2026 Medical/Dental Hoopes Lecture

The Delaware Academy of Medicine and Public Health, ChristianaCare, and the Delaware State Dental Society are pleased to invite you to the 2026 Frank M. and Robert R. Hoopes Medical/Dental Lecture. Join us for an engaging session highlighting advances and insights at the intersection of medicine and dentistry.

**When:** February 25, 2026 | 5 - 7:30 PM

**Where:** John H. Ammon Education Building (Main & Back Auditorium) | 4755 Ogletown Stanton Rd, Newark, DE, 19718

**2026**  
**Hoopes**  
**Medical/Dental Lecture**  
 Optimizing Head and Neck Radiation Outcomes While Reducing Side Effects

**Date/Time**  
 February 25, 2026  
 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

**Guest Speaker**  
**Thomas P. Sollecito, DMD**  
 Chair & Professor of Oral Medicine

**Location**  
 John H. Ammon Education Building  
 Main & Back Auditorium  
 4755 Ogletown Stanton Rd, Newark, DE, 19718

DRINKS & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

[Listen Here](#)

[Register Here](#)



**Explore Rural Medicine**  
A Hands-On Skills Day for High School Students

**Who should attend this event?**

- Rural high school students interested in any healthcare field
- No experience needed!

**Hands on Skills Sessions**

- CPR & intubation
- Vital signs assessment
- Emergency Room (ER) and Operating Room (OR) observation
- Newborn nursery, radiology, and mobile mammography/community van tours

**Lunch & Listen Panel**

- Hear from local health care providers
- Ask questions and gain career insights
- Learn about mentoring & networking opportunities

**Saturday, March 28th.**  
**9am to 2pm**  
TidalHealth Nanticoke, 801 Middleford Road, Seaford, Delaware

Scan Me

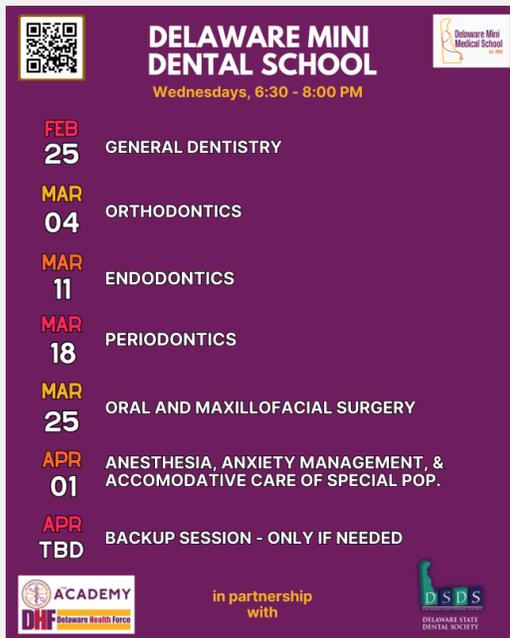
## Explore Rural Medicine: Hands-On Skills Day for High School Students

Sussex County high school students are invited to a hands-on healthcare experience. Activities include CPR and intubation practice, vital signs assessment, ER/OR observation, and tours of newborn nurseries, radiology, and mobile health units. A “Lunch & Listen” panel features local providers sharing career insights, mentoring, and networking tips. Students outside Sussex County may be waitlisted.

**When:** March 28th, 2026 | 9 AM - 2 PM

**Where:** TidalHealth Nanticoke | 801 Middleford Rd, Seaford, DE 19973

[Register Here](#)



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

<b>FEB 25</b>	GENERAL DENTISTRY
<b>MAR 04</b>	ORTHODONTICS
<b>MAR 11</b>	ENDODONTICS
<b>MAR 18</b>	PERIODONTICS
<b>MAR 25</b>	ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY
<b>APR 01</b>	ANESTHESIA, ANXIETY MANAGEMENT, & ACCOMODATIVE CARE OF SPECIAL POP.
<b>APR TBD</b>	BACKUP SESSION - ONLY IF NEEDED

ACADEMY  
DHf Delaware Health Force

in partnership with

DSDS  
DELAWARE STATE DENTAL SOCIETY

## Delaware Mini DENTAL School

This spring, the **Delaware Mini Medical School** is offering a *special series* exploring the breadth of modern dentistry. Across six weekly sessions, participants will gain insight into diverse dental specialties, clinical techniques, and patient-centered care approaches from expert professionals.

This unique series is ideal for students, aspiring dental professionals, and community members interested in learning how dental care supports overall health across diverse populations.

[Register Here](#)

## 96th Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony

Please join President Stephen C. Eppes, MD, and the board and staff of the Academy at the Hyatt Place Wilmington Riverfront as we honor **Dr. David Paul** and the **Delaware Healthy Mother & Infant Consortium**, hear from Delaware's Secretary of Health and Social Services, **Christen Linke Young**, and recognize those making a difference in health and medicine!

**When:** Wednesday, April 29, 2026 | 6 PM  
**Where:** Hyatt Place Wilmington Riverfront | 760 S. Justison St, Wilmington, DE 19801



THE  
**ACADEMY**  
ESTD. 1930

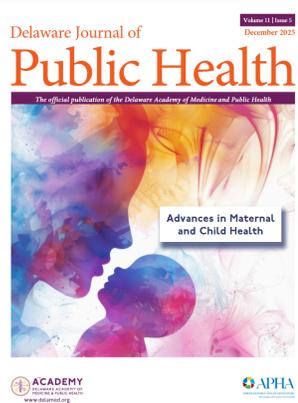
DELAWARE ACADEMY OF  
MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

**96<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING &  
AWARDS CEREMONY**

APRIL 29 · 2026

If you are interested in sponsoring please visit our [sponsorship page](#).

[Register here](#)



[Read the Issue](#)

### New DJPH Issue: Advances in Maternal and Child Health

Maternal and infant mortality remain unacceptably high in the United States, driven by intersecting public health challenges including chronic disease, systemic racism and resulting disparities, particularly for Black women and infants, unequal access to care, lack of paid maternity leave, and fragmented postpartum services. This issue of the *Delaware Journal of Public Health*, guest edited by Audrey Merriam, MD, MS, explores these challenges and highlights efforts to advance maternal and child health in Delaware.

## Delaware News

### 2026 Harrington Trust Pre-Health Symposium

The 2026 Harrington Trust Pre-Health Symposium is open to pre-health students eager to explore careers in healthcare. Held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM at the John H. Ammon Medical Education Center, the symposium is hosted by ChristianaCare Research Institute (iREACH) in partnership with the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance and ChristianaCare Academic Affairs. Participants will have the chance to engage with healthcare experts, learn about diverse career pathways, and network with peers. Space is limited, so **register by Friday, January 30, 2026**. Questions can be directed to [harringtontrust@christianacare.org](mailto:harringtontrust@christianacare.org)

### Federal Appeals Court Blocks Trump-Era NIH Research Funding Cuts, AG Jennings Says

Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings welcomed a ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit that permanently bars the Trump Administration from implementing proposed NIH funding cuts that would have reduced billions of dollars for medical and public health research nationwide. The court upheld a permanent injunction, affirming that the cuts were illegal and protecting essential funding for research infrastructure, faculty, and clinical trials. The decision preserves an estimated \$12 million for the University of Delaware and \$1.4 million for Delaware State University, safeguarding research into cancer, neurodegenerative disease, and advanced medical technologies. Jennings, who joined a coalition of 21 attorneys general in the lawsuit, said she will continue to defend federal investments that underpin lifesaving scientific innovation in Delaware and across the country.

## DHSA Opens Call for Preventive Care–Focused Population Health Research Proposals

The Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA) is seeking population health research proposals focused on preventive care from students, faculty, and staff affiliated with DHSA member institutions. Proposals may address social, environmental, behavioral, or mental health factors that improve preventive health outcomes for Delaware communities. This annual Research Competition features a “shark tank” style format with live presentations, judging, and awards. Multidisciplinary teams representing at least two DHSA partner organizations are required. The top three proposals will be selected to present at a final event in late Spring 2026, where one team will receive a \$50,000 grant to support their work. **Proposals are due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 12, 2026.**

### What else we are reading:

- [2025 Plan Addresses Rising Heat, Flooding, and Health Risks](#)
- [DOE seeks sponsors for Child and Adult Food Care Program \(CACFP\)](#)
- [DE Employees: Paid Family Leave Claim Filing Is Now Open](#)
- [Friendship House to Oversee Wilmington’s Christina Park Homeless Community](#)
- [Delaware Housing Applicants Must Update Waiting List Information by Feb. 10, 2026](#)
- [Confirmed Presumptive Avian Influenza in Kent County Commercial Poultry Flock](#)
- [Gov Meyer Nominates Jon Sheehan for Delaware State Board of Education President](#)
- [Milford Wellness Village Cited as Example of Delaware’s Rural Health Vision in Action](#)
- [SilverAssist Acquires Caring.com, Expanding Senior Care Navigation for DE Families](#)
- [Gov Meyer Delivers State of the State Address](#)
- [Tracing Black Family Histories: First Saturday Program at the DE Public Archives](#)
- [FY 2027 Budget With Focus on Affordability, Fiscal Stability, and Targeted Investments](#)
- [Alzheimer’s Association: Free Tool to Help DE Residents’ Boost Brain Health](#)

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## National News

### What’s Changing in America’s New 2025–2030 Dietary Guidelines

The newly released 2025–2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans introduce major shifts in federal nutrition policy, including a tougher stance on processed foods, added sugars, and sweeteners, alongside recommendations for increased protein intake. The guidelines also suggest consuming three servings of full-fat dairy products per day, a notable departure from earlier guidance that emphasized low-fat or fat-free dairy to help limit saturated fat intake. While limits on saturated fats remain, the updated recommendations reframe which sources are acceptable. One of the most controversial changes is the loosening of alcohol guidance: the long-standing daily limits of 1–2 drinks have been removed and replaced with a general recommendation to “consume less.” Public health experts warn that this vague language reduces clarity for consumers and downplays well-established evidence linking even low levels of alcohol consumption to increased risks of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and injury. Critics also argue that removing clear alcohol limits weakens an

important population-level prevention tool and could dilute public health messaging and policy across federal nutrition and health programs.

## U.S. Completes Withdrawal From WHO, Triggering Budget Crisis and Global Health Concerns

The United States formally exited the World Health Organization today, completing a yearlong withdrawal initiated by President Trump on his first day in office in 2025. Once the WHO's largest donor, the U.S. departure has pushed the agency into a financial crisis, forcing deep budget cuts and planned layoffs affecting nearly a quarter of its workforce. Public health experts warn the loss of U.S. funding and cooperation weakens global disease surveillance, outbreak response coordination, and information sharing that proved critical during crises like COVID-19 and Ebola. The U.S. is also leaving behind roughly \$278 million in unpaid dues from 2024 and 2025, despite a 1948 law requiring payment before withdrawal. While U.S. officials say future collaboration will be limited and direct with other countries, global health leaders say a near-term return is unlikely, even as some argue that reforms at WHO could eventually reopen the door.

## Chagas-Causing Parasite Found at Alarming Rates in Kissing Bugs Along U.S.-Mexico Border

Researchers at The University of Texas at El Paso have discovered unusually high levels of the Chagas disease parasite, *Trypanosoma cruzi*, in kissing bugs collected near homes and natural areas along the U.S.-Mexico border. In a 2025 study, 88.5% of the 26 insects tested positive, up from 63.3% in 2021, highlighting a sharp upward trend. Chagas disease, which can remain symptomless for decades, can lead to severe heart and gastrointestinal complications. The findings suggest the Southwest may face increasing risk of local transmission. Experts advise sealing homes, keeping pets indoors, removing woodpiles, using insect screens, and reducing outdoor lights to limit exposure. Researchers plan a follow-up study to determine whether local residents may already carry the disease.

### What else we are reading:

- [Heart Failure Deaths in the U.S. Surge Following COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Measles Outbreak Intensifies in SC as U.S. Sees Highest Case Count Since 1992](#)
- [1 in 3 NPs and 40% of PAs Switch Specialties Without Formal Training, Survey Finds](#)
- [Malnutrition Surges in the U.S.: Hidden Crisis Grows Amid Rising Food Insecurity](#)
- [Maternal DNA Variants Linked to Miscarriage Risk, Large IVF Study Finds](#)
- [Biomarkers of Stress and Inflammation Help Explain Racial Life Expectancy Gap](#)
- [Growing Awareness of Postpartum Psychosis Sparks DSM Classification Debate](#)
- [CDC: Newly Identified Respiratory Viruses Pose Serious Pandemic Risk](#)
- [Health Care Costs Top Americans' Household Worries, New Poll Finds](#)

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## Global News

### Measles Surges Across Europe as the U.S. Risks Losing Elimination Status

Measles is resurging across Europe and the United States, threatening decades of progress against one of the world's most contagious viruses. Six European countries, including the U.K. and Spain, **have lost their measles-free status** as reported cases topped 127,000 last year, the highest level since 1997. In the U.K., outbreaks have been concentrated in London and the West Midlands, where vaccination rates have fallen to around 74 percent, driven not only by vaccine hesitancy but also by barriers to accessing primary care. In the United States, more than 2,400 measles cases over the past year have put the country **at risk of losing its own measles elimination status** for the first

time since 2000. Most infections were acquired domestically, reflecting declining vaccination rates and rising school exemptions rather than importation alone. Federal scientists are now using genomic analysis to determine whether major outbreaks across several states are linked, a decision that will determine whether measles is once again considered endemic in the U.S., raising concerns that preventable and potentially deadly outbreaks could become routine.

## Global Hepatitis B Birth-Dose Vaccination Faces Urgent Need Amid Rising Infections

Hepatitis B remains a major global health threat, particularly for newborns exposed at birth. In countries like Ghana, nearly 10% of the population has chronic hepatitis B, and mother-to-child transmission drives lifelong infections. Vaccination within 24 hours of birth is highly effective at preventing this transmission, yet many low- and middle-income countries struggle to implement timely birth-dose programs due to cost, logistics, and limited health infrastructure. Advocates, including local health leaders and public figures, have successfully pushed organizations like Gavi to support newborn hepatitis B vaccines, but rollout delays and low coverage persist. Even where national programs exist, birth-dose coverage in sub-Saharan Africa averages only 17%, highlighting the urgent need for global coordination and investment to prevent hepatitis B-related liver disease and deaths worldwide.

## UN Warns World Is Entering an Era of “Global Water Bankruptcy”

A new UN report warns the world has entered an era of global water bankruptcy, where decades of overuse, pollution, ecosystem destruction, and climate change have pushed many water systems beyond recovery. Unlike temporary “water stress” or short-term crises, water bankruptcy describes a post-crisis state in which rivers, aquifers, wetlands, and glaciers have been so depleted or degraded that historic baselines can no longer be restored. The report finds that societies have exhausted not only renewable water supplies but also long-term natural “savings,” leading to shrinking lakes, collapsing aquifers, land subsidence, biodiversity loss, and growing human insecurity. With billions facing chronic water scarcity and food systems increasingly dependent on failing groundwater reserves, the UN calls for a shift from crisis response to “bankruptcy management”—preventing further irreversible damage, rebalancing water use to match new limits, supporting just transitions, and elevating water as a central pillar of climate, biodiversity, food security, and peace efforts ahead of major UN water milestones later this decade.

### What else we are reading:

- [Herd Immunity from HPV Vax May Shield Unvaccinated Women, Swedish Study Finds](#)
- [Husbands’ Approval Limits Women’s Access to Contraceptives in Kilifi](#)
- [German MEP Pushes for Male Contraception to Reduce Abortions](#)
- [AI Genome Sequencing Speeds Detection of Newborn Infections](#)
- [Nipah Virus Outbreak in India Puts Southeast Asian Airports on High Alert](#)
- [Mozambique Faces Worst Floods in a Generation, Cholera Threat Looms](#)
- [Russia Cuts Disability Benefits Amid Rising War Casualties in Ukraine](#)
- [Climate Change Could Drive 123 M New Malaria Cases Across Africa](#)
- [Afghanistan’s Reproductive Care Collapses Under Taliban Rule](#)

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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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DPHA

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