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Academy News



The Academy Awarded the Platinum Seal of Transparency

The Delaware Academy of Medicine and Public Health has earned the 2026 **Candid** Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level of recognition awarded by Candid (formerly GuideStar). This distinction reflects the Academy's ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and sharing clear, comprehensive information about its work and impact.

Candid maintains the world's largest database of nonprofit organizations, and fewer than one percent of U.S. nonprofits have achieved Platinum status in 2026—placing the Academy among the most



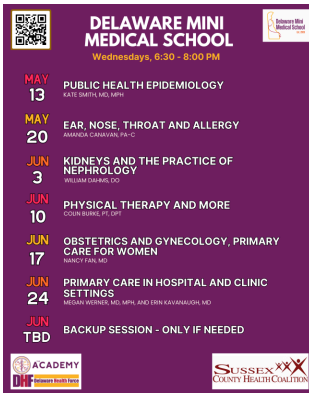
New Podcast Episode: Rural Health in Delaware

In this episode of *Dela Who, What, Where*, Academy Executive Director Kate Smith, MD, MPH, speaks with Peggy Geisler, MA, Board Member and Advisory Council Co-Chair of the Academy and Executive Director of the Sussex County Health Coalition, about rural health in Delaware, with a focus on Sussex and Kent Counties. They discuss ongoing challenges including chronic disease, mental health, addiction, and workforce shortages, along with community-driven solutions such as telehealth access, mobile outreach, community health workers, and food-as-medicine initiatives. Geisler highlights the need for sustainable funding and statewide collaboration to advance health equity. The episode also previews the June 9

trusted and transparent organizations nationwide.

Rural Health Conference at the Bayhealth Conference Center focused on rural health system transformation.

[Listen Here](#)



[Register Here](#)

Delaware Mini Medical School: 4 Sessions Left!

Registration is still open for the Late Spring 2026 Delaware Mini Medical School, a six-week educational series held Wednesday evenings from May 13 through June 24 (6:30–8:00 pm).

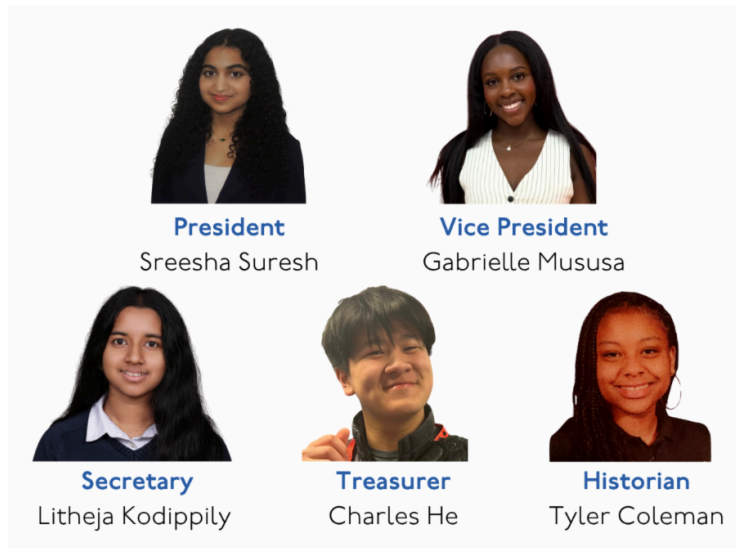
The program features expert-led sessions on a range of health topics, including public health, women’s health, and primary care. Designed to engage the community, the series offers participants an inside look at different areas of medicine and healthcare practice.

Congratulations to DYMA’s Inaugural Student Council

Over the past few months, **DYMA** has been developing its first Student Council initiative to give scholars a stronger voice in the planning and direction of future workshops and activities, while also providing valuable leadership experience. Through this process, students explored key aspects of leadership, collaboration, budgeting, event planning, and organizational management.

All scholars first worked in groups to draft proposals outlining what they believed the Student Council should look like and how it should operate. Those ideas were then combined into a finalized set of Student Council bylaws that will guide the council moving forward. Following the completion of the bylaws, elections were held through a student voting process to select the inaugural council members.

Please join us in congratulating the very first **DYMA Student Council**, including the newly elected President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian, as they begin helping shape the future of the program!



Save the Date: 2026 Delaware Healthcare Workforce Summit

Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2026

SAVE THE DATE

2026 Delaware Healthcare Workforce Summit

Wednesday, September 30, 2026
8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Focus on Behavioral Health! Updates on
Delaware's Rural Health Transformation Program!

Presented with support from the Office of Healthcare Provider Resources,
Delaware Division of Public Health

With a focus on behavioral health and updates
on the Rural Health Transformation Program.

Delaware News

Delaware Health Care Spending Climbs to \$11.3 Billion in 2024, Outpacing Benchmark Growth

Delaware's total health care spending rose to \$11.3 billion in 2024, an 8.7% increase from 2023, with per capita spending growing between 6.4% and 12.2%—well above the state's 3% benchmark, according to the Department of Health and Social Services' annual report to the Delaware Health Care Commission. Officials attributed rising costs to inflation, higher drug and hospital spending, increased behavioral health utilization, and an aging population, with Medicare accounting for the largest share of expenditures. While opioid overdose deaths fell by nearly 40% and some preventive screening targets were met or exceeded, Delaware missed **several quality benchmarks**, including adult obesity and cervical cancer screening. State leaders warned that incremental changes are not enough, calling for broader payment and care delivery reforms to improve affordability and align incentives around prevention and outcomes.

Delaware Public Health Lab Expands Rapid Testing Capacity for Ebola and Other Global Fever Threats

The Delaware Public Health Laboratory (DPHL) has launched a new rapid testing platform designed to strengthen preparedness for emerging infectious disease threats, including the ongoing Ebola outbreak in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo and upcoming FIFA-related international travel. Using the BioFire® Global Fever Special Pathogens Panel on the BioFire® Torch System, the laboratory can now detect multiple high-consequence pathogens in approximately 50 minutes. The panel can directly identify diseases including dengue, chikungunya, malaria, West Nile virus, and leptospirosis, while also providing presumptive detection for pathogens such as Ebola, Marburg virus, Lassa fever, anthrax, yellow fever, and plague. State officials said the new testing capability will support rapid response efforts for travel-related illnesses, high-risk exposures, and public health investigations across Delaware.

Delaware Ranks Among Top States for Academic Recovery, but Students Remain Below Pre-Pandemic Levels

A new national **Education Scorecard** report ranks Delaware 4th in math recovery and 14th in reading recovery since 2022, highlighting significant academic progress following the COVID-19 pandemic. The report also found that chronic absenteeism in Delaware dropped from 24.7% in 2022 to 16.6% in 2025, though rates remain slightly above pre-pandemic levels. Despite the gains, Delaware students are still performing below 2019 achievement levels in both math and reading. State education leaders said the findings reinforce the need for continued focus on literacy, attendance, accountability, and long-term implementation of the state's Strategic Plan and Early Literacy Plan. The Education Scorecard, developed by researchers at Harvard, Stanford, and Dartmouth, also

recognized several Delaware districts for strong progress, including Brandywine and Appoquinimink in both math and reading, and Seaford and Woodbridge in math growth.

What else we are reading:

- [Wilmington to Close Christina Park Tent Village](#)
- [ChristianaCare Expands to Southern DE via Camden](#)
- [Maternal Health Bill Would Require Discharge Plans for Pregnant Patients Sent Home Before Delivery](#)
- [New Medicare "Birthday Rule" and Enrollment Protections Take Effect](#)
- [Delaware Affordable Housing Bill Faces Pushback Over Local Zoning Control](#)
- [Delaware Bill Would Expand Free Hospital Care Eligibility for Patients](#)
- [DE Health Care Cost Bill Stalls Amid Negotiations With Hospitals](#)
- [DE DOC Launches New Directory of Rehabilitation, Education, & Treatment Programs](#)
- [Oil Spill Reported in Delaware River Following Transfer at Delaware City Refinery](#)

National News

U.S. Steps Up Response to Cruise Ship Hantavirus Outbreak as WHO Says Situation Remains Stable

WHO reports 12 confirmed hantavirus cases and three deaths linked to an outbreak aboard the cruise ship MV *Hondius*, with no new deaths since May 2. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the situation remains "stable for now," noting that all passengers and crew remain in quarantine and under close monitoring. The outbreak is believed to have originated in South America before infected travelers boarded the vessel earlier this month. After a delayed response, HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said the agency has issued a **targeted emergency declaration** to support development of medical countermeasures for the Andes strain and accelerate research and response efforts. Investigations suggest exposure may have occurred during travel in Argentina, where infected individuals were linked to possible contact with rodents. Seventeen Americans and one British national were **quarantined** in the U.S. for monitoring, with most remaining asymptomatic. The CDC has stated there are currently no confirmed Andes strain cases in the United States.

Newborn Vitamin K Shot Refusals Rise Nationwide, Raising Concerns Over Preventable Infant Bleeding Deaths

Hospitals across the United States are reporting a growing number of parents refusing newborn vitamin K injections, a routine treatment that helps prevent dangerous bleeding in infants. A 2024 **JAMA Network study** found refusal rates reached 5% nationwide, marking a 77% increase since 2017. Pediatricians warn that babies who do not receive the shot face a significantly higher risk of severe brain bleeding, long-term injury, or death. While vitamin K deficiency-related deaths are not formally tracked, physicians say rising distrust in medical interventions is contributing to preventable infant health complications and fatalities.

U.S. Preparedness Strained Amid Rising Disease Outbreaks, Extreme Weather, and Federal Funding Uncertainty

The Trust for America's Health "**Ready or Not 2026**" report assesses state and national readiness for public health emergencies, finding the U.S. health system under growing strain amid severe flu seasons, rising measles cases, ongoing H5N1 activity, and increasing climate-related disasters. The report ranks states across 10 preparedness indicators and places them into high-, middle-, and low-performance tiers, highlighting wide variation in readiness across the country. While noting strengths such as expanded nurse licensure compacts, laboratory surge planning, and accreditation programs, the

report warns that federal workforce reductions, unstable funding, uneven state investment, and gaps in paid sick leave and vaccination coverage are weakening long-term preparedness. It calls for sustained federal leadership, stronger workforce support, improved surveillance systems, and expanded investments in healthcare and emergency response infrastructure.

What else we are reading:

- [CDC Will End Support for PEPFAR](#)
- [Supreme Court Preserves Access to Abortion Pill During Ongoing Legal Challenge](#)
- [A Win for Women: PCOS is now called PMOS](#)
- [U.S. Overdose Deaths Decline Again in 2025, Experts Flag Drug Supply Concerns](#)
- [Artificial Night Lighting May Extend West Nile Mosquito Season](#)
- [Kailera's "Triple-G" Obesity Drug Shows Rapid Weight Loss in Early Trial](#)
- [Nearly 1 in 3 Americans Visited Urgent Care in 2024](#)
- [Warming Planet Fuels Rise of Emerging Deadly Microbes](#)
- [Survey Finds Gaps in Public Understanding of STI Transmission and Vaccines](#)
- ['Black' Removed from Maternal Health Bills, Raising Concerns Over Scope of Legislation](#)
- [1 in 6 COVID-19 Patients Develop Long COVID, Double Prior U.S. Estimates](#)
- [Chickenpox Parties Resurface Amid Growing Vaccine Hesitancy, Alarming Doctors](#)

Global News

Manitoba Declares HIV Public Health Emergency Amid Rising Infection Rates

Manitoba, Canada has declared a public health emergency in response to rapidly rising HIV cases, marking the first time the province has taken such action for HIV. In 2024, the rate reached 19.5 cases per 100,000 people, about 3.5 times the national average, with transmission driven largely by injection drug use, homelessness, mental health challenges, and barriers to care. Officials say the emergency designation is intended to expand testing options, strengthen prevention efforts such as PrEP access, and raise awareness rather than create fear. Cases have more than doubled since 2021, with notable increases among women and in northern and rural regions. Health leaders and Indigenous organizations say the declaration is a necessary first step but stress that sustained funding, improved access to services, and coordinated cross-government action will be critical to addressing the underlying drivers of the outbreak.

Ebola Outbreak in DRC Escalates Amid Violence, Disinformation, and Strained Response Efforts

Africa's top public health agency has confirmed an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Ituri province, concentrated in Mongwalu and Rwampara. Laboratory results confirm 13 of 20 samples, with early findings suggesting a non-Zaire strain as sequencing continues. The outbreak raises concerns about cross-border spread into Uganda and South Sudan. Response efforts are being hindered by **insecurity**, misinformation, and **attacks on health facilities**, including burned isolation tents and patient escapes. Health workers report growing distrust in affected communities, with denial of the disease contributing to resistance to care. **WHO estimates** suggest more than 900 suspected cases and about 220 deaths, with officials warning they are "playing catch-up" amid critical shortages of supplies and protective equipment. WHO also released **preliminary recommendations** for investigational treatments and vaccines, prioritizing remdesivir, MBP134, and Maftivimab for study during the outbreak. Officials emphasized that any use of experimental therapies or vaccines, including potential testing of Merck's **Ervebo vaccine** for cross-protection, should occur through clinical trials because no approved Bundibugyo-specific countermeasures currently exist.

Global Mental Health Disorders Affect 1.17 Billion People, Nearly Double Since 1990, Study Finds

A new The Lancet study estimates that 1.17 billion people were living with a mental disorder globally in 2023, nearly twice the number recorded in 1990. The figure includes conditions such as anxiety, depression, ADHD, autism, eating disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Researchers note that improved detection and reporting may partly explain the increase, but rising prevalence is also clear, particularly for anxiety and major depressive disorders, which have grown by more than 47% and 24% respectively since 2019. The burden is especially pronounced among young people, with U.S. data showing a steady increase over the past decade in pediatric primary care visits involving mental health concerns.

What else we are reading:

- [Rare Livestock Skin Disease Identified in Clusters Among European Men](#)
- [NHS Nurses Report Toxic Chem Exposure & Pregnancy Risks Linked to Inadequate PPE](#)
- [Haitian Mothers in DR Increasingly Giving Birth in Hiding Amid Deportation Crackdown](#)
- [Bangladesh Measles Outbreak Tops 480 Deaths After Vaccine Warnings Ignored](#)
- [UN Backs Landmark ICJ Ruling, Affirming Countries' Legal Duty to Act on Climate Crisis](#)
- [Gaza Public Health Crisis Worsens as Rodents, Sewage, and Heat Endanger Civilians](#)
- [Experimental Hepatitis B Drug Shows Potential "Functional Cure" in Global Trials](#)

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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