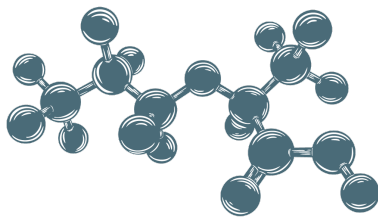




In this Newsletter:

- Academy News: 2026 PFAS Summit, DE Healthcare Workforce Summit, DHF Press Release, New DJPH Issue, DYMA Workshops Recap
- Delaware News: Measles Outbreak, Hospital Opioid Guidance, Healthcare Reforms
- National News: Rural Health Seminar, Measles Status, Update on Cyclospora
- Global News: Fish Farming Fights Schistosomiasis, Italy's Obesity Crisis, Wildfires & the ER

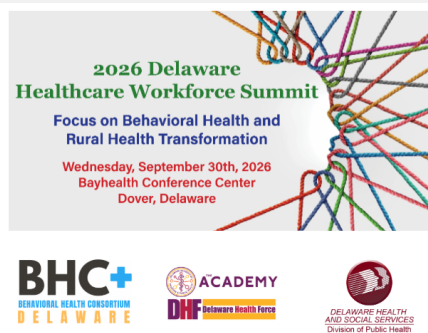
Academy News



2026 PFAS Summit

Join the Academy, the Delaware Division of Public Health, and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control for the second annual PFAS Summit on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. This virtual webinar will explore PFAS, pathways of exposure, health and environmental impacts, actions being taken in other states, and ways individuals can protect their health. The event will feature expert presentations and a panel discussion with leading researchers and public health professionals.

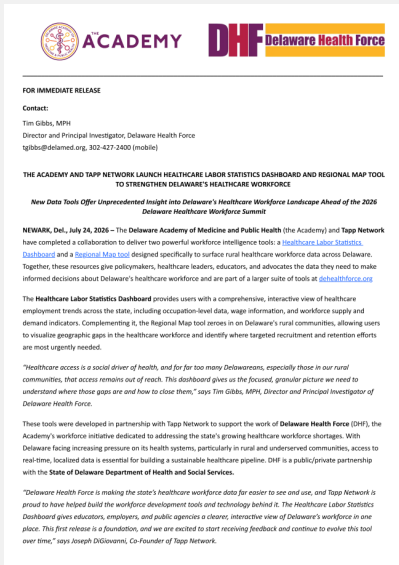
[Register Here](#)



Delaware Healthcare Workforce Summit

The 2026 Delaware Healthcare Workforce Summit will bring together healthcare professionals and stakeholders to explore behavioral health as an essential component of overall healthcare, with an afternoon focus on Delaware's Rural Health Transformation Initiative. The event will feature keynote speaker **Dr. Samantha Nutt**, an award-winning humanitarian, medical doctor, bestselling author, and founder of War Child Canada and War Child USA. The summit will take place on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at the Bayhealth Conference Center at Blue Hen in Dover. Registration is free, with breakfast, lunch, and snacks provided at no cost.

[Register Here](#)



[Read the Release](#)

Academy and Tapp Network Launch New Tools to Strengthen Delaware's Healthcare Workforce

The Delaware Academy of Medicine and Public Health and Tapp Network have launched a **Healthcare Labor Statistics Dashboard** and **Regional Map** tool to provide policymakers, healthcare leaders, educators, and advocates with detailed insights into Delaware's healthcare workforce. The tools highlight employment trends, wages, workforce supply and demand, and geographic gaps, particularly in rural communities, to help inform recruitment, retention, and workforce development efforts. The resources are part of **Delaware Health Force's** broader workforce intelligence tools and come ahead of the 2026 Delaware Healthcare Workforce Summit on September 30.

New DJPH Issue: Aging and Public Health

Delaware's population is aging and growing, with much of the state's recent population growth occurring in Kent and Sussex Counties. As Delaware now has the eighth-oldest population in the nation, the increasing number of older adults presents both opportunities and challenges for the state's public health and healthcare systems.

This issue explores the evolving needs of Delaware's aging population, including the growing demand for geriatric expertise, complex medical decision-making, and care for older adults, while also considering the impact of healthcare workforce retirements and the resulting loss of experience and access to care.

We are deeply grateful to our Guest Editors, Elizabeth Orsega-Smith, PhD, and Julia O'Hanlon, for their thoughtful work curating this important issue.

Delaware Journal of Public Health

Volume 12 | Issue 3
July 2026

The official publication of the Delaware Academy of Medicine and Public Health



[Read the Issue](#)

Workshop Recap: Pediatric Cases & Seizure First Aid Certification

In July, DYMA scholars participated in two engaging learning opportunities designed to strengthen their clinical knowledge and hands-on skills. During the Pediatric Cases virtual workshop with Nemours, scholars stepped into the role of physicians and worked through real-life pediatric cases, practicing how to identify symptoms, develop differential diagnoses, determine appropriate testing, and create treatment plans.

PEDIATRIC CASES

DYMA x Nemours

Kayla Morrell, MD





Scholars also completed Seizure First Aid Certification with the Epilepsy Foundation of Delaware, learning to recognize different types of seizures, respond safely, and identify when emergency medical assistance is needed through interactive discussions and real-life scenarios.

Delaware News

Delaware Reports Five Measles Cases, Declares First Outbreak in More Than a Decade

The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) is reporting five measles cases, meeting the CDC definition of a measles outbreak. All five individuals are unvaccinated and are from Kent County. Extensive contact tracing is underway, and DPH is notifying individuals identified as potentially exposed. Delawareans are encouraged to check their vaccination status and ensure they and their children are up to date on MMR vaccination.

Unvaccinated individuals and those at higher risk of severe complications (including pregnant people, immunocompromised individuals, and young infants) should contact a health care provider or public health officials for guidance after a potential exposure.

Hospitals Statewide Adopt Guidance to Strengthen Emergency Department Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder

Delaware hospitals have adopted new statewide Emergency Department Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) Treatment Guidance to create a more consistent, compassionate, and evidence-based approach to treating patients experiencing opioid withdrawal or overdose. Developed through Delaware's Overdose System of Care, the guidance supports timely initiation of medications for opioid use disorder, reduces barriers to treatment, strengthens connections to community-based care, and promotes warm handoffs to ongoing treatment and recovery services. The initiative brings together hospitals, emergency physicians, addiction specialists, behavioral health professionals, and community partners to improve continuity of care and help more Delawareans begin and remain engaged in recovery.

Health Care Reforms to Expand Financial Assistance, Cap Hospital Prices, & Limit Private Equity Acquisitions

Governor Meyer signed three major health care bills aimed at making care more affordable and protecting patients across Delaware. The legislation expands hospital financial assistance and charity care, providing free care to eligible patients and significant discounts for others based on income and medical expenses. It also establishes a two-year moratorium on private equity acquisitions of Delaware hospitals and introduces a phased approach to hospital price caps, while requiring greater investment in primary care. Together, the reforms seek to reduce medical debt, control rising health care costs, strengthen access to care, and reshape how health services are financed and delivered in Delaware.

What else we are reading:

- [Delaware Advances Next Generation 911 With New Funding and Technology](#)
- [DNREC Seeks Volunteers for 2026 Delaware Coastal Cleanup](#)
- [New 'Explore Delaware Schools', a One-Stop Portal for Public School Information](#)
- [DE Monitors New World Screwworm Cases, Strengthens Animal Import Requirements](#)
- [Laws Expand Health Care Access, Child Care Affordability, and Support for Care Workers](#)
- [Rural Health Initiative to Streamline Insurance Verification and Prior Authorization](#)
- [Kadir Skinner Shooting Renews Calls for Police Reform and Greater Transparency](#)

- [Delaware Establishes State Office of Surgeon General](#)
- [Federal HIV Funding Cuts Leave Gaps as Sussex County Clinics Expand Services](#)
- [School-Based Health Care Expands to Four Sussex County Middle Schools](#)

National News

From Pregnancy to Practice: Building Infrastructure for Rural Health Research

Join investigators from the Bloomberg School and West Virginia University School of Public Health for a virtual seminar exploring rural health research and the Mountain Mama & Baby Cohort Study as a case study in cardiovascular health during pregnancy. The discussion will cover strategies for recruiting representative samples, building sustainable community-engaged studies, and leveraging existing resources for collaborative research. The seminar will take place Monday, August 3, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ET, and is open to all levels of experience and interest in rural health research.

U.S. Measles Cases Surpass Last Year's Total as Outbreaks Hit 45 States

The CDC has confirmed 2,318 measles cases nationwide, surpassing last year's total, with 2,302 cases reported across 44 states and Washington, D.C., and 16 linked to international visitors. South Carolina and Utah have recorded the highest numbers, followed by Texas, Virginia, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Arizona. As outbreaks continue to grow, public health officials and medical organizations are **urging Americans** to ensure they are vaccinated against measles.

Cyclospora Outbreak Current Status: Linked to Recalled Iceberg Lettuce, Spreads Across 9 States

CDC and FDA are investigating multiple Cyclospora clusters, including a multistate outbreak linked to iceberg lettuce from central Mexico. Since May 1, CDC has reported 6,707 laboratory-confirmed domestic cases, with more than 11,500 additional cases under investigation. Taylor Farms de Mexico recalled affected lettuce on July 17 after distribution to at least 27 states. Consumers should check the recall, avoid affected products, and seek care for symptoms such as persistent watery diarrhea, fatigue, or loss of appetite.

What else we are reading:

- [Fed Judge Rules Trump Admin Cannot Cancel Active University Research Grants](#)
- [Time-Restricted Eating May Be Linked to Lower Dementia Risk](#)
- [NIH Resumes Grant Terminations Targeting Health Disparities Research](#)
- [Baltimore Expands 911 Dispatch to Connect Residents with Support](#)
- [Medical Schools Expand Nutrition Education Amid Push to Reform Medical Training](#)
- [Nursing's Growing Demand Opens New Career Path for More Men](#)
- [Menstrual Blood Emerges as a Promising New Tool](#)
- [Study Finds Removing Gas Stoves May Reduce Asthma Attacks and Indoor Air Pollution](#)
- [Private Equity Expands Footprint Through Partnerships With Nonprofit Health Systems](#)
- [Red Cross Declares National Blood Supply Crisis Amid Four-Year Summer Donation Low](#)
- [Flesh-Eating Bacteria Spreading in Chesapeake Bay](#)

Global News

Senegal Researchers Test Fish-Farming in Rice Fields to Fight Schistosomiasis and Boost Food Security

Researchers in Senegal are exploring an innovative approach to combat schistosomiasis by introducing fish into rice fields. African bonytongue fish feed on freshwater snails that transmit the parasitic disease, while tilapia waste can act as natural fertilizer to improve rice production. Early pilot results showed reduced snail populations and an estimated 25% increase in rice yields, while also providing farmers with an additional source of food or income. Larger studies are needed to determine whether the approach can deliver sustained health and agricultural benefits.

Italy's Mediterranean Diet Legacy Faces a Growing Childhood Obesity Crisis

Italy, once celebrated as the home of the Mediterranean diet, is confronting rising childhood obesity as traditional eating habits give way to ultra-processed foods, sugary snacks, and increasingly sedentary lifestyles. Health experts say families and schools often struggle to recognize or address unhealthy weight, prompting new nutrition education programs and policy efforts. While Italy has classified obesity as a chronic disease and is testing new interventions, including fasting-mimicking diets for adolescents, some specialists warn that restrictive approaches could carry risks for children.

Wildfire Smoke Linked to Rise in Migraine-Related Emergency Visits

A new Canadian study has found that exposure to fine particulate matter from wildfire smoke was associated with a 6% increase in emergency department visits for migraines and severe headaches. Researchers analyzed nearly one million emergency visits in Alberta and Ontario between 2010 and 2023, highlighting concerns as worsening wildfire seasons expose more Canadians to prolonged periods of smoke and poor air quality.

What else we are reading:

- [Russian Missile Strike Destroys Ukrainian Warehouse Holding HIV Prevention Supplies](#)
- [Yemen Battles Rising Dengue Cases as Health System Struggles](#)
- [India Approves First Dengue Vaccine, Expanding Access to QDENG](#)
- [In Nairobi's Kibera, Water Scarcity Leaves Women Vulnerable to Sexual Exploitation](#)
- [New WHO Guidelines: Seven Strategies to Prevent Drowning](#)
- [Chatbots Help Hospitals in Kenya and Zambia Combat Drug-Resistant Infections](#)
- [Young Africans See Potential Upside From USAID Cuts, Survey Finds](#)
- [Mass Drug Admin Dramatically Reduces Scabies & Impetigo in Solomon Islands and Fiji](#)
- [Madagascar Mpox Outbreak Surpasses 3,000 Cases, 20 Deaths](#)

Additional Resources

Delaware Health and Social Services - [Public Health Information Portal](#)
Trust for America's Health: Wellness and Prevention Digest - [Subscribe](#)

Academy of Medicine 2025 - 2027 Board of Directors

President: Stephen C. Eppes, MD
President Elect: Jeffrey M. Cole, DDS, MBA
Treasurer: Ann Painter, MSN, RN
Secretary: Megan L. Werner, MD, MPH
Immediate Past President: Lynn C. Jones, FACHE

DPHA Advisory Council

Co-Chair: Omar Khan, MD, MHS
Co-Chair: Peggy M. Geisler, MA
Executive Director: Kate Smith, MD, MPH

Members

Executive Director: Kate Smith, MD, MPH

Directors

David Bercaw, MD

Peggy M. Geisler, MA

Jennifer Horney, PhD

Eric T. Johnson, MD

Erin M. Kavanaugh, MD

Joseph Kelly, DDS

Omar A. Khan, MD, MHS

Daniel J. Meara, MD, DMD

Jonathan Miller, MD

John P. Piper, MD

S. John Swanson, MD

Charmaine Wright, MD, MSHP

Emeritus

Barry S. Kayne, DDS

Joseph F. Kestner, Jr, MD

Brian W. Little, MD, PhD

Alfred Bacon, III, MD

Gerard Gallucci, MD, MSH

Allison Karpyn, PhD

Laura Lessard, PhD, MPH

Melissa K. Melby, PhD

Mia A. Papas, PhD

Joyce Robert, MD

William Swiatek, MA, AICP

The Delaware Academy of Medicine and Public Health
302-733-3952 | delamed.org | dehealthforce.org

Connect with us:



Delaware Academy of Medicine and Public Health | PO Box 89 | Historic New Castle, DE 19720 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!