

# The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

August 2017



Delaware Governor John Carney signed Senate Bill 48 which improves access to naloxone, an antidote to opioid overdoses, by protecting pharmacists who dispense it. Front row, from left: Hemang Shah and Jaime Frink of CVS, Governor Carney, Rehoboth Beach Commissioner Kathy McGuiness, RPh of Cape Pharmacy, and Sgt. Megan Moerman of Kent County EMS. Back row: Jessica Wearden, UMES student pharmacist, Kevin Musto, Atlantic Apothecary and Delaware Pharmacists Society, Maggie White, UMES student pharmacist, Hooshang Shanehsaz of Cardinal Health and the Board of Pharmacy, and Mark Bastarache, Region Manager, CVS Pharmacy. Photo by Donna Sharp.

## Delaware expands access to overdose-reversing medicine

Delaware expanded community access to the life-saving drug naloxone as Governor John C. Carney signed [Senate Bill 48](#) on July 20 in a Dover CVS store. Pharmacists can now dispense naloxone, an antidote to opioid overdoses, without an individual prescription. Naloxone will be available at the pharmacy counter in participating pharmacies to anyone who is educated on its appropriate use and signs an acknowledgement form.

“Increasing our ability to prevent overdose deaths is vital to our response to the addiction epidemic,” Governor Carney said. “Naloxone can give people a second chance to get medical care and be connected to resources to treat their addiction.”

Primary legislative sponsors were Senator Bryan Townsend, chair of the Senate Health, Children, and Social Services Committee; Representative David Bentz, chair of the House Health and Human Development Committee; and Representative Paul Baumbach.

Visit [www.helpsherede.com](http://www.helpsherede.com) for prevention, detox, treatment, and recovery resources. In 2016, 308 people died from overdoses in Delaware, compared to 228 overdose deaths reported in 2015. So far in 2017, there are 125 suspected overdose deaths.

## Stay cool with home preparations

Prepare for summer's continued high temperatures and thunderstorms. Follow these tips from the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) to keep homes cool and families safe:

- Drink water often, even if you are not thirsty.
- Check on older, younger, sick or vulnerable family, friends, and neighbors without air conditioning.
- Never leave children, anyone unable to open a door or window, or pets alone in closed vehicles.
- Check on pets and farm animals frequently to ensure they have fresh water, shade, and are not suffering from the heat.
- If your home loses power during periods of extreme heat, go to a designated public shelter. Stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine if air conditioning is not available.
- Check the weather; listen to [NOAA Weather Radio](#) from the National Weather Service.
- Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun with drapes, shades, awnings, or louvers. (Outdoor awnings or louvers can reduce the heat that enters a home by up to 80 percent.)
- Insulate around window air conditioners and make sure they fit snugly.
- Weather-strip doors and sills to keep cool air in.
- Keep storm windows up all year.



## DPH launches new Data Information and Request Process webpage

Those seeking health data and statistics have a variety of data sources in one place, at DPH's new Data Information and Request Process webpage: <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/drpmain.html>.



It is one click off of the Health Data and Statistics button at the bottom of the DPH main page. If seekers need more than what is available online, they can complete a form to request exactly what they need. The standardized and centralized online application allows DPH to meet an increasing demand for program-specific data requests and to process them efficiently and in a timely manner.



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