

The DPH Bulletin

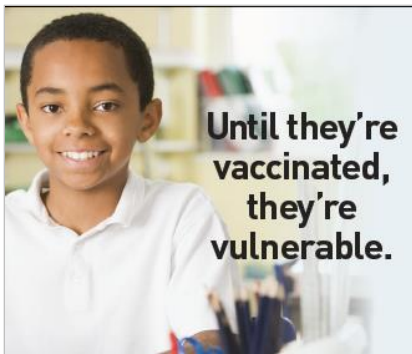
From the Delaware Division of Public Health

August 2020

Catch kids up on their immunizations

August is National Immunization Awareness Month. The Division of Public Health (DPH) reminds parents and guardians to schedule their wellness visits and update their children's vaccinations before the school year begins. Childhood immunizations are more important as states gradually reopen schools during COVID-19.

"As we interact more with others, we need everyone – especially kids – to be protected from vaccine-preventable diseases," said James Talbott, manager of DPH's Immunization Program. "Until they're vaccinated, kids are vulnerable to diseases such as the flu, measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, pertussis, and hepatitis."



DPH is running a public awareness campaign on childhood immunizations that includes billboards and print, radio, and social media ads. To see what vaccines are

recommended for children or teens at various ages, visit de.gov/immunizations.

To support childhood immunization efforts, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's CDC prepared a social media toolkit for providers, parenting groups, and immunization advocates. The providers' toolkit offers social media posts, Facebook and Instagram ads, newsletter copy, and pre-sized images representing diversity and various ages. Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam/index.html>.



Delawareans can reduce risk by managing chronic conditions closely

DPH Director Dr. Karyl Rattay asks those with chronic conditions to closely manage their conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When you take good care of yourself, you reduce the chance of having complications from your condition," Dr. Rattay said. "Providers and hospitals can focus on Delawareans who are seriously ill."

According to the CDC, those with the greatest risk of suffering severe illness from COVID-19 have chronic conditions including cancer, Type 2 diabetes, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, obesity, serious heart conditions, Sickle cell disease, and those who are immunocompromised.

People who might be at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are those who have moderate to severe asthma, cerebrovascular disease, Cystic fibrosis, hypertension, neurological conditions, and liver disease, and those who are pregnant, smoke, and are immunocompromised. Read the [CDC's full list](#).

As of August 7, DPH identified 15,445 total positive cases of COVID-19 among Delaware residents since March 11, and 588 individuals died from COVID-19 complications. There were 8,392 recoveries and 194,784 individuals have been tested. Data is updated daily during the noon hour and available at de.gov/healthycommunity.

EARN A \$20 GIFT CARD
TAKE THE NALOXONE SURVEY at <https://bit.ly/2V6SDtQ>

Take the confidential survey by August 15, 2020. The Office of Health Crisis Response wants to hear from everyone, even those who could not revive someone.

DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health

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Are you prepared for hurricanes?

August, September, and October are peak hurricane months in the mid-Atlantic region. Take these steps from the [National Weather Service](#):

- Determine if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone or in an area at risk for flooding and if so, identify a non-shelter place to go. Shelter capacities may be reduced due to the need to implement social distancing and sick areas during COVID-19. Learn Delaware's [evacuation routes](#).



- Restock household emergency kits with enough food and drinking water for all family members and pets for three days. Store one gallon of drinking water per person per day. Also pack a battery-powered or hand-crank powered radio or a NOAA weather radio; batteries; flashlights; phone chargers; soap; cleaning supplies; hand sanitizer; and two cloth face coverings per family member.
- Organize and back up important documents and confirm coverage with your insurance agency. Those living in flood-prone areas should buy flood insurance.
- Develop family plans for hurricanes and floods.
- To reduce flying debris during high winds, trim trees and keep yards uncluttered. Get approved window coverings. Store valuables in plastic tubs on high shelves.
- Mobile home residents must evacuate when told to do so. Straps and other tie-downs will not protect mobile homes from high winds.

For more information, including supply lists, visit [PrepareDE.org](#), [Ready.gov](#), and [www.floodsmart.gov](#).

DHSS seeks comment on draft plan

Public comment is invited on the [Delaware Department of Health and Social Services' \(DHSS\) draft strategic plan](#). In a letter to Delawareans, former DHSS Secretary Kara Odom Walker, MD, MPH, MSHS and current Secretary Molly Magarik said DHSS' vision is to have high-quality operations, and the recommendations in the draft strategic plan "offer us a detailed path forward in achieving this vision."

Send comments by September 15, 2020 to DHSS_TownHall@delaware.gov.



DOE issues school reopening guidance

Delaware schools may reopen under a hybrid scenario next month, with a mix of in-person and remote instruction, Governor John Carney announced on August 4.

"Safely reopening schools for Delaware children – especially our youngest learners and disadvantaged children who need in-person instruction the most – is the most important and difficult issue we'll face as we continue to confront this COVID-19 crisis," Governor Carney said in his [press release](#).

There are significant safety requirements to limit COVID-19 transmission, including minimum requirements for social distancing, wearing masks, and handwashing. State Medical Director Dr. Rick Hong said all schools should prepare for a positive case and designate COVID-19 points of contact.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Businesses are protecting the public with:

- Face coverings for staff and customers
- Social distancing and table spacing
- Reservation systems to prevent crowding
- Informative door, floor, and counter signs



Send COVID-19 business complaints to:
HSPContact@delaware.gov

