

The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

May 2017



Walgreens has installed six permanent medicine disposal boxes in Delaware stores. The box pictured is at the Fairfax Shopping Center on Concord Pike in Wilmington. Delawareans can dispose of their unused and expired medicines at this box and 20 other permanent drug collection sites, listed at: <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/hsp/hhdrugtakeback.html>. From left: Tim Derose, Walgreens Delaware healthcare supervisor; Craig Clarke, Walgreens Delaware director of pharmacy and retail operations; Jessica Puckett-Beasley, Walgreens regional healthcare director; Shawn R. Ellerman, assistant special agent in charge, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Philadelphia Field Division; Matt Denn, Delaware attorney general; Karyl T. Rattay, MD, MS, director, Division of Public Health; U.S. Senator Thomas Carper; Dr. Kara Odom Walker, MD, MPH, secretary, Delaware Health and Social Services; Mark Gann, Walgreens asset protection solutions director; and U.S. Senator Christopher Coons.

Prevent rabies with precautions



The Division of Public Health (DPH) reminds Delawareans to prevent rabies, a potentially fatal disease carried by bats, raccoons,

skunks, and foxes. Avoid wild and feral animals, even if they are friendly. Get pets vaccinated against rabies; state law requires all dogs, cats, and ferrets 6 months of age and older to be vaccinated. Keep pets indoors and when outside, use a leash. Do not feed or give water to pets outdoors since bowls can attract wild and stray animals. Keep garbage securely covered.

It is extremely important that anyone who is bitten, scratched, or comes in contact with a wild or domestic animal's saliva should immediately contact their health care provider or call the [DPH Rabies Program](#) at 302-744-4995.

CDC: Delaware's infant mortality rates declined 16 percent

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) highlights Delaware for its declining infant mortality rates in its brief, "Trends in Infant Mortality in the United States, 2005–2014." Delaware is one of 11 states and the District of Columbia whose infant mortality rates declined 16 percent between 2005 to 2007 and 2012 to 2014. (See Data Brief 279 at

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db279.htm>.)

"This is wonderful news!" DPH Director Dr. Karyl T. Rattay told the crowd at the Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium (DHMIC) Summit. "Your participation today and every day helps us make deep and lasting impacts on the health of women, mothers, and babies as we transform our state into a place where every person has the opportunity for optimal health."



Delaware Health and Social Services Secretary Dr. Kara Odom Walker said the DHMIC has "carved out an enviable national leadership role for Delaware on preconception health." She reminded attendees that while the African American infant mortality rate dropped from a high of 17.1 to about 13.4 deaths for every 1,000 live births, it is still more than two-and-a-half times higher than the white rate of 5.1.

Schedule an eye exam

May is Healthy Vision Month. Follow these tips from the National Eye Institute (NEI):

- [Get a comprehensive dilated eye exam.](#)
- [Live a healthy lifestyle, including eating healthy foods, maintaining a healthy weight, managing chronic conditions, and not smoking.](#)
- [Know your family history.](#)
- [Use protective eye wear.](#)
- [Wear sunglasses.](#)

For more tips, visit NEI: www.nei.nih.gov/hvm or KidsHealth.org: <https://kidshealth.org/>.



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health