



August is National Minority Donor Awareness Month

U.S. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) make up 60% of the more than 100,000 people on the national transplant waitlist for lifesaving organ, tissue, and cornea donations, according to the [Gift of Life Donor Program](#).

August is [National Minority Donor Awareness Month](#). [The National Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation Multicultural Action Group \(N MAG\)](#) describes the observance as a time to increase donor registration and education and promote healthy living that decreases the need for donation.

Nationally, BIPOC populations have a high risk of developing diabetes and high blood pressure, the leading causes of kidney failure. According to the Gift of Life Donor Program, Black people are four times more likely to develop end-stage kidney disease than White people. Hispanic people are two times more likely to develop the disease than White people, and Asian people are 1.4 times more likely.

To give the gift of life to those waiting, donors of all races and ethnicities can register at any time. You do not have to wait until you renew your driver's license. To register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor, complete the registration form in English and Spanish at the [Gift of Life Donor Program](#).

[Click here](#) to access toolkit resources.

Keep immunizations updated for optimal wellness at all ages

Delawareans can be protected from many diseases by staying up to date with their immunizations, beginning by visiting their health care provider. August is National Immunization Awareness Month, an observance that highlights the importance of routine vaccinations for people of all ages.

As parents and guardians prepare to send children back to school, the Division of Public Health (DPH) advises to get updated immunization records from the Delaware Immunization Program or the health care provider. Keeping up to date with vaccines is one of the best things you can do to help protect your child from serious diseases. Routine childhood vaccination in the United States has been very successful in preventing illness and death. Serious diseases such as diphtheria, mumps, and rubella, once common at young ages, are now practically unheard of.

Since COVID-19 is still with us, it is important to get vaccinated with the new composition of the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available later this summer or fall. The new composition of the COVID-19 vaccine aims to counter the currently circulating variants. Watch for news for updates about this vaccine.

To avoid influenza (flu) and its potentially severe complications, all eligible Delawareans need to be immunized with the flu vaccine every year. All U.S. flu vaccines will be a trivalent (three-variant protection) for the upcoming season. The influenza B/Yamagata vaccine component in flu vaccines was removed because this variant has not been detected since March 2020. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends getting flu vaccinations before the end of October for the best protection as influenza activity increases.

Visit [de.gov/immunizations](https://www.de.gov/immunizations) for vaccine schedules or take the Adult or Childhood Vaccine Quiz at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam/index.html>.

To contact the Delaware Immunization Program, call 1-800-282-8672 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



August 15 Working4Equity lecture spotlights maternal hypertension

The Working4Equity lecture series features Division of Public Health (DPH) Chief Physician Olubusola Ogunlade, MD, FACOG on Thursday, August 15 at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Ogunlade is presenting "[Understanding Maternal Hypertension: Why It Matters to Everyone.](#)" Registrants will be invited to future lectures.

Through partnership with the Medical Society of Delaware (MSD) Hot Topic Series, DPH is offering the Working4Equity Lecture Series through its newly created Health Equity Institute of Delaware (HEIDE). HEIDE is an initiative of the Office of the Medical Director and Office of the Chief Health Equity Officer.

"By working together with other stakeholders to promote health equity, participants in HEIDE will create an ecosystem that progressively supports vulnerable Delawareans to attain and maintain optimal health while moving the state towards equity, and addressing health disparities," said DPH Medical Director Dr. Awele Maduka-Ezeh.

The Working4Equity lectures are designed for working physicians and clinicians, but anyone can attend the virtual events. They may be helpful to scholars, practitioners involved in public health and health disparities work, and allies such as community members and for-profit businesses.

Registration is required for these lectures, which are free of charge. View all lectures at [MSD Events](#). Accredited continuing Medical Educational credits are available from MSD at nominal cost.



The DPH Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Section published [The Burden of Chronic Disease in Delaware 2024](#).

The Office of Infectious Disease and Prevention published [Candida auris in Delaware, 2022 to 2023](#).

The Office of Animal Welfare published [2023 Year in Review](#).



Sir Teacup

Found: July 31, 2024

Small dog, mix breed, no collar, microchip, unaltered male

City/Area Seen or Found:
Walnut and Christian Street

ID#: ID#9280

This lost pet's portrait was placed on the Office of Animal Welfare's [State Lost and Found Pet Registry](#).

Try to reunite stray dogs with owners before calling Delaware Animal Services

The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) asks the public to try to reunite stray dogs with their owners before contacting the Office of Animal Welfare's (OAW) Delaware Animal Services for pickup or taking them to Brandywine Valley SPCA, the state's contracted animal shelter.

"Stray dogs are usually found very close to home and by walking the dog around the neighborhood or checking with neighbors, the dog can often be reunited with their owner(s) with no need for impoundment," said OAW Executive Director Christina Motoyoshi.

"We ask that all finders post the dog on the [State Lost and Found Pet Registry](#) so the owner(s) may quickly find their pet. Additionally, posting the dog on the Nextdoor app and other forms of social media can be extremely effective. We thank the public for their assistance as we try to limit the number of impounded dogs and work to reunite every lost dog with their owner."

These actions are helpful during outbreaks such as the Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex Outbreak that surfaced in July.

The State Lost and Found Pet Registry is online at <https://animalservices.delaware.gov/lost/33>.

Ocean waves, not sick daze.

Learn tips to keep your summer healthy.

- Keep your vaccines up to date.
- Stay home if you're sick.
- Get tested if you have symptoms.

