

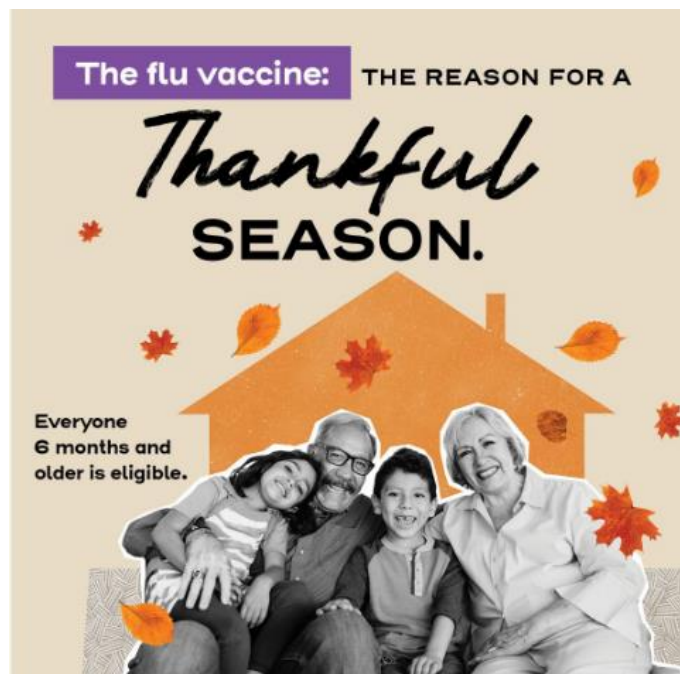
# The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

November 2024



Members of the Division of Public Health's Office of Animal Welfare (OAW) team helped spearhead writing House Bill 190, which Governor John Carney signed on Oct. 9 at the Humane Animal Partners' Stanton/Christiana location. [House Bill 190](#) updates the current law relating to the Spay Neuter Fund so it is easier to administer and conforms with the standards of the Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual. Pictured left to right: Governor Carney, bill sponsor Rep. Kimberly Williams, OAW Director Christina Motoyoshi, bill co-sponsor Sen. Jack Walsh, OAW Deputy Director Joanna Miller, and Spay & Neuter Program Coordinator Melody Purdy. Governor Carney also participated in a ribbon-cutting to celebrate the completion of the facility's first phase of renovation. Photo by Alyssa Imprescia.



## Jones receives Community Health award

The Community Health Worker Association of Delaware (CHWA of DE) announced its 2024 Community Health Worker (CHW) Champion at its October 16 summit at Bally's in Dover, Del. This year's winner is Janine Brown, Community Health Coordinator for YMCA Delaware's Sexual Assault Response Center. Brown is also an advocate for victims of violence and sexual assault.

"I really feel like I can connect with the people in every community that I serve, because I know what it's like to feel like you don't have a way out to want to not be a product of your environment," Brown said in a [video shared during the summit](#). "The help that I've given people – there's nothing more rewarding, nothing else like it."

The annual award recognizes an individual for their tireless commitment and outstanding work. Twenty-eight CHWs were nominated by their peers. In addition to Brown, these honorees were highlighted during the summit:

Brentdy Chavez, Food Access Coordinator with Children and Families First; Denise Ortiz, CHW with Quality Insights; and Gail Plummer, CHW with Beebe Healthcare.



Janine Brown, Community Health Coordinator for YMCA Delaware's Sexual Assault Response Center (at right), received the 2024 Community Health Worker Champion award. At left is Mignaliz Nanny Vega-Morales, Vice Chair of the Community Health Workers Association of Delaware and Bilingual Survivorship Specialist at the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition. Photo by Sean Dooley.

The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Division of Public Health's Population Health Bureau helps to support this association in its efforts to bring cohesion and sustainable funding to the workforce.

[Click here](#) for more information about CHWA of DE.



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
Division of Public Health



John Monahan of Lions Club District 22-D accepts the Tina M. Trout, ACSN-BC, CDE Leadership Award at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Delaware Diabetes Wellness Expo, held in Dover, Del. on November 12. The Lions and the Delaware Department of Education partner with the Delaware Diabetes Coalition to market Lions Empowering School Nurses for Children with Diabetes: A Delaware Partnership, a comprehensive e-learning strategy. Photo by Alyssa Imprescia.

## DPH Oral Health screening programs expand students’ access to dental care

The Kindergarten Oral Health Screening Program, created with the passage of [House Bill \(HB\) 83](#), started this school year. HB 83 requires every public and charter school to provide a dental screening to kindergarten students.

The no-cost screenings are provided by the Division of Public Health (DPH) Bureau of Oral Health and Dental Services (BOHDS) in partnership with the Delaware Department of Education and school nurses. Dental hygienists or dentists inspect the mouths of each child, looking for pain, swelling, infections, decay, or dental sealants. Screenings take two minutes or less. Students receive a dental report card that includes a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, a dental resource guide, and the screening results to take home.

“The passing of HB83 is a momentous step towards improving children’s oral health,” said State Dental Director Dr. Nick Conte. “We can prevent dental issues from developing by prioritizing early dental care, leading to long-term health benefits.



Summer McMenamin provides a dental screening to a kindergartener at Blades Elementary school in Seaford, Del. in October 2024. Photo by Alyssa Imprescia.

In addition, the information collected at each school helps to target future public health efforts at schools where children need dental care the most.”

Oral health problems can prevent a child from eating and sleeping, impairing their ability to concentrate and learn. During the 2021-2022 academic year, 45% of Delaware’s kindergarteners had tooth decay in at least one tooth and 22% had untreated tooth decay, according to the *Delaware Journal of Public Health* article, [“A Public Health Update: The Oral Health of Delaware’s Kindergarten and Third Grade Children in 2022.”](#)

For help finding a dentist for children, insurance questions, and dental screening questions, call the BOHDS Dentist Helpline at 302-318-8850.

**November 21 EpiChat is “What is One Health?”; HAI is covered December 19**

**ONE HEALTH DELAWARE**  
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The Division of Public Health Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology presents the online lecture, [“What is One Health?”](#) on November 21 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is required.

The monthly series continues December 19 with [“Healthcare Associated Infections”](#) from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is required.

Learn more about these EpiChat webinars at [www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/epi/onehealth.html](http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/epi/onehealth.html).

## Practice food safety during the holidays

This holiday season, follow four steps to food safety, including these from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#):

### Clean – Wash hands and surfaces often.

- [Wash hands](#) before, during, and after preparing food and before eating. Always wash hands after handling uncooked meat, chicken and other poultry, seafood, flour, or eggs. Wash hands with warm or cold water and soap. Lather and scrub all surfaces thoroughly for at least 20 seconds.
- Wash utensils, cutting boards, and countertops with hot, soapy water after preparing food items.
- Rinse fresh fruits and vegetables under running water.

### Separate – Don't cross-contaminate.

- When grocery shopping and in the refrigerator, keep eggs, raw meat, poultry, and seafood away from other foods. Store raw meat, poultry, and seafood in sealed containers or wrap them securely so juices do not leak onto other foods.
- Use one cutting board or plate for raw meat, poultry, and seafood and a separate cutting board or plate for produce, bread, and other foods that will not be cooked.

### Cook to the right temperature.

- Use a [food thermometer](#) to ensure foods are cooked to a safe internal temperature. All poultry, including ground chicken and turkey, should be cooked to the internal temperature of 165 degrees F.



CDC.gov

[Click here for a chart of recommended food temperatures.](#) Find turkey cooking tips from the U.S. Department of Agriculture [here](#).

### Chill – Refrigerate promptly.

- Never leave perishable food out for more than two hours (or one hour in temperatures above 90 degrees F).
- Keep the refrigerator at 40 degrees F or below and the freezer at 0 degrees F or below. If the refrigerator does not have a built-in thermometer, use an appliance thermometer.

For more information on food safety, visit the Division of Public Health Office of Food Protection at [www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsp/foodsafety.html](http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsp/foodsafety.html) or call 302-744-4546.



## Immunization Coalition of Delaware hosts 2024 summit on December 12

Medical providers are encouraged to attend the 2024 Immunization Summit, set for Thursday, December 12, 2024 from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Ammon Education Center, located at Christiana Hospital, 4755 Ogletown-Stanton Road in Newark, Del. The summit is sponsored by the Immunization Coalition of Delaware (a program of the Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association) and the Division of Public Health (DPH).

DPH Medical Director Awele Maduka-Ezeh, MD, MPH, PhD, CCHP will present “Immunizations and Refugees.” Andrew Kroger, MD of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will give an influenza update. “Vaccines for Pregnant People” will be presented by Matthew Hoffman, MD of ChristianaCare. The American Cancer Society and the HPV Roundtable will present “Vaccines for Cancer.” Jonathan Miller, MD of Nemours Children’s Health will speak about vaccine confidence. The event concludes with a vaccine update presented by Marci Drees, MD and Stephen Eppes, MD, both of ChristianaCare.

Live registration with Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits is \$50. Live registration without CME credits is \$40. Medical residents and DPH employees can attend for free by entering promo code dph2024 at checkout.

To register and for an agenda, visit the Immunization Coalition of Delaware at <https://immunizedelaware.org/>. The registration deadline is December 5.

## Stroke System regulation published

The new [4306 Stroke System Regulation](#) became effective November 11, 2024 and is published in the [November 2024 Register of Regulations](#).

## Resilience planning protects structures from hazardous weather events

Resilient structures are better able to withstand high winds, flooding, and other hazardous weather events. Property owners should identify hazard risks and strengthen their structures, according to the [Delaware Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards, Second Edition \(2019\)](#).

The handbook was published by the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and the Delaware Sea Grant College Program. While its focus is on coastal communities, its advice applies to structures throughout the state.

“While it is never possible to eliminate all damage from a natural disaster, you as a homeowner can take action and implement many small and cost-effective steps that could significantly lower your risk,” the introduction reads.

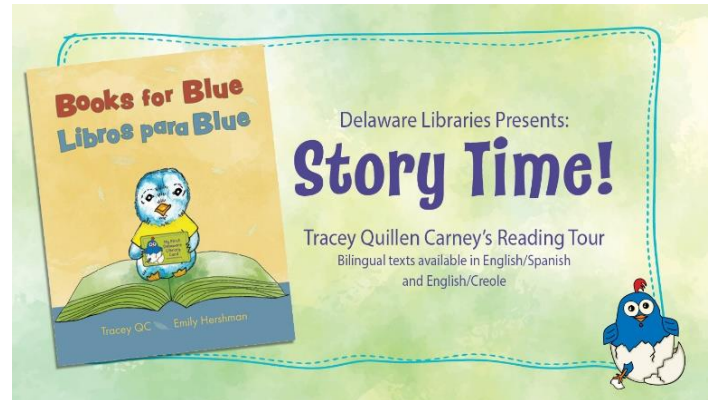


FEMA.gov

To avoid major damage, the handbook advises building or retrofitting a home to higher standards, following these steps:

- Hire a licensed structural engineer and/or architect contractor to do an assessment. Hire a licensed and insured contractor to retrofit or construct. For guidance, visit [The Home Builders Association of Delaware](#) and the [Better Business Bureau's Accredited Business Directory](#).
- Strengthen the roof. Install properly selected and galvanized metal hurricane clips to every rafter to tie the roof to the walls. Add bracing to the trusses and strap down the rafters on the roof's gable end eaves. Replace old roofs that cannot withstand heavy rains and extreme wind.
- Connect the walls to the foundation, using stronger connectors than required by the building code.
- Install impact-resistant windows and protect them with shutters, storm panels, or fabric windscreens.
- Install a wind- and impact-resistant garage door.
- Obtain all required local, county and state permits and approvals before beginning any work.

Find the handbook at [www.deseagrant.org/coastal-hazards](http://www.deseagrant.org/coastal-hazards) and the [Wind Retrofit Guide for Residential Buildings \(FEMA P-804\)](#) at [fema.gov/library](http://fema.gov/library).



## First Spouse Quillen Carney champions reading through new children's book

Delaware First Spouse Tracey Quillen Carney is on a Reading Tour following the publication of her children's book, [Books for Blue](#). The story encourages readers to visit their local library to discover reading.

*Books for Blue* is available at all Delaware libraries in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. This book can be featured at community events through a portable book walk/roll consisting of more than a dozen signs featuring the book's characters. To request to be an official stop on the First Spouse's Reading Tour or to showcase the portable book walk/roll at your next community event, contact [Emily.hershman@delaware.gov](mailto:Emily.hershman@delaware.gov).

For more information about Delaware Libraries, visit: [libraries.delaware.gov](http://libraries.delaware.gov).

Casey Family Programs funded the publication of [Books for Blue](#) through a founding grant for First Chance Delaware.

## Cancer program to visit Frankford

The Division of Public Health Cancer Prevention and Control Program will participate in the Frankford Health Fair on Saturday, November 23. Hosted by Beebe Healthcare, the event is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Frankford Fire Hall, 7 Main Street, Frankford, Del. 19945.

Screening for Life and Health Care Connection programs can provide eligible Delawareans with cancer screening tests and health care services through a network of providers at reduced cost.

To invite the cancer program to a community event, send the information to [DHSS\\_DPH\\_HealthAccessDE@delaware.gov](mailto:DHSS_DPH_HealthAccessDE@delaware.gov).