

The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

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Fourteen trauma system leaders were recognized for 20 years of continuous service. From left: Marilyn K. Bartley, MSN, RN, Christiana Care Health System (CCHS); Edward Alexander III, MD, FACS, Bayhealth Kent General Hospital (KGH); Stephen D. Carey, MD, FACS, Nanticoke Memorial Hospital; Deborah Eberly, BSN, RN, ECN, CNML, Bayhealth KGH; Linda Laskowski Jones, MS, APRN, ACNS-BC, CEN, FAWM, FAAN, CCHS; Mary Sue Jones, RN, MS, DPH; Ross Megargel, DO, FACEP, DPH; Stephen G. Murphy, MD, FACS, Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children; Glen H. Tinkoff, MD, FACS, CCHS. Absent from photo: Steven Blessing, MA, DPH; Dean Dobbert, MD, FACEP, Kent County EMS; Gerard J. Fulda, MD, FACS, CCHS; James P. Marvel, Jr., MD, FACS, Beebe Healthcare; and Lawrence E. Tan, Esq., NRP, New Castle County EMS. Photo by Donna Sharp.

Delaware Statewide Trauma System celebrates 20 years of saving lives

To increase the chance of survival and reduce the chance of permanent disability among those who are seriously injured, in 1996 the Delaware Statewide Trauma System was created through enabling legislation. An Oct. 11 ceremony at Legislative Hall celebrated its [20th anniversary](#).

Delaware's trauma system is credited with saving 1,319 lives and caring for 101,000 seriously injured people since 2000, an almost 50 percent decrease in the mortality rate in that time.

The DHSS Division of Public Health (DPH) Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) has played a critical role in building one coordinated system of care that functions as a statewide team of caregivers. It oversees the trauma system from the time traumatic incidents occur through the full continuum of care. MarySue Jones, RN, MS, is the State Trauma System Coordinator, Steven Blessing, MA, is Chief of DPH's EMS and Preparedness Section, and Ross E. Megargel, DO, FACEP is the State EMS Medical Director.

Plan holiday travel around Zika

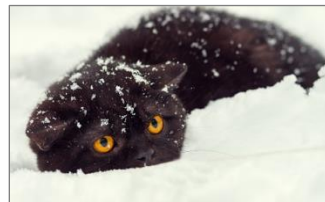
Before planning holiday travel abroad, learn which areas have active Zika by visiting this link: www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/active-countries.html.

As of Oct. 31, all of Delaware's 16 Zika cases were caused by mosquito bites while traveling abroad. All recovered and show no long-term effects.

"We are still telling pregnant women to avoid areas where Zika transmission is active and their sexual partners to be tested if they recently traveled to those areas," said DPH Director Dr. Karyl Rattay. "If the sexual partner traveled to or lives in an area with active Zika virus transmission, the couple should abstain from sex or use condoms and other barrier methods until the baby is born."

For Delaware's Zika fact sheets, visit <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/zika.html>.

Protect pets from hazardous weather



Under Senate Bill 217, legislation sponsored by State Sen. Patricia Blevins, dogs cannot be left outdoors during hazardous weather warnings issued by the

National Weather Service. As winter approaches, the DPH Office of Animal Welfare urges pet owners to plan pet-safe accommodation areas now, before extreme cold events, excessive rainfalls, and snowstorms. Store extra pet food and have crates and bedding ready.

Healthy Smiles, Healthy You

Make sure to visit <http://healthysmilesde.com/>, a new oral health webpage designed to be interactive and fun to use while providing valuable resources for clients.

This tool is geared toward children and features animated characters that provide information and encouragement to children of all ages to brush their teeth twice per day, stay away from sugary drinks, and understand how tooth decay can impact their smile and overall health.



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health