

The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

October 2019

DPH announces first death associated with using e-cigarette products

Thirteen cases of vaping-related lung injury in Delaware meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) case definition of either probable or confirmed, according to the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Division of Public Health (DPH). One of the 13 individuals reporting e-cigarette, or vaping, product use died.

The CDC reports that as of October 17, 49 states, the District of Columbia, and one U.S. territory, including Delaware, reported 1,479 cases of lung injury associated with the use of e-cigarette products, including devices, liquids, refill pods, and cartridges. Many patients report using e-cigarette products with liquids that contain cannabinoid products, such as tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

"At this time, no vaping is safe," said DPH Director Dr. Karyl Rattay.



DPH urges Delaware clinicians to report cases of significant respiratory illness of unclear etiology and a history of vaping

to the DPH's Bureau of Epidemiology (24/7) at 1-888-295-5156. DPH is participating in the CDC's multi-state investigation.

Lung injury patients have experienced respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, or chest pain), and some experienced gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) or non-specific symptoms such as fatigue, fever, or weight loss. People with underlying chronic respiratory conditions are particularly susceptible.

Individuals who are vaping illegal THC products and need help stopping should contact the DHSS Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health's Crisis Line. In New Castle County, the number is 1-800-652-2929 and in Kent and Sussex Counties, it is 1-800-345-6785.

For more information, visit the [DPH website](https://www.dph.de.gov/) or <https://www.cdc.gov/>.



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health



Division of Public Health (DPH) and Bayhealth nurses gave nearly 1,300 flu vaccinations at DPH's Drive-Thru Flu Clinic, held in Dover on October 8, 2019. At left, John T. Healy of Harrington gets his flu vaccination from the comfort of his Colorado 4x4. At right, Bayhealth's Teresa Towne, MSN, RN-BC, NE-BC administers a flu vaccination to Willett Scott of Felton. DPH urges Delawareans to get their annual flu vaccinations soon, preferably in October. For clinic sites, visit <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/fluclinics.html>. Photos by Donna Sharp.

Delaware Animal Response program hosts emergency shelter training

The Office of Animal Welfare's Delaware Animal Response (DAR) program, based within the Division of Public Health (DPH), is holding an Emergency Animal Shelter Training on November 2 and 3, 2019, at the DPH Training Center in the Edgehill Shopping Center in Dover, Delaware. DAR helps prepare the community for disasters and emergencies that affect companion animals and their owners.

American Humane, a national responder for pets in disasters, will instruct this course. Delaware-licensed veterinarians and veterinary technicians can receive 11 continuing education hours. The training is free for DAR volunteers. Lunch is provided both days. Sign up at DAR@delaware.gov or call 302-242-3594.

Drug Take-Back Day

October 26, 2019

Safely discard unused or unwanted prescription medications.



To find a participating site near you, visit <https://takebackday.dea.gov/> and type your ZIP code.



The Division of Public Health (DPH) held a three-day, full-scale Medical Countermeasures Distribution and Dispensing Exercise on September 26, 27, and 28, 2019. Hundreds of volunteers and DPH staff

participated on Saturday, September 28 at Delaware Technical Community College's Stanton and Terry campuses. Above, volunteer Evans Kamwani, right, playing the part of a patient, listens to medication advice from Maggie Zhou of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. Below, volunteer Dawn Yetto of Elkton, at left, Maryland listens carefully to Holly Schiavone of DPH's Northern Health Services. Photos by Donna Sharp.

DPH adds new health indicators to My Healthy Community data portal

Since launching its My Healthy Community data portal in May 2019, DPH has added several new health indicators. The new data indicators include community safety, maternal and child health, healthy lifestyles, health services utilization, infectious diseases, lead poisoning, suicide, and homicide.

"We highly encourage Delawareans to explore the data on the portal – especially the recently-added datasets – to better understand their community's health and the environment in which they live," said DPH Director Dr. Karyl Rattay.

The portal delivers neighborhood-focused population health, environmental and social determinant of health data to the public, and allows users to navigate the information at the smallest geographical area available, to understand and explore data about the factors that influence health. Residents can search health indicators by street address, ZIP code, census tract, neighborhood, town/city, county and state.

Visit MyHealthyCommunity.dhss.delaware.gov.

Providers urged to consider TB

Tuberculosis (TB) is a bacterium that can be inhaled into the lungs when a nearby person with the active disease coughs, sneezes, sings, or laughs. Though TB is rare in Delaware, providers are urged to remain vigilant and to screen and test for the disease whenever there is any possibility a patient might be infected (or exposed).

Latent TB infection (LTBI) occurs when an infected person's TB bacteria are inactive, though they can become active later. Those with LTBI have no symptoms, are not contagious to others, and can be treated to prevent progression to TB disease (when bacteria are active). Between 5 and 10 percent of persons with untreated LTBI will progress to TB disease at some time in their lives, usually within two years after infection.

Signs and symptoms of TB disease include cough that lasts more than two weeks and which may produce sputum or blood; fatigue, weakness, weight loss, night sweats, fever, chills, and chest pain. Most infected children and adolescents are asymptomatic, but symptoms in this age group includes fever, weight loss and growth delay in addition to cough. TB disease can affect any bodily organ but is infectious to others only when it occurs in the lungs or larynx (voice box). Only people with TB disease of the lungs or larynx can spread the disease, typically to household members, close friends, and co-workers. TB disease is treatable and curable, usually by taking medications as directed.

Eliminating tuberculosis requires treating cases, finding and treating infected contacts, and treating latent TB infection.

To learn more about how to prevent and test for TB, visit DPH's TB Elimination Program at <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/dpc/tbelimination.html> and the CDC's Division of TB Elimination at <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/default.htm>.

Naloxone training

Robin K. Brown, a Management Analyst III with DPH's Office of Emergency Medical Services, demonstrates how to administer naloxone, the overdose-reversing medication. The Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness Section held a Naloxone Distribution and Training Event in Millsboro, Delaware in September. Photo by Sharon Smith.

