

# DELAWARE RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

DECEMBER 13, 2021

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Delaware Department of Health and Social Services



*DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES*  
Division of Public Health



DELAWARE  
ACADEMY of  
MEDICINE

**DPHA**  
DELAWARE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

# TAKE A MOMENT

PREVENTING CHRONIC DISEASE  
PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH, PRACTICE, AND POLICY

## Prevalence of Mindfulness Practices in the US Workforce: National Health Interview Survey

ORIGINAL RESEARCH — Volume 14 — January 5, 2017  107

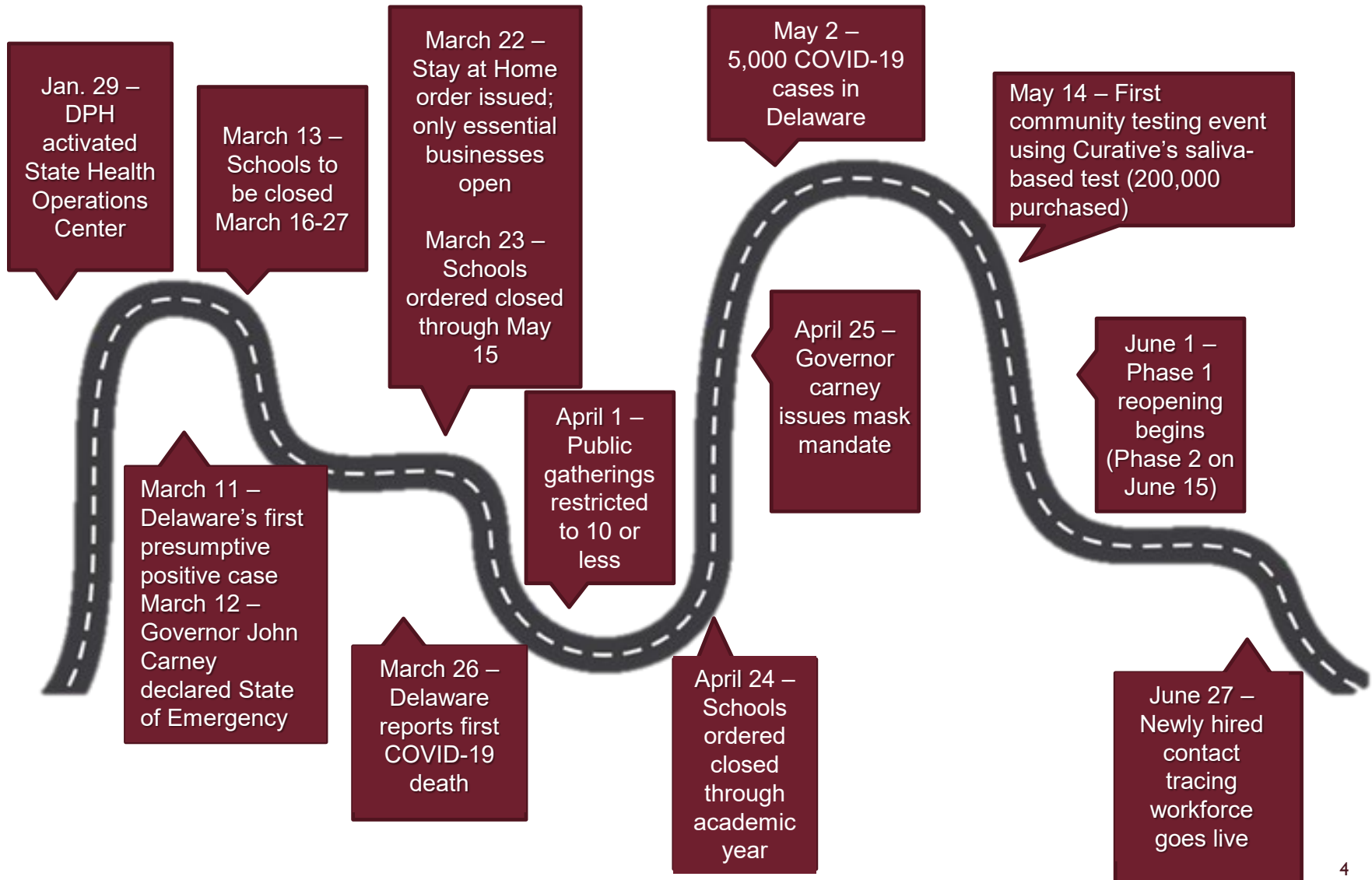
Diana Kachan, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Henry Olano, MPH<sup>1</sup>; Stacey L. Tannenbaum, PhD<sup>2</sup>; Debra W. Annane, MA<sup>2</sup>; Ashwin Mehta, MD, MPH<sup>2</sup>; Kristopher L. Arheart, EdD<sup>1</sup>; Lora E. Fleming, MD, PhD<sup>3</sup>; Xuan Yang, MPH, MHS<sup>1</sup>; Laura A. McClure, MSPH<sup>2</sup>; David J. Lee, PhD<sup>1,2</sup> ([View author affiliations](#))

Worker groups with low rates of engagement in mindfulness practices could most benefit from workplace mindfulness interventions.

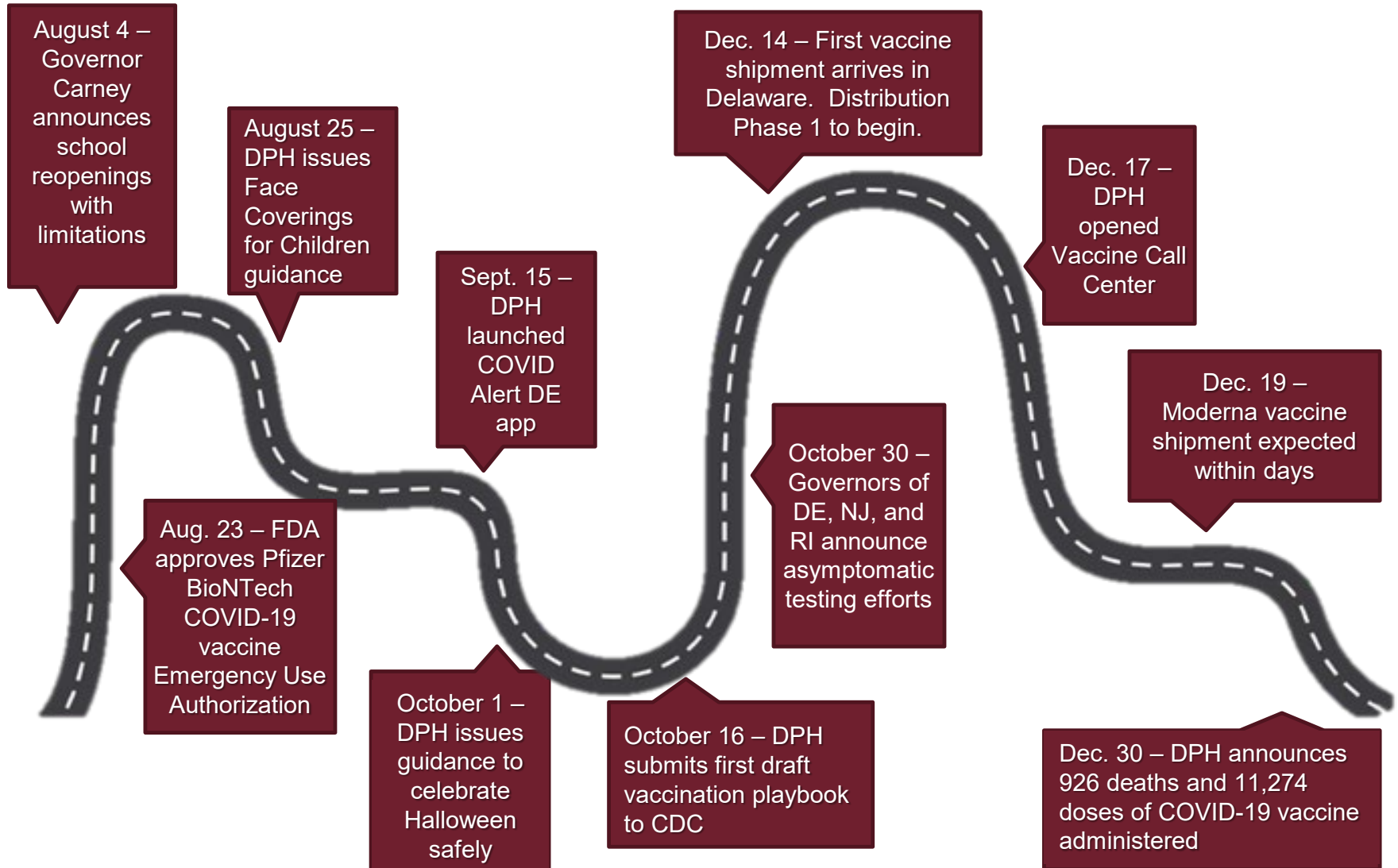
# TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- COVID-19 Timeline
- Unique Pandemic Challenges
- Infection Control
- Diagnostics
- Vaccine
- Other Challenges (Communications, Law)

# Delaware's Coronavirus 2019 Response – Timeline 2020



## Delaware's Coronavirus 2019 Response – Timeline 2020 (continued)

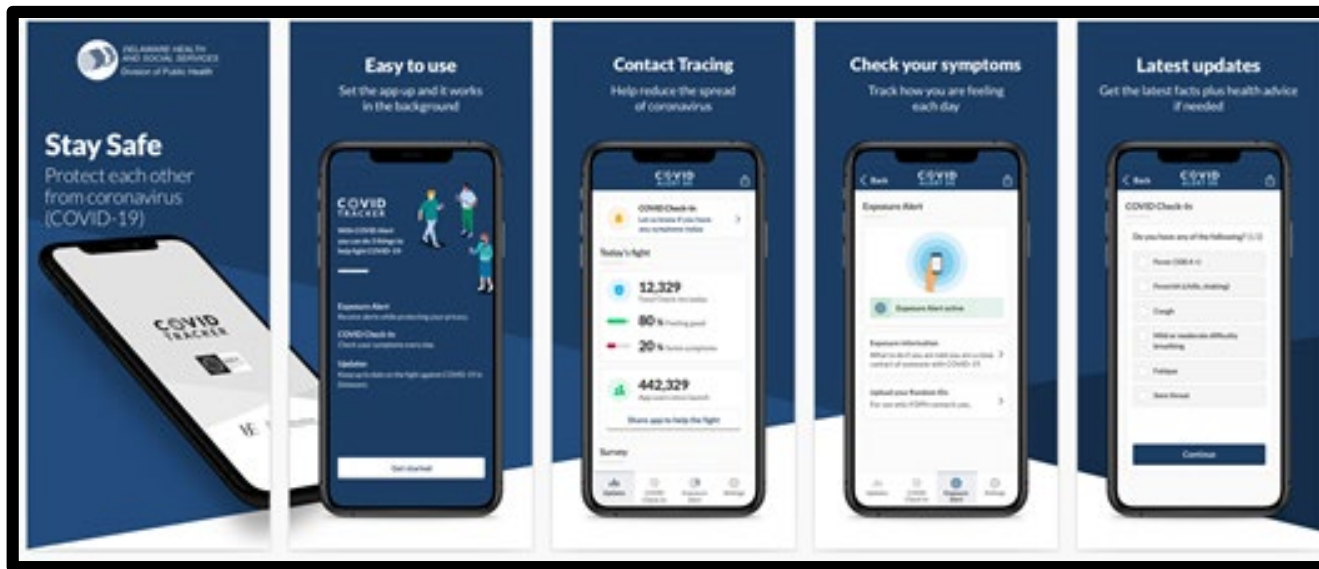


# HELP US TRACE THE VIRUS.



[de.gov/coronavirustracing](https://de.gov/coronavirustracing)

# COVID ALERT DE: EXPOSURE NOTIFICATION APP



# DPH UPDATED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM'S CAPACITY TO BETTER MANAGE HOUSEHOLD EXPOSURES

New capacity allows a comprehensive review of household exposure details among multiple household members and provides functional capacity to track and manage quarantine recommendations.

Updated functionality to manage and alter quarantine periods based on up-to-date household contact tracing information allows epidemiologists to provide the most informed recommendations possible.

Epidemiology also updated their review process for breakthrough cases and hospitalizations, a previously very time consuming and manual task.

Keeps individuals and the general public safe

Review • Evolve • Strengthen processes and systems





# Scenes from 2020



Target store, Dover, DE, May 13, 2020



Egg and butter shelves, Dover Food Lion, March 23, 2020



Social distancing floor sign, south Dover, DE Rite Aid, June 5, 2020



Paper towel aisle at the Target store, Dover, DE, July 22, 2020

# COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACT ON THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM

- Safety of industry employees
- Panic-buying leading to severe shortages (750 lbs to 0)
- Edibles progress stopped
- Long lines at Centers
- New product lines brought to market (vape / hash / R2R)
- Home delivery
- Online ordering and curbside pickup

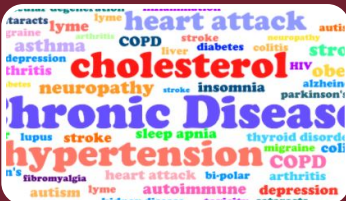


# CORE PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES IMPACTED BY COVID-19



## Comprehensive Cancer

- Incidence and Mortality
- Cancer Screening



## Chronic Diseases & Associated Risk Factors

- Obesity/Overweight
- Diabetes & Prediabetes



## Health Equity

- Social Determinants of Health
- Population Health

# Civil unrest



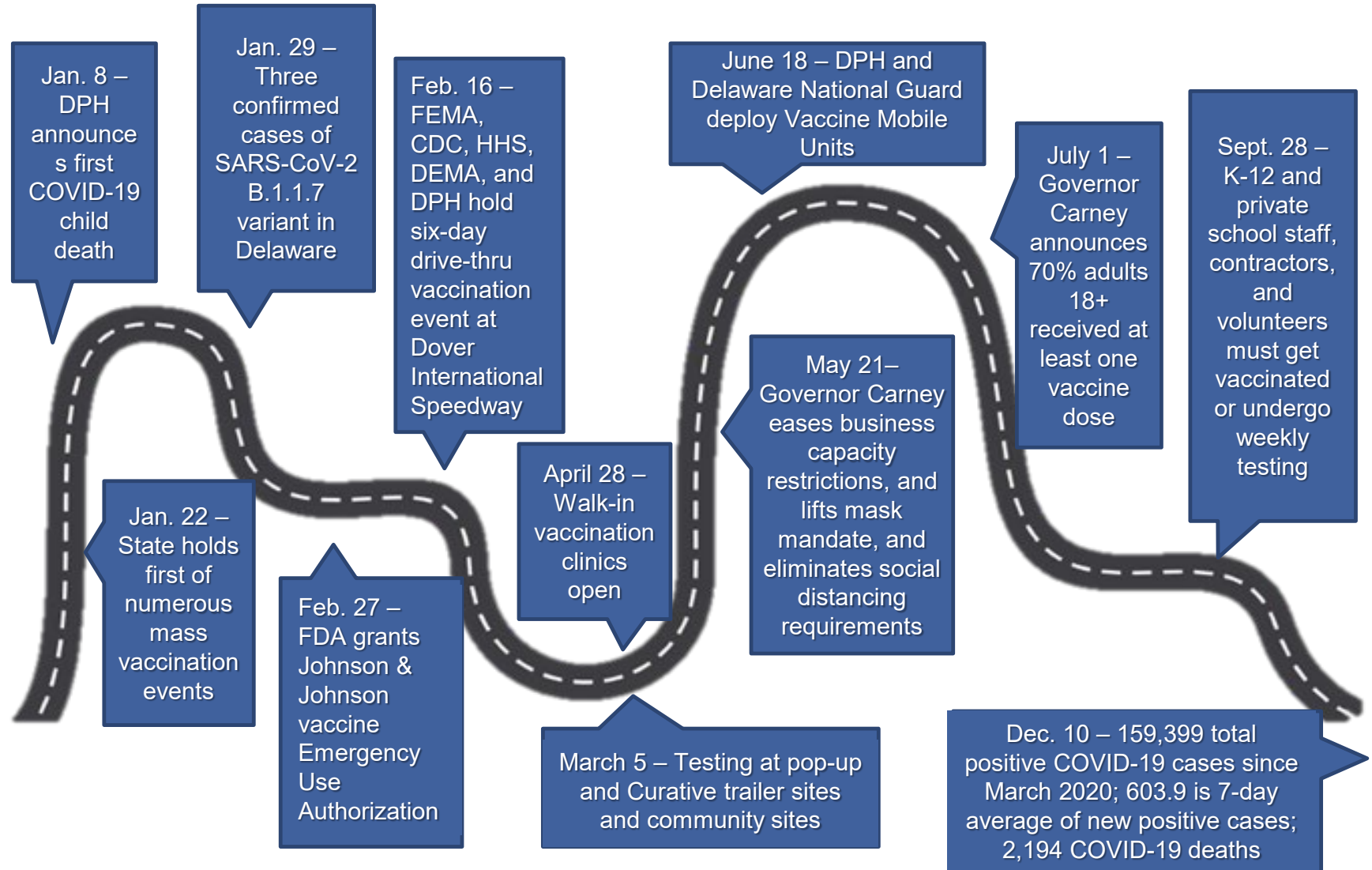
A rally to reopen Delaware was held on Legislative Mall in Dover, DE on May 1, 2020. Delaware Division of Public Health photo.



Protesters upset about the George Floyd death in Minneapolis held a protest in Dover, DE on June 2, 2020. Dover Post photo.

Relatively peaceful protests in Delaware

# Delaware's Coronavirus 2019 Response – Timeline 2021



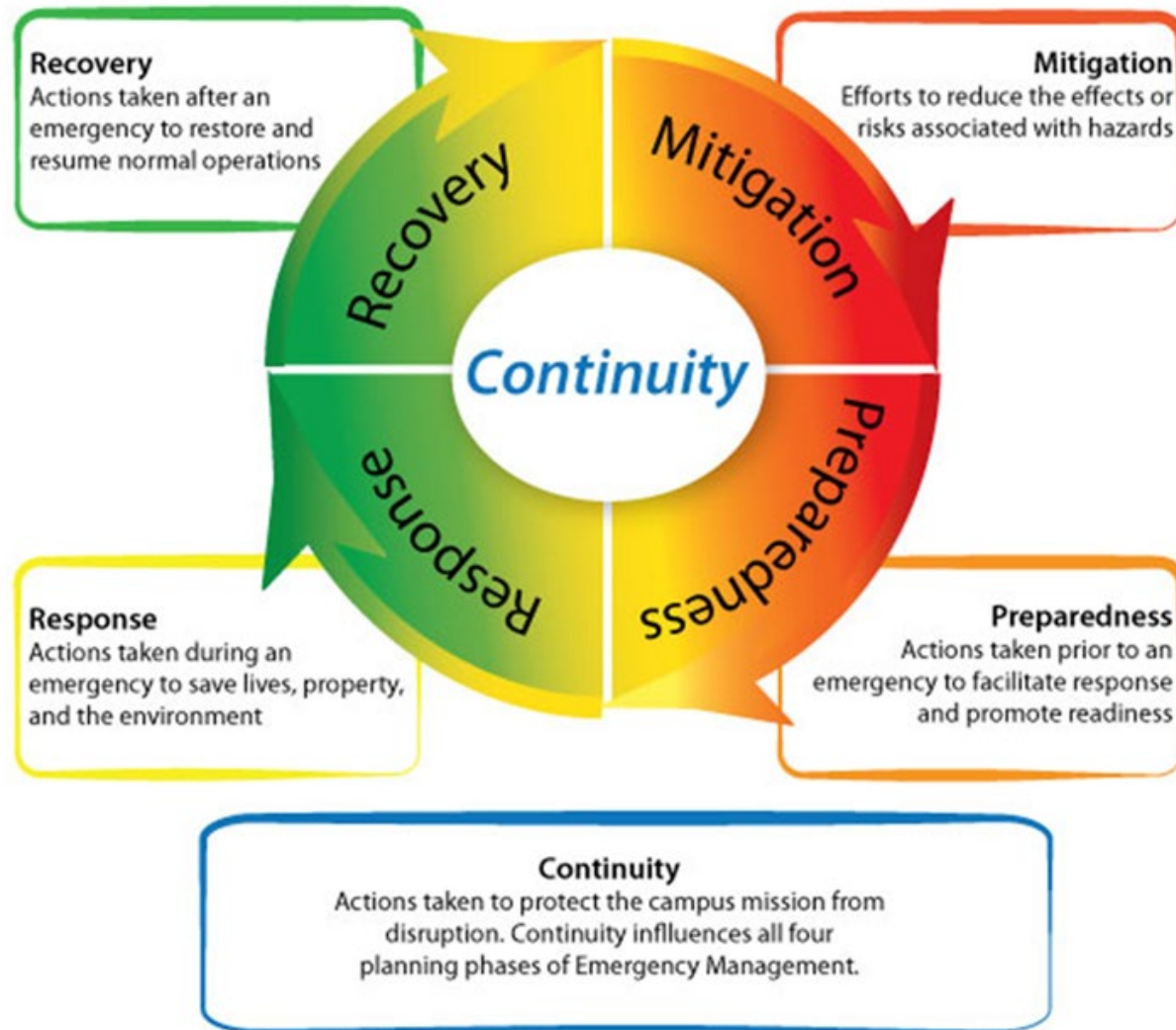
# CATEGORIES OF DISASTERS

- Natural
- Human System Failure
- War and Conflict



- Natural
- Chemical
- Biological
- Radiological/  
Nuclear
- Trauma/  
Explosives





# PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

- Worldwide impact
- Lack of specific therapeutics or interventions
- Length of time
- Number of victims/deaths





# ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE?



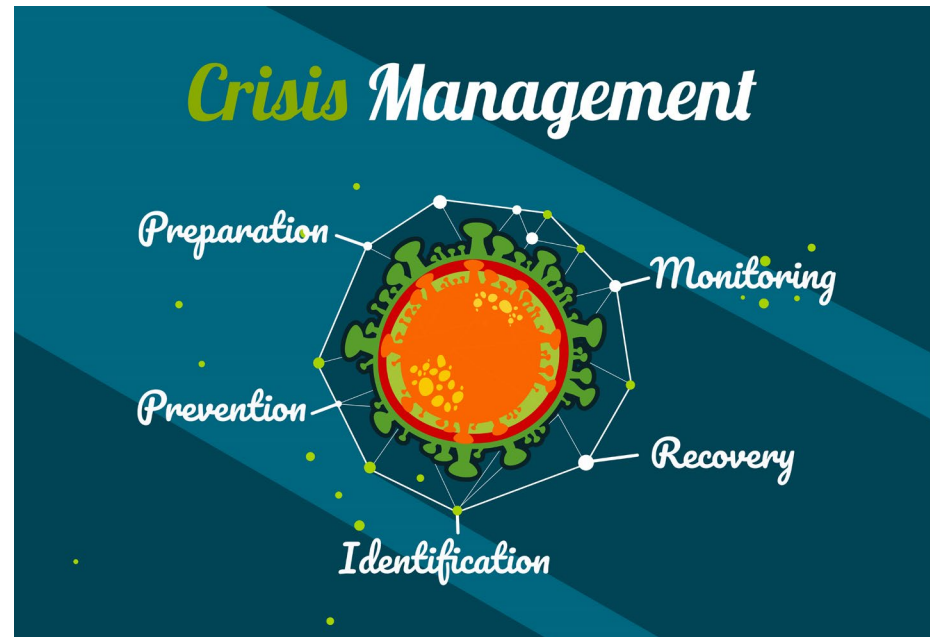
# ZOMBIE OUTBREAK



- Zombies often depicted as being created by an infectious virus, which is passed on via bites and contact with bodily fluids
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- Diagnosis – “Ataxic Neurodegenerative Satiety Deficiency Syndrome”
- New virus or mutations of existing infections attributed to “outbreak”
- Zombies taking over entire countries, roaming city streets eating anything living that got in their way
- “How do I prepare for a zombie apocalypse?”

# SPECIFIC COVID-19 CHALLENGES

- Lack of knowledge of the infectious agent
- Limited critical resources
- Level of pandemic preparedness



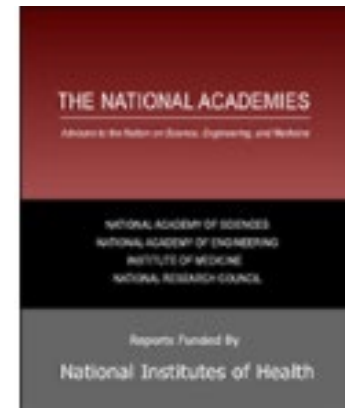
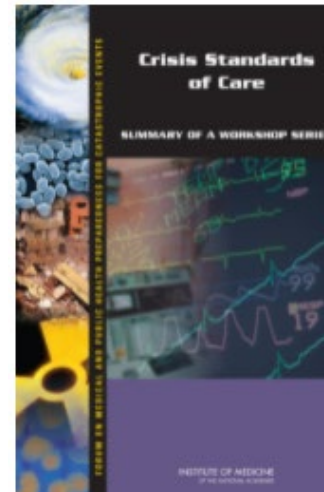
# CHANGING SCIENCE

- Transmission
- Asymptomatic spread
- Isolation/Quarantine
- Diagnostics
- Management



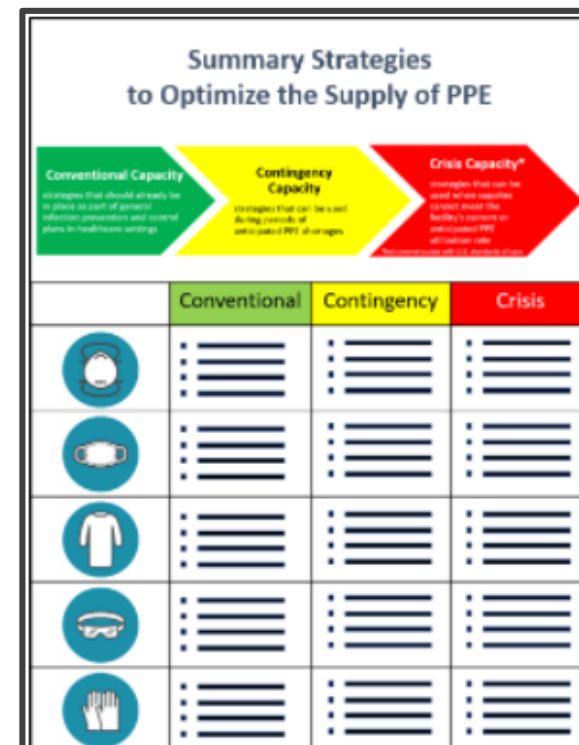
# CRISIS STANDARD OF CARE

- “Guidelines developed before disaster strikes to help health care providers decide how to provide the best possible medical care when there are not enough resources to give all patients the level of care they would receive under normal circumstances.” (IOM 2012)
- Need for specific legal/regulatory powers and protections for healthcare providers in the necessary tasks of allocating and using scarce medical resources and implementing alternate care facility operations



# CONTINUUM OF CARE

- Conventional capacity
  - Consistent with daily practices
  
- Contingency capacity
  - Not consistent with daily practices, but functionally equivalent
  
- Crisis capacity
  - Not consistent with usual standards of care, but sufficient in a catastrophic disaster



www.cdc.gov

# LIMITED RESOURCES

- PPE
- Therapeutics
- Hospital Beds
- Health Care Staff
- Oxygen
- Ventilators
- Vaccine



## SOME RESPONSE NUMBERS

**107,769.6** hours  
worked at SHOC and the  
warehouse  
(March 2-August 28, 2020)

**1,191** media  
inquiries  
(March 5-September 11, 2020)

**2,350** business  
complaints received  
(June 2-September 15, 2020)

**33,994** calls and **20,698**  
emails answered by the Call  
Center  
(March 4-September 11, 2020)

**1,962** PPE  
requests delivered  
to **1,107** facilities  
(Feb. 10-September 11, 2020)



# MODULAR MEDICAL EXPANSION SYSTEM



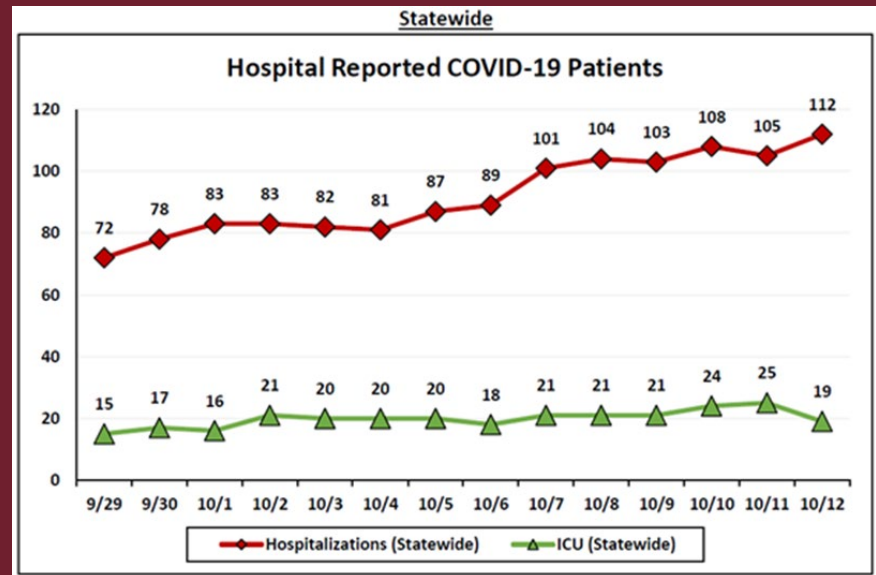
# HEALTHCARE SYSTEM SURVEILLANCE

## Hospitals

- Census
- ICU
- Patients/Ventilators
- COVID positive/suspected
- Staffing

## EMS

- Call volume
- “Syndromic” surveillance
- Responder exposures



# Delaware Pandemic Influenza Summit

February 21, 2006 – Dover Downs Conference Center

500 attended from health, business, education, and religious sectors



**Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona**  
**U.S. Surgeon General**



Governor Ruth Ann Minner greets the press at the February 2006 Pandemic Influenza Summit at Dover Downs Conference Center. She is flanked by (L-R): Delaware Department of Agriculture Secretary Michael T. Scuse; Delaware Health and Social Services Secretary Vincent Meconi; Delaware Division of Public Health Director Dr. Jaime Rivera; Alex M. Azar II, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona; and Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security Secretary David B. Mitchell.

# INFECTION CONTROL

- Social Distance
- Masks
  - Respirator
  - Gaiter
  - Cloth
  - Layers
  - “Transparent”
  - Face Shields
- Hand Hygiene
- Ventilation
- Environmental Cleaning

**CORONAVIRUS  
(COVID-19)**

**PREVENT  
THE SPREAD**

 **STAY HOME IF  
YOU'RE SICK**

 **WASH OR SANITIZE  
HANDS OFTEN.**

 **WEAR A FACE  
COVERING OR MASK**  
if you are not  
fully vaccinated

 **STAY AT LEAST  
6 FT APART**

**Protect yourself  
and others.**


For more information please visit:  
[de.gov/coronavirus](https://de.gov/coronavirus)

Updated 7/13/2021

# DIAGNOSTICS

- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
  - Nasopharyngeal
  - Oropharyngeal
  - Anterior nasal
  - Saliva
  - Oral fluid
- Rapid Antibody
  - IgM vs. IgG
- Rapid Antigen
  - Observed/Monitored
  - Over-the-counter

**2,526,062 Tests**  
**910,449 Persons**



**1,464,094 administered doses of  
COVID-19 vaccine reported to  
state system between mid-  
December 2020 and December  
10, 2021**

Source: State of Delaware – MyHealthyCommunity data portal, [De.gov/healthycommunity](https://de.gov/healthycommunity), 3/8/21

*Photo courtesy of DelDOT*

# DPH PLANNING ACTIVITIES

- Met internally and regularly with the Office of the Governor
- Trained Immunizations Program staff to utilize national vaccine tracking system
- Tabletop exercises
- Stakeholder meetings (Task Force & Communications Subcommittee)
- Ethics Advisory Group meetings
- Received dummy shipment from Pfizer
- Centralizing vaccine program staff
- Enrolling vaccinators in federal program



Mock vaccine delivery at DPH Warehouse, Dec. 11, 2020

# LARGE AND SMALL VACCINATION EVENTS STATEWIDE




Photos by Sean Dooley and Sharon Smith, DPH.





# COORDINATING MESSAGING

## General messaging - social media graphics

**CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**  
DELAWARE'S VACCINATION PLAN



### WHO'S FIRST?



**HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**      **FIRST RESPONDERS**      **LONG-TERM CARE STAFF**

[de.gov/coronavirus](https://de.gov/coronavirus)

**CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**  
DELAWARE'S VACCINATION PLAN



### Fast does not mean unsafe.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) carefully reviews all safety data from clinical trials and authorizes emergency vaccine use only when the expected benefits outweigh potential risks.



[de.gov/coronavirus](https://de.gov/coronavirus)

**CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**  
DELAWARE'S VACCINATION PLAN





### COVID-19 VACCINES ARE TESTED

**On diverse volunteers**  
People of different ages, races, and ethnicities were recruited for clinical trials to ensure equity in research.

[de.gov/coronavirus](https://de.gov/coronavirus)


# TESTIMONIALS


Real Delaware health care and first responders with personalized reasons why they plan to get the vaccine

 | #COVIDVaccineDE 

**"I am getting the Covid-19 vaccine because...**  
*(I want to) put my pointe shoes on and get back to ballet classes and dance.*"

-KATHYLN ROWAN, MD  
PSYCHIATRIST





[de.gov/coronavirus](https://de.gov/coronavirus)

 | #COVIDVaccineDE 

**"I am getting the COVID-19 vaccine because..."**  
*it is better to be safe than sorry.*"

-RAYFIELD BUSH,  
SECURITY,  
SAINT FRANCIS  
HEALTHCARE





[de.gov/coronavirus](https://de.gov/coronavirus)

# RESOURCES/COLLATERAL MATERIALS

- Delaware COVID-19 website is [de.gov/coronavirus](https://de.gov/coronavirus)
  - Sections for the public, providers, and organizations
- DPH's COVID-19 vaccine website is [de.gov/covidvaccine](https://de.gov/covidvaccine)
  - Vaccine Safety section
- My Healthy Community data includes vaccination data

[myhealthycommunity.dhss.delaware.gov/](https://myhealthycommunity.dhss.delaware.gov/)

Get More COVID Data  
For more data on Delaware COVID cases, testing and outcomes, including demographic breakdowns, go to [My Healthy Community](#).

## COVID-19 Vaccine

In anticipation of federal approval of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, the Delaware Division of Public Health is working with federal, state and local stakeholders to plan for an efficient and equitable distribution of a vaccine to all Delaware communities. In anticipation of a phased roll-out of the vaccine, it's the goal of DPH to make safe and effective COVID-19 vaccination available to health care workers, including those who care for vulnerable populations, and other first responders first, followed closely by vulnerable populations and then work to include all who live, work or go to school in Delaware.

This resources on this page will evolve as the Delaware effort moves forward.

See Delaware's Draft Framework (Updated 12.9.20)

Executive Summary | Task Force Members

Information for the General Public | Information for Medical Providers | Information for Agencies, Organizations, and Businesses | Vaccine Safety

Delaware.gov  
MY HEALTHY COMMUNITY  
Delaware Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

SHOWING DATA FOR  
State of Delaware  
Population: 957,248

COVID-19 DASHBOARD / OVERVIEW

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Data Dashboard

SCHOOL & STUDENT CASES

### COVID-19 In-Person Contagious School Cases Dashboard

This dashboard contains information about school and student COVID-19 cases.

[View In-Person Contagious School Cases Dashboard >](#)

# NEXUS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND LAW

- Law is a critical public health tool
- Law can be leveraged to help public health, or it can be a constraint that inhibits public health response.
- There are occasional tensions.



# PUBLIC HEALTH'S AUTHORITY

States have primary “police power” functions (10<sup>th</sup> Amendment).

Public health powers:

- Surveillance and reporting
- Epidemiological investigations
- Vaccination
- Isolation and quarantine



# LAW AND POLICY FOR THE GOOD OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## Mandatory public health actions to protect public health

- Clean Indoor Air Act
- Mandatory childhood lead testing
- Seatbelt requirements

## Examples related to COVID:

- Shelter in place requirements
- Closing schools and daycare centers
- Prohibiting large gatherings
- Isolation and quarantine



# ENABLING STATUTES GRANT DHSS AUTHORITY



*DELAWARE HEALTH  
AND SOCIAL SERVICES*

Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS) has authority over:

- Many disease reporting and investigation duties
- Certain types of businesses

DPH used its statutory and regulatory authority to require:

- Reporting of all COVID-19 test results to DPH (March 2020).
- Reporting of demographic information to DPH (April 2020).

# LAW AND PUBLIC HEALTH USED TO CONSTRAIN INDIVIDUALS

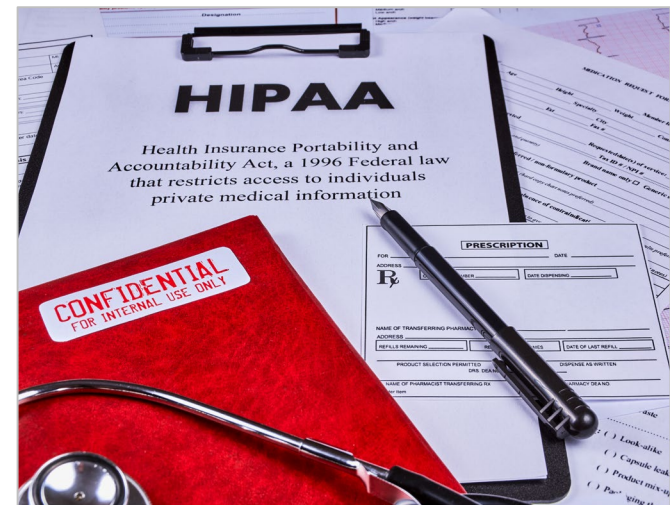
- Travel restrictions
- Isolation and Quarantine
- Fiscal liability
  - U.S. spent \$2.369 billion on Ebola in 2014-2015, including international response (CDC)



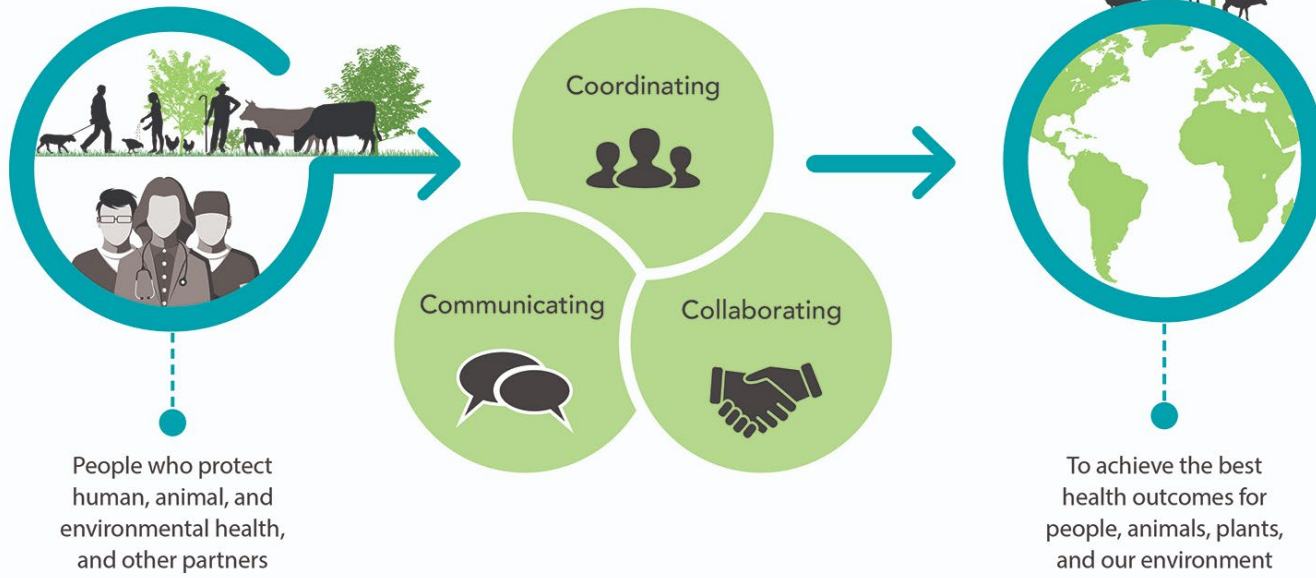


# PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE CONSTRAINED BY THE LAW

- Data privacy and security
  - Public Health Information
  - Delaware more stringent than HIPAA
- Enforcement
- State/Federal Tensions



# One Health



CS302365-A



**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

# THANK YOU

**Delaware COVID-19 website**  
[de.gov/coronavirus](https://de.gov/coronavirus)

**Delaware flu website**  
[flu.Delaware.gov](https://flu.Delaware.gov)

**Delaware Health Alert Network online registration system**  
[healthalertde.org/](https://healthalertde.org/)

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