

# The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

February 2020

## Seasonal influenza keeping Delaware hospitals, providers busy

All Delaware hospitals are reporting very high census counts due to seasonal influenza in the 2019-2020 flu season.

According to the Division of Public Health's (DPH) Weekly Influenza Report, as of February 1, there were 639 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza in Delaware, including 32 hospitalizations. As of February 7, DPH also confirmed seven flu-related deaths have occurred in the state. All but one had not received a flu vaccine. All had underlying health conditions.

DPH reminds Delawareans to get a flu vaccine and to take antiviral medication as directed. People with cold or flu-like symptoms should distance themselves from others and wash hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and dispose of tissues immediately; or cough or sneeze into your inner elbow.

Those sick with the flu should stay home

from work, school, and other gatherings and not return until they are free of fever – with a temperature less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.8 degrees Celsius) without the use of fever-reducing medications – for at least 24 hours. Those who are very sick, are pregnant, or have chronic medical conditions should notify their primary care provider.

For more information, visit [Flu.Delaware.gov](http://Flu.Delaware.gov) or call 1-800-282-8672.

## Free EKG screenings offered to youth ages 8 to 23 on March 15

Delaware youth ages 8 to 23 can receive free EKG screenings on Sunday, March 15, 2020 at the 76er's Field House, 401 Garasches Lane, Wilmington, DE 19801.

Local non-profit organizations Heart In The Game and Déjà vu Safety Solutions are holding the EKG community screening from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to prevent deaths from Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Hands-on CPR/AED training will be offered.

Appointments and a waiver are required. Register at [www.HeartInTheGame.org](http://www.HeartInTheGame.org) or [www.DejaVuSafety.org](http://www.DejaVuSafety.org).



## No confirmed cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus in Delaware

In January, the world watched a respiratory virus outbreak unfold in and outside of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Symptoms are fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

The International Health Regulations Emergency Committee convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, according to news reports and the WHO website, <https://www.who.int/>. According to WHO's website as of February 10, 2020, there are 40,554 globally confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV in 25 countries, with 910 deaths.

In the U.S. as of February 10, 2020, there were 398 people under investigation for 2019-nCoV, including 12 confirmed cases, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website](http://CentersforDiseaseControlandPrevention.org). No confirmed cases are in Delaware. Visit [dhss.delaware.gov/dph](http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph) for the latest updates and materials.

## Delaware General Assembly passes animal welfare bill SB139; to Governor

The Delaware House passed Senate Bill 139 with amendments on January 21, 2020. SB139 makes stricter provisions around how long a dog can be tethered and provides guidelines to outdoor shelter and food and water accessibility requirements. SB 139 also prohibits dogs from running at-large without a leash in public outdoor settings, with the exception of working dogs. It permits dogs off leash on private property or where the property owner has given the dog owner permission. Working Service Dogs are exempt from the leashing requirements.



The bill now goes to the Governor. View it at <https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail?LegislationId=47624>

"People recognize that animals deserve our protection and that they feel pain and discomfort the same way that we do," Delaware Office of Animal Welfare Director Christina Motoyoshi said.



The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) provided “Stop the Bleed” training to Dover Downs staff on January 15. At left, under the guidance of Robin Brown of OEMS, Larry Harvey of Dover Downs stops the simulated severe bleeding on an artificial practice limb within 26 seconds. The glowing red lights simulate severe active bleeding. At right, Edna Yoder of Dover Downs applies a tourniquet under the tutelage of Karen Terzaghi of OEMS. Photos by Donna Sharp.

## Save lives threatened by blood loss by taking a “Stop the Bleed” training

Quick actions by trained and equipped bystanders can stop severe bleeding, stabilize the injured, and hopefully save lives before EMS arrives.

The Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), based within DPH, offers a “Stop the Bleed” training for those with little or no medical training. The one-hour course (30 minutes lecture and 30 minutes hands-on) is available to the public with funding from the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP). Since OEMS’ “Stop the Bleed” outreach began in 2017, over 7,371 individuals (4,849 adults and 2,522 children under 18) have been trained by OEMS staff Jillian Austin, HPP Program Coordinator and Management Analysts Karen Terzaghi and Fred Haas, along with Delaware Medical Reserve Corps members.

OEMS staff distributed tourniquets and tourniquet kits to law enforcement and EMS agencies (ALS and BLS), hospitals, the Delaware Department of Transportation, and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. Tourniquets were distributed to public and charter schools with funding from the Emergency Medical Services for Children program and the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant; private schools will receive them in 2020.

For training information, contact Terzaghi at 302-223-1350 or [OEMS@delaware.gov](mailto:OEMS@delaware.gov). To learn more about “Stop the Bleed,” visit <https://www.dhs.gov/stopthebleed>.

## Public workshop water infrastructure improvement projects Feb. 20

DPH will host a public workshop on February 20, 2020 about water infrastructure improvement projects. The workshop begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Edgehill Shopping Center, 43 South DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19904.

Workshop participants will learn about a funding opportunity through the Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities Drinking Water Grant, which helps public water systems in underserved, small, and disadvantaged communities in meeting Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. Small or disadvantaged communities are defined as communities with populations of less than 10,000 individuals, or communities that do not have the capacity to incur debt sufficient to finance a project or eligible activity and may become disadvantaged as a result of carrying out an eligible activity.

Eligible activities for assistance include investments necessary for a public water system to return to compliance, programs to provide household water quality testing, and state response to a contaminant. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) will accept applications of up to \$609,000. Projects will be solicited beginning February 20 and applications are due March 31, 2020.

For more information, contact Heather Warren, DWSRF Administrator, at 302-744-4739 or visit <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-grant-assistance-small-and-disadvantaged-communities-drinking-water-grant>.



Jae Kim, DPH Public Health Treatment Program Administrator, speaks at the January 16 public hearing addressing updates to the Delaware Food Code. As of January 28, DPH received 11 public comments pertaining to modifying the food code to allow dogs in outdoor seating areas of restaurants. Some comments touched on other aspects of the proposed food code. Photo by Jeff Winslow.



**DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**  
Division of Public Health