

# FYI Weekly

HEALTH CARE NEWS FOR VIRGINIA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

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## 1. VHHA in Action

Each day, VHHA actively works on behalf of its members, their employees, and Virginians to advance the interests of Virginia's hospitals and health care systems. In the past week, here are some developments of interest to Virginia hospitals and health systems:

- In a recent letter to health care providers, **Virginia State Health Commissioner Dr. Karen Shelton** shared updates regarding **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)** communicable disease observations including: an increase in pertussis (whooping cough) cases, monitoring activities for an outbreak of the pathogenic avian influenza in poultry and dairy cattle, an uptick in reporting of invasive Group A Streptococcus (iGAS) cases and outbreaks across Virginia in recent years, and the ongoing mpox outbreak in Africa. Read the letter, which includes guidance for clinicians, [here](#).
- The **Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)**, the **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**, and the **Department of Defense Cyber Crime Center (DC3)** recently issued a [joint advisory](#) about efforts by a group of Iran-based cyber actors to target U.S. organizations, including those in the health care sector, to access computer networks and deploy ransomware attacks. Read more [here](#).
- In separate actions, the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** recently granted emergency use authorization (EUA) for a pair of combined COVID-19 and influenza tests: the Nano-Check dual test is approved for laboratories to detect and differentiate influenza A and B and SARS-CoV-2 in nasal swab specimens, while the Flowflex Plus Home Test is authorized for home use for people aged two and older. Read more [here](#). The FDA also recently approved and granted EUA for updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccines manufactured by ModernaTX Inc. and Pfizer Inc. that include a monovalent component corresponding to the Omicron variant KP.2 strain of SARS-CoV-2. The 2024-2025 vaccines have been updated to

more closely target circulating variants and protect against serious impacts of contracting COVID-19 such as hospitalization and death. Read more [here](#).

- A recent [ruling](#) from the **U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas** effectively blocks the implementation of a final rule from the **Federal Trade Commission** (FTC) that would have prohibited many employers from entering into non-compete contracts with employees. In July, the court [granted a motion for a preliminary injunction](#) that postponed the effective date of the FTC [final rule](#) issued earlier this year that would have made many non-compete agreements unenforceable. Organizations including the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce** pursued litigation challenging the final rule, which had an effective date of Sept. 4. Under the previous standard, non-compete contract language could prohibit workers from pursuing some other employment opportunities.
- The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) recently shared a health alert network (HAN) health advisory to alert health care providers, public health agencies, and public audiences about documented increases in human parvovirus B19 activity in the United States. Parvovirus B19 is a seasonal respiratory virus. The CDC indicates there has been an observed uptick of viral cases in Europe, as well as increasing activity in the U.S. Read more [here](#).
- **HosPAC**, the political action committee of VHHA, is in the midst of its 2024 fundraising campaign and needs support from members of the health care community. Financial contributions of any amount, large or small, help HosPAC support candidates for state office who are committed to strengthening the health care delivery system in Virginia by growing the health care workforce, promoting access to care, and investing in public health. By supporting candidates from both parties who champion these values, HosPAC helps advance the voice of the health care community in state public policy development. Please consider contributing to HosPAC to support this important work on behalf of Virginia hospitals, health systems, and their teams. Visit this [link](#) to make contributions and contact Hannah Coley at [hcoley@vhha.com](mailto:hcoley@vhha.com) with any questions.

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## 2. Register Now for Early Bird Rate on 2024 VHHA Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit

Registration is open for the **2024 Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit**, scheduled for Nov. 6-8 at The Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, VA. The theme for this annual VHHA event is “Come Home to Healthcare.” The Summit programming agenda is centered around topics of interest and opportunities for networking and engagement with fellow leaders and national experts. Summit participants are also eligible for continuing education credits. Discounted early bird registrations rates are available until Sept. 6. Visit this [link](#) to register and contact [events@vhha.com](mailto:events@vhha.com) for questions or registration assistance.

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## 3. Nominate a Hospital Leader for 2024 VHHA Outstanding Service Awards

Now is the time to submit nominations for the **2024 VHHA Outstanding Service Awards**. The awards recognize individuals who have made a real difference to Virginia’s hospitals and health systems, and to health care in general, through selfless, energetic, and passionate service. Awards are presented in the following categories: the Distinguished Service Award, the Meritorious Service Award, and the

Excellence in Governance Award. Each award recognizes those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to contribute to Virginia's hospitals and health systems.

- The **Distinguished Service Award** is given to past or present chief executive officers of member institutions who have long records of performing outstanding, valuable, and unique services to the hospital and health system community.
- The **Meritorious Service Award** honors people other than chief executive officers affiliated with member institutions who have a history of making significant contributions to the health care field – on both a state and local level through commitment to service and leadership. Nominees must be recognized as leaders in health care management and policy issues and be involved in health care from the perspective of management or providing support for delivering health care services.
- The **Excellence in Governance Award** honors people from member hospital or health system governing bodies who have a history of making significant contributions to the health care field – on both a state and local level – through commitment to service and leadership. Nominees must be or have been involved in health care from the governance perspective.

The deadline to submit nomination materials is Sept. 13. The nomination form with submission instructions can be accessed through this [link](#). Read more about VHHA awards and see lists of past recipients [here](#).

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#### 4. Register for Upcoming Sept. 4 Public Health Webinar with VDH Officials

The next webinar in the quarterly public health webinar series for Virginia hospitals and health systems is scheduled for Sept. 4 at noon. The webinar series is hosted by VHHA in collaboration with **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) officials who provide updates on key topics including disease surveillance, modeling, influenza, RSV, and unique pathogens, among others. Register for the free webinar [here](#). Registrants will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about participating in the webinar.

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#### 5. Register for Sept. 10 In-Person VHHA Security & Safety Workgroup Meeting

This year, the **VHHA Board of Directors** approved the creation of the **Security & Safety Workgroup** to bring together safety and security leaders from Virginia hospitals and health systems with the goal of collaborating on efforts around current and future safety, security, and violence prevention activities. The group has met virtually several times this year. Next month, VHHA will host an in-person learning session of the group on Sept. 10 at its offices in Glen Allen, VA. There is no cost to attend the event – advance registration is required, and space is limited. Visit this [link](#) to register and contact Abraham Segres at [asegres@vhha.com](mailto:asegres@vhha.com) with questions.

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#### 6. VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features VCU Health Cardiology Physician Leader

The latest episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Dr. Keyur Shah**, Chief of Advanced Heart Failure at the **VCU Health Pauley Heart Center**. Dr. Shah joins us for a conversation about his career, working with heart failure patients, the VCU Health experience with life-saving left ventricular assist devices, and more. Listen to the episode [here](#) and hear past episodes through this [link](#). Podcast

episodes are also available through these podcast apps and networks: [Apple Podcast](#), [Amazon Music](#), [Spotify](#), [Pandora](#), [Stitcher](#), [TuneIn](#), [SoundCloud](#), [Blubrry](#), [iHeart Radio](#), [Deezer](#), [Podbay](#), [Overcast](#), [Pocket Casts](#), the [Virginia Audio Collective](#), the [Public Health Podcast Network](#), the [World Podcast Network](#), and the [Family Podcast Network](#). The podcast can also be heard on the radio airwaves – episodes air each Sunday at noon on 100.5 FM, 107.7 FM, 92.7 FM, and 820 AM across Central Virginia and 1650 AM in Hampton Roads, 105.1 FM and 1050 AM in Lynchburg, and Wednesdays at 1 p.m. on 93.9 FM in Richmond. Send questions, comments, feedback, or guest suggestions to [pcfpodcast@vhha.com](mailto:pcfpodcast@vhha.com).

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## 7. VNPC Recruiting Hospitals for Perinatal Mental Health Quality Improvement Project

The [Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative](#) (VNPC) is now recruiting hospitals for its perinatal mental health quality improvement project, SMILE, which is fully aligned with the associated [AIM patient safety bundle](#). For hospitals that need support to achieve the CMS “birthing friendly” designation, engagement in this project would satisfy the perinatal quality collaborative participation requirement. Enrollment ends Oct. 1. Contact [info@goVNPC.org](mailto:info@goVNPC.org) for more information about the program, including enrollment.

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## 8. Register for VIPTC Blood Culture Stewardship Webinar on Sept. 12

The **Virginia Infection Prevention Training Center** (VIPTC) will host a free blood culture stewardship webinar on Sept. 12 at noon featuring **Dr. Valeria Fabre**, Associate Medical Director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program and Associate Hospital Epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins Health System, for a discussion on the rationale and evidence for blood culture stewardship and the importance of blood culture stewardship guidance in the context of recent national blood culture bottle shortages. Register for the webinar [here](#). In related news, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently issued a [statement](#) featuring remediation recommendations and noting that appropriate federal agencies are monitoring the ongoing shortage.

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## 9. New Video Highlights Community Health Workers During National CHW Awareness Week

VHHA has produced a [new video](#) featuring the community health workers from **Sentara Health** and **VCU Health** explaining the importance of their work as a bridge to help build trust and relationships between patients in disadvantaged or under-served communities and clinicians and the health care delivery system more broadly. The video is being shared this week in recognition of [National Community Health Worker Awareness Week](#) (Aug. 26-30), which is an event focused on public education regarding the role and work of CHWs, their impact on communities, and more. The **VHHA Foundation** supports certain hospital-based CHW programs through a grant sub-award from the **Institute for Public Health Innovation** (IPHI), supported by the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) of the **U.S Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS).

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## 10. Around the State

Several health systems with hospitals in Virginia have been named to the [Forbes 2024 list of “America’s Best Employers By State.”](#) The list includes **Inova**, **Sentara Health**, **Children’s Hospital of The King’s**

**Daughters, UVA Health, Bon Secours Mercy Health, VCU Health, Carilion Clinic, HCA Healthcare, Riverside Health System, and Ballad Health.**

**UVA Health University Medical Center CEO Wendy Horton**, PharmD; and Virginia Commonwealth University and **VCU Health System President Michael Rao**, PhD; have been named to the 2024 list of 96 academic medical center CEOs to know by [Becker's Hospital Review](#).

**Melinda Hancock**, Executive Vice President and Chief Transformation Officer with **Sentara Health**; **Taylor Hamilton**, Chief Consumer Officer at **Ballad Health**; and **Dr. John Phipps**, MD, Chief Transformation Officer at **Inova Health**; have been named to the 2024 list of 48 chief transformation officers to know by [Becker's Hospital Review](#).

**Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin** recently appointed **Dr. John Harrington**, Vice President of Quality and Safety at **Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters**, to the Advisory Board on Behavioral Analysis; **Dr. Beth Ellen Davis**, Division Director of Neurodevelopment and Behavioral Pediatrics at **UVA Health**, to the Autism Advisory Board; and VHHA Government Affairs Manager **Tori Mabry** to the Virginia African American Advisory Board. Read more [here](#).

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