

FYI Weekly

HEALTH CARE NEWS FOR VIRGINIA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

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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, these are some developments of interest to Virginia hospitals and health systems:

Registration Open for the 2025 Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit in November

- Registration is now open for the **2025 Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit** scheduled for Nov. 5-7, 2025 at the Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, VA. "Insight. Innovation. Impact." is the theme of the Summit presented by **VHHA** and the **VHHA Foundation**. It reflects the powerful journey from bold ideas to meaningful change. The Summit agenda features dynamic keynote speakers, policy conversations, and inspiring peer recognition. It is a platform to explore what's next in healthcare delivery. From navigating federal developments to

showcasing homegrown breakthroughs, the Summit will examine how insight drives innovation — and how innovation drives results. Attend the Summit to be part of the conversation that shapes the future of care in Virginia and beyond. Visit this [link](#) to see the program lineup and to register.

VHHA Hosts Meeting of Board of Directors' Executive Committee

- The **Executive Committee** of the **VHHA Board of Directors** met this week for a discussion of issues of interest and importance to hospitals and health systems, including operational considerations as well as state and federal policy issues.

View VHHA Solutions Webinar on Cybersecurity Strategies to Protect Health Organizations

- **VHHA Solutions, RCM&D, and Pondurance** held a webinar this week on “Maximizing Cybersecurity Spend: Cost-Effective Strategies for Protecting Healthcare Organizations.” The presentation is part of a series being hosted by VHHA Solutions in recognition of **Cybersecurity Awareness Month** during October. A webinar recording can be viewed [here](#) or [here](#). Register for the next webinar in this series scheduled for Oct. 22 at noon through this [link](#).

VHHA Shares Medicare Advantage Resources on its Website

- VHHA has posted a new section on its website with informational resources, including materials that can be downloaded, about Medicare Advantage plans. This includes official government documentation, and educational resources on plan feature comparison charts, frequently asked questions, and more. Visit this [link](#) to learn more and access the available resources.

View VHEMP Webinar Recording from Presentation on ‘Special Pathogen Treatment Centers’

- The **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP)** recently hosted a webinar on Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (RESPTC). View a webinar recording [here](#) and presentation slides through this [link](#).

VHHA Seeks Hospital Staff Input in 2025 Member Feedback Survey

- The **2025 VHHA Member Feedback Survey** is an annual opportunity for individuals who work in VHHA member hospitals and health systems, as well as other stakeholders engaged with the Association, to share their insights and observations about VHHA, its work, programming, and engagement activities. Survey responses help VHHA improve its service to members. Please take a moment to complete the survey and share feedback about VHHA [here](#).

VHHA Encourages Hospital Staff to Consider Applying for Sorensen Political Leaders Program

- As part of its partnership with the **Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership** at the **University of Virginia**, VHHA encourages hospital staff and leaders to apply for the 2026 Political Leaders Program. Applications are being accepted until Nov. 12. The 2026 cohort program will run from March-December. Visit this [link](#) for more information and to access the program application. In 2020, VHHA [entered into a partnership with Sorensen](#) to support its programming and help

identify health care leaders who are strong candidates for the Political Leaders Program. The program draws applicants from across the state and focuses on Virginia politics and governing, policy issues and solutions, regional needs, ethical servant leadership, and efforts to unite the Commonwealth. This program is primarily focused on individuals who are 10-plus years removed from college. Prospective program applicants from VHHA hospitals or health systems are encouraged to contact VHHA President and CEO **Sean T. Connaughton** at sconnaughton@vhha.com to discuss this opportunity and the ways in which VHHA can support applicants.

VHHA Issues Call for 2026 Patient Safety Summit Poster Abstract Submissions

- Ahead of the **2026 Virginia Patient Safety Summit**, VHHA invites staff from member hospitals and health systems to submit poster abstracts showcasing evidence-based quality and safety improvement projects. Submitted abstracts topics may include patient safety, quality improvement, and safety culture; care coordination, patient experience and patient-family engagement; population and community health; and workforce safety and well-being. Abstracts should be 400 words or less and should include tables, graphs, control charts, process maps, or key program drivers. Abstracts should contain data – those that don't will be excluded from consideration – and describe the problem, the intervention, results, and conclusions. The authors of selected abstracts will have the opportunity to record a video slide presentation with VHHA prior to the Summit and those videos will be shared on the online conference platform for attendees to view on-demand during the 2026 Patient Safety Summit, whose theme is “Safe Care, Every Step of the Way: Advancing a Culture of Safety in Healthcare.” Submissions will be accepted from Oct. 6, 2025 to Oct. 24, 2025. Contact **Rachel Pryor** at rpryor@vhha.com with questions.

VHHA in the News

- VHHA actively engages with the news media to share public messaging and coordinate member media appearances to showcase the important work done by Virginia hospitals. That work is reflected in recent coverage from [Axios](#), [Filter Magazine](#), and the [Grand Pinnacle Tribune](#).

News Updates

Federal Government Shutdown Extends Into Second Week

More than one week has passed since the partial government shutdown took effect Oct. 1 after Congress was unable to agree on a temporary plan to fund government functions by the start of the current federal fiscal year. As the shutdown began, the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) shared a [contingency plan](#) explaining that it would continue “any exempt or excepted activities in the event of a lapse in appropriation” including the **Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response** (ASPR) maintaining minimal readiness for all hazards, the **National Institutes of Health** (NIH) continuing research and clinical activities necessary to protect human life and government property, the **Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) continuing activities to support drug and medical device reviews, and the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) continuing to monitor for disease outbreaks. The HHS plan also indicates staff will be available “as necessary to support mandatory funded activities” such as Medicare and Medicaid. However, ever functions of government are being affected. This week,

[news report](#) indicated that the **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)** began “furloughing nearly half its staff,” which could impact tax filing, processing, and collection of revenue. In Congress, Democrats and Republicans remain at odds over extending enhanced premium tax credits which help qualified individuals purchase coverage through Virginia’s version of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace. The enhanced premium tax credits will expire this year if they are not extended by Congress. In 2025, nearly 389,000 Virginians enrolled in coverage through the marketplace. It has been projected that as many as one-fourth of that population could lose coverage if the enhanced premium tax credits expire.

New CDC Immunization Schedule Updates Guidance on COVID-19, Chickenpox Vaccines

This week, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** updated the adult and child immunization schedules related to COVID-19 vaccination and chickenpox immunization. The CDC now encourages people “to apply individual-based decision-making” regarding COVID-19 vaccination. The agency also recommends “that toddlers receive protection from varicella (chickenpox) as a standalone immunization rather than in combination with measles, mumps, and rubella vaccination.” The immunization schedule updates reflect recent recommendations from the CDC **Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)**. Read more [here](#).

VDH Updates Recommendations on Health Care Professionals Exposed to COVID-19, Flu

In a recent [letter](#) to health care providers, **Virginia State Health Commissioner Dr. Karen M. Shelton, MD**, shared updated recommendations for managing health care professionals who are exposed to, or infected with, COVID-19 or seasonal influenza. The updated recommendations indicate that health care professionals infected with COVID-19 or seasonal flu can return to work “when at least 3 days have passed since symptom onset...and they are 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms improving.” After returning to work, the updated recommendations indicate that health care providers “should wear a facemask for source control in all patient care and common areas of the facility for at least 7 days after symptom onset.” Testing is not required for a return to work under the updated recommendations and health care professionals “who are exposed to COVID-19 or seasonal influenza and are asymptomatic should wear a facemask for source control for at least 5 days after last exposure and monitor for symptoms.”

VDH Provides Update on Changes to Reportable Disease Regulations in Virginia

In a recent [letter to clinicians](#), **Virginia State Health Commissioner Dr. Karen M. Shelton, MD**, advises that [Virginia Regulations for Disease Reporting and Control \(12VAC5-90\)](#) have been updated to bring them into compliance with changes in the field of communicable disease detection and control and to conform with state law. Among others, the changes include clarifications regarding influenza lab tests reporting, blood lead level submissions, monkeypox reporting, required reporting of identifying and contact information, and more. Additional information is available from the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)** [here](#).

Events

VHHA Solutions Hosting Cybersecurity Awareness Month Webinar Series

This month, [VHHA Solutions](#) is hosting a special webinar series in recognition of **Cybersecurity Awareness Month**. Each session will highlight the latest trends in cyber threats, real-world examples of how incidents unfold, and practical strategies to protect organizations, employees, and proprietary data. With insights from experts who work to safeguard sensitive information and guide recovery, this series offers actionable takeaways for IT, compliance, and leadership teams alike. The first webinar in this series on the topic of “Maximizing Cybersecurity Spend: Cost-Effective Strategies for Protecting Healthcare Organizations” was held this week. A webinar recording can be viewed [here](#) or [here](#). Learn more about the next webinar in this series scheduled for Oct. 22 at noon [here](#).

VASHRM to Host In-Person Fall Education Day on Nov. 5 at VHHA Offices

The **Virginia Chapter of the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (VASHRM)** will host an in-person Fall Education Day event on Nov. 5 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) at VHHA offices in Glen Allen, VA. The event is open to professionals in healthcare risk management, quality, patient safety, and healthcare leadership. VASHRM is committed to advancing safe, trusted, and patient-centered care by promoting proactive and innovative approaches to managing risk across healthcare organizations. Featured topics for the Fall Education Day lineup include “Virginia Code and Workplace Violence,” “Strengthening Provider Communications,” “AI in Clinical and Operational Settings,” and “When to Settle – Pre-Litigation Demands.” Visit this [link](#) for more event details and to register.

VHHA to Host Nov. 18 ‘Earn While You Learn’ In-Person Workshop for Virginia Hospitals

Hospitals seeking to fill allied health vacancies are encouraged to participate in an upcoming workshop whose programming is focused on supporting hospitals in meeting evolving workforce needs through the innovative “Earn While You Learn” model. During the workshop, representatives from the **UVA Health** “Earn While You Learn” team will deliver a presentation about their program designed to help fill a range of health care roles from entry-level support positions to advanced clinical pathways, including allied health positions. Workshop participants will learn how that model can be adapted and applied by other organizations in a tailored way to meet specific workforce needs. The in-person workshop is scheduled for Nov. 18 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at VHHA offices in Glen Allen, VA. Visit this [link](#) to register and contact VHHA Director of Workforce Initiatives **Sharon Alexander** at salexander@vhha.com with any questions.

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features VCU Health Heart Transplant Patient, Army Veteran

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Kyle Dodd**, a **VCU Health** heart transplant patient and **U.S. Army** veteran who recently represented **Team USA** at the **2025 World Transplant Games** in Germany. He joins us for a conversation about his military service, heart transplant procedure, participation in the World Transplant games, 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](#), [Pocket Casts](#), the [Virginia Audio Collective](#), and the [World Podcast Network](#). The podcast can also be heard on the radio airwaves – episodes air Sundays at 9 a.m. on 100.5 FM, 107.7 FM, 92.7 FM, and 820 AM across Central Virginia and 1650 AM in Hampton Roads. Send questions, comments, feedback, or guest suggestions to pcfpcast@vhha.com.



Around the State



Jason Lineen, MBA, Chief Strategy Officer at **UVA Health**, has been named interim chief of **UVA Health Children's**. Lineen will continue as chief strategy officer while taking on this interim position. Earlier in his career, he held leadership roles at Navigant Consulting and Deloitte, two nationally recognized healthcare consulting firms. Lineen holds a bachelor of business administration degree from the University of Notre Dame and a master of business administration degree, with a certificate in healthcare industry management, from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. Read more [here](#).

Carilion Clinic Family and Community Medicine researchers **Michelle Rockwell**, PhD, RD, and **Dr. John Epling**, MD, received the 2025 Research Mentor of the Year award from students at **Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine**. Rockwell and Epling were nominated by students, whom they mentor and work alongside across all four years of medical school – fostering their professional growth and empowering them to conduct impactful, original research.

