

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:

VHHA Hosts Workplace Violence Data Reporting Task Force Meeting

- This week, VHHA held a meeting of the **Workplace Violence Data Reporting Task Force** that was established to help support hospital and health system members in complying with a new state law that [requires hospitals to document and report health care workplace violence incidents](#). Contact **Abraham Segres** at asegres@vhha.com with questions about the group.

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. An e-mail with a submission link will be distributed on Oct. 6. 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 the [Augusta Free Press](#), [Virginia Business](#), the [Virginia Independent](#), [Insurance News Net](#), and [Bright Gram](#).

News Updates

Federal Government Faces Shutdown with Congress at Odds on Appropriations Legislation

A shutdown affecting many aspects of federal government operations began Wednesday after Congress remained at an impasse on a continuing resolution to fund the government beyond the end of the federal fiscal year on Sept. 30. In its shutdown [contingency plan](#), the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) said it “will continue any exempt or excepted activities in the event of a lapse in appropriation.” This includes 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. One sticking point in congressional deliberations over government funding is a debate 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. Other health policy issues implicated in the shutdown include the potential extension of programs including the Medicare-dependent hospital and low-volume adjustment programs, and telehealth and hospital-at-home flexibilities. Without a government spending plan in place, funding reductions for hospitals through the [Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital \(DSH\) program](#) that supports providers who care for vulnerable, low-income patients were set to take effect Oct. 1. Federal law requires state Medicaid programs to make DSH payments to hospitals that serve a significant share of Medicaid and uninsured patients. Under the Affordable Care Act, state allocations for DSH payments were to be reduced over several years based on the assumption that increasing coverage would minimize the need for that type of funding. However, subsequent [action by Congress](#) delayed the implementation of those cuts. Recently, a bipartisan group of congressional members sent a [letter](#) to House leadership urging action to prevent DSH cuts.

President Trump Threatens Tariffs, Urges Drug Makers to Build U.S. Manufacturing Plants

U.S. President Donald J. Trump said in a [recent social media post](#) that his Administration would impose a “100% Tariff on any branded or patented Pharmaceutical Product, unless a Company IS BUILDING their Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plant in America.” The post further noted that building is defined as “‘breaking ground’ and/or ‘under construction.’” Firms meeting that standards would be spared from the announced tariff. Subsequent to the social media post, the White House [reportedly](#) indicated plans to enact the tariffs have been paused as it seeks to engage in negotiations with drug makers. Earlier this year, the President issued an [executive order](#) declaring that “Americans should not be forced to subsidize low-cost prescription drugs and biologics in other developed countries, and face overcharges for the same products in the United States.” The order directed the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to engage with pharmaceutical makers “to bring prices for American patients in line with comparably developed nations” through regulatory action “to impose most-favored-nation pricing.” It also directed the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to “facilitate direct-to-consumer purchasing programs for pharmaceutical manufacturers that sell their products to American patients at the most-favored-nation price.” Following the President’s recent tariff warning, [Pfizer announced](#) an [agreement with the White House](#) on most favored nation pricing. And the **Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of American** (PhRMA) [announced](#) new domestic infrastructure investment, financial assistance supports for patients, and a new [website](#) to connect patients with manufacturer direct purchase programs.

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](#).

VHCF Announces New Maternal Health Initiative: ‘It Takes a Village’

The **Virginia Health Care Foundation** (VHCF) recently [announced](#) the launch of a new maternal health program designed to bridge gaps in mental health care for moms across the Commonwealth. The [‘It Takes a Village’](#) initiative exists to facilitate support for mothers by partnering with behavioral health providers to offer telehealth and in-person counseling to pregnant or postpartum mothers experiencing

persistent feelings of sadness, anxiety, loneliness, hopelessness, or confusion. The program partners with participating organizations to help moms in need find counseling services.

Events

Register for the VONL Virtual Fall Conference on Oct. 3

Nurse leaders from across the Commonwealth are coming together for the virtual **VONL Fall Conference** today (Friday, Oct. 3) from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The theme for the event is “Humanity and Innovation – Leading the Future of Compassionate, Accountable Care.” The theme represents a concept at the heart of modern nursing leadership – balancing cutting-edge innovation with the timeless commitment to compassionate care. The conference is being hosted as a virtual event with the intent of expanding access to nurse leaders for whom travel and time commitments associated with in-person events can be an impediment to participation. Register through this [link](#) and contact VONLstaff@gmail.com with any event questions.

VHHA Solutions to Host Cybersecurity Awareness Month Webinar Series

This month, [VHHA Solutions](#) will host 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. Learn more and register [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.

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Ballard Health ‘Camp Firefly’ Bereavement Program

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Sarah Hale**, a Hospice Volunteer and Bereavement Coordinator with **Ballad Health**, for a conversation about her work and what inspires it, Ballad Health's Camp Firefly initiative that helps children navigate grief and loss, 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 pcfpodcast@vhha.com.



Around the State



Mannix



Price



Martin

Several Virginia hospital leaders are being recognized as recipients of the [2025 Virginia Women in Leadership Awards](#), which celebrate accomplished female professionals who are trailblazers with impressive career accomplishments and success. This year's class of award winners includes

Augusta Health President and CEO [Mary N. Mannix](#), a member of the **VHHA Board of Directors**; **Sentara Health** Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer [Amber Price](#); and **VHC Health** Vice President of Health Services Integration [Sharon Brickhouse Martin](#).



Children's National Hospital has named **Percival Kane Jr., MHA**, as its new Senior Vice President and Chief of Operations. In this role, Kane will help advance the long-term vision of Children's National and oversee the execution of operational and strategic priorities with a focus on delivering the highest standards of safe, quality pediatric care. Kane joins Children's National from University Hospitals (UH) Ahuja Medical Center, where he served as chief operating officer since 2022. He earned his master's degree in health administration from Saint Louis University School of

Public Health and a bachelor of science degree in public health administration from Dillard University in New Orleans. Kane is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), the National Association of Health Service Executives (NAHSE), and the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA). He also holds a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Certification. Read more [here](#).

Several Virginia hospitals have recently been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* on the 2025-2026 list of [Best Regional Hospitals](#). The list includes **Inova Fairfax Hospital**, **VCU Medical Center**, **Sentara Norfolk General Hospital**, **VHC Health**, **Winchester Medical Center (Valley Health)**, **UVA University**

Medical Center, CJW Medical Center (HCA Virginia), Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, Mary Washington Hospital, Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital, Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital, Henrico Doctors' Hospital (HCA Virginia), Chesapeake Regional Medical Center, Sentara Princess Anne Hospital, Inova Alexandria Hospital, Riverside Regional Medical Center, Sentara Leigh Hospital, Inova Loudoun Hospital, and Centra Lynchburg General Hospital.