



FYI Weekly

HEALTHCARE 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:

Virginia Hospital Leaders Invited to Attend VHHA Centennial Member Appreciation Event on April 15

- The **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)** is inviting hospital leaders to a **Member Appreciation Centennial Celebration** on April 15 at VHHA offices in Glen Allen, VA. Hospital leaders who are engaged with VHHA through participation in events and various Association committees, task forces, and forums are encouraged to attend this event as part of the ongoing celebration of 100 years of service to Virginia's hospitals and health systems. The event will be held April 15 from 5-8 p.m. Please register through this [link](#). Discounted hotel accommodations can be booked [here](#).

Governor Spanberger Signs Bills Related to Drug Costs, Healthcare Workforce

- This week, **Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger** signed a series of bills approved this winter by the **Virginia General Assembly**. Among those measures is [Senate Bill 669](#) intended to prevent pharmacy benefit managers from boosting drug prices, [Senate Bill 405](#) to promote healthcare workforce development with investments in nursing scholarships, and several insurance reform bills to [eliminate certain fees](#) on health insurance premiums and [promote access](#) to health and life insurance to people with HIV/AIDS. The Governor has a mid-April deadline to complete her work on bills approved by the legislature, which will return to Richmond on April 22 to consider amendments or vetoes by the Governor.

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 [Washington Post](#), [USA Today](#), [WVTF](#), the [Virginia Mercury](#), and the [Epoch Times](#).

News Updates

HHS Final Rule Applies Standard Format for Electronic Health Claims Under HIPAA

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** recently issued a [final rule](#) to establish a standard format for the electronic exchange of clinical and administrative documentation to support claims-related processes under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Standardizing healthcare claims attachment transactions is intended to reduce administrative burden and improve data exchange efficiency between health plans and healthcare providers. The final rule is effective May 26.

CMS Issues Guidance Memo on Hospital Food Standards

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently issued a [memorandum](#) regarding hospital patient food and nutrition service expectations under the federal Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) 2025-2030. The guidelines focus on prioritizing whole and minimally processed foods. They are intended to help inform patient nutrition services and related hospital protocols. Under the federal Conditions of Participation, hospitals are advised to ensure that their menus meet patient nutritional needs in accordance with recognized dietary practices, qualified dietitian oversight, maintenance of a current therapeutic diet manual, and integration of dietary services into Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) processes.

CDC Reports Falling Immunization Rates for Several Childhood Vaccines

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) recently issued a [report](#) showing a decline in immunization rates by age two for certain vaccines including the flu, hepatitis b, rotavirus, pneumococcal conjugate, and haemophilus influenzae. The report found those differences in children born in 2019-2020 and those born in 2021-2022. More recently, the CDC in January [announced](#) revisions to its recommended childhood immunization schedule in response to an earlier [directive](#) from **U.S. President Donald Trump** that instructed relevant federal authorities to review the practices of other developed nations. Under the [revised federal standards](#), the CDC recommends fewer vaccinations for all children. In all, the CDC is recommending 11 immunizations for all children, compared to 17 previously recommended by the agency. Read more [here](#).

CMS Report Shows Enrollment Drop, Out-of-Pocket Costs Increase for ACA Marketplace Plans

A new [analysis](#) from the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) shows that average out-of-pocket premium costs for enrollees in ACA health insurance marketplace plans have risen \$65 per month in 2026 over 2025, going from \$113 to \$178, which is equivalent to a 57 percent increase. The analysis also shows an overall decrease in plan enrollment between this year and last year as well as a decline in the share of enrollees receiving subsidy assistance through the premium tax credit mechanism.

Events

VHEMP to Host April 10 Webinar Briefing on National Disaster Medical System

Registration is open for a webinar scheduled for April 10 at noon that will feature a briefing by **National Disaster Medical System** (NDMS) representatives from the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services'** (HHS) **Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response** (ASPR). The briefing will provide an overview and review capabilities for providing healthcare overseas and stateside during emergency operations. The webinar is presented by the **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program** (VHEMP), which is a partnership between the **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH), the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA), and the four regional healthcare coalitions. Register through this [link](#).

Register for the Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit on April 22 in Richmond

Register now for the **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit**, which is scheduled for April 22, 2026 at The Westin-Richmond. "The Preparedness Crossroads: Integrating Legacy Challenges with

Emerging Global Threats” is the theme for the Summit being hosted by the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)** and the **VHHA Foundation**. Summit programming will feature local, state, and national speakers sharing insights on topics related to strengthening the Commonwealth’s preparedness for threats to the healthcare delivery system including cyber-attacks, outpatient center safety and preparedness, continuing operations during a water interruption, department level business continuity, tracking costs during disasters, and supply chain management during disasters. Visit this [link](#) to register and view additional program information.

Register for the Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit, a Virtual Event on May 19

Registration is now open for the 2026 **Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit**, which is scheduled to be held May 19 as a virtual event. “Reimagining the Healthcare Workforce: Innovation, Engagement, and the Future of Work” is the theme of this year’s Summit, which will explore innovative strategies for hospitals to adapt their practices, focusing on developing, recruiting, retaining, and supporting team members in a rapidly changing workplace. Visit this [link](#) to register and view additional program information.

Register for April 15 Pediatric Pandemic Network Virtual Exercise

Register now for an April 15 virtual table-top exercise that is part of the Pediatric Pandemic Network series in which the **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP)** is participating. The upcoming exercise will be facilitated by the **VHHA Emergency Preparedness Department**. The exercise will focus on the scenario for a response to an infectious disease surge that involves pre-hospital, hospital, and interagency partners. The virtual exercise will be hosted from 1-4 p.m. Participants will receive exercise materials and a record of participation. Register through this [link](#). Following registration, the exercise link and materials will be shared. Questions may be directed to preparedness@vhha.com.

Register for VASHRM Spring Conference April 23-24 in Richmond

The **Virginia Chapter of the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (VASHRM)** is hosting its 2026 Spring Conference April 23-24 in Richmond. “Risk at the Crossroads: Navigating a Changing Healthcare Landscape” is the theme for the conference whose agenda includes a legislative update, clinical event debriefing and analysis, AI in clinical risk, service animals in healthcare settings, standardizing documentation of workplace violence risk, litigation risks, defense against malpractice claims, and more. Register through this [link](#).

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features 2026 Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit Speaker

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Lawrence "Larry" Tan**, JD, NRP, the System Safety Officer at **ChristianaCare** in Delaware. He joins us for a conversation about his career in public safety and emergency response, facility and contingency planning in healthcare settings including workplace violence prevention, and his role as a featured speaker at the upcoming **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit** on April 22. 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](#), [Podcast Health](#), 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



Badeau



Clouser



Fletcher



Pollard



Schroeder

Lisa Badeau, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at **UVA Health**; **Tracy Clouser**, Vice President of Communications, Marketing, Planning, and Community Health at **Carilion Clinic**; **Kelli Fletcher**, Assistant Vice President of Consumer Experience and Engagement at **Ballad Health**; **Shira Pollard**, Director of Communications and Marketing at **Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU**; and **Tracey Schroeder**, Chief Communications and External Affairs Officer for **Inova**; have been named to the *Becker's Hospital Review* 2026 list of 96 hospital and health system chief marketing officers to know. Read more [here](#).



Dennis Matheis, President and CEO of **Sentara Health**, recently received the 2026 UNCF M.A.S.K.E.D. Award at the Hampton Roads Mayors' Masked Ball. He is one of four honorees recognized this year for supporting UNCF. Matheis has spent more than 30 years in senior leadership roles in healthcare, previously serving as Executive Vice President of Sentara Healthcare and President of Sentara Health Plans before transitioning to President and CEO. Matheis earned his bachelor of science degree in accounting from the University of Kentucky and practiced as a Certified Public Accountant before entering healthcare.

Meagan Beyers has been promoted to System Director of Emergency Management at **VHC Health**. Beyers has more than a decade of experience, specializing in hospital system-wide preparedness, response, and resilience. She previously served as Emergency Management Coordinator and Patient Care Director at VHC Health. She earned her bachelor of science degree in nursing and master of science degree in nursing leadership and management at The George Washington University.



Dr. Elena Garrett, Emergency Department Physician at **Riverside Regional Medical Center** and Service Line Chief of Emergency Services at **Riverside Health**, has been named Medical Director of the Year by the **Virginia College of Emergency Physicians**. She previously served as Medical Director of the Emergency Department at Riverside Regional Medical Center. Dr. Garrett earned her master of science and doctorate of medicine degrees at the **VCU School of Medicine**.