



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 systems. In the past week, these are some developments of interest to Virginia hospitals and health systems:

VHHA Invites Hospital Staff, Stakeholders to Free Documentary Screenings Honoring Healthcare Providers

- In celebration and recognition of hospitals and their teams, the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA) is inviting hospital leaders, staff, and stakeholders to join us as guests at a series of free screenings of a new documentary being premiered around the Commonwealth in May. *Healing and Hope: Hospitals' Legacy of Service in Virginia* is a new documentary produced by VHHA that highlights the positive economic and public health impact of hospitals, their evolving work, and their history in Virginia as told through the stories of Virginia patients and providers. VHHA is hosting the free regional screenings in recognition of **National Nurses Week**, **National Hospital Week**, and the Association's 100th anniversary. VHHA encourages hospital leaders, team members, and community partners to attend one of the screenings in their home region. Documentary showings will be held on **Monday, May 11 at The Millwald Theatre in Wytheville** (Southwest Virginia, RSVP [here](#)); **Tuesday, May 12 at The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen** (Central Virginia, RSVP [here](#)); **Wednesday, May 13 at the Alamo Drafthouse Woodbridge** (Northern Virginia, RSVP [here](#)); **Thursday, May 14 at the Woodstock Community Theatre** (Shenandoah Valley, RSVP [here](#)); **Friday, May 15 at The American Theatre in Hampton** (Hampton Roads, RSVP [here](#)); and **Monday, May 18 at The Grandin Theatre in Roanoke** (RSVP [here](#)). Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for all showings with screenings at 6:30 p.m. It is free to attend the screenings and refreshments will be provided. Guests are strongly encouraged to RSVP. View a documentary trailer [here](#).

View VHHA Webinar Recording on General Assembly Legislative and Budget Updates

- This week, the **VHHA Government Affairs Team** hosted a webinar for hospital team members to provide a recap of legislative developments from the 2026 **Virginia General Assembly** that hospitals and health systems need to know. This presentation offered a comprehensive analysis of significant legislative and budgetary changes impacting hospitals and health systems across the Commonwealth. It also featured a preview of the upcoming election cycle as well as Virginia's evolving political landscape and how those developments may shape future healthcare policy. View a webinar recording [here](#).

News Updates

Recognizing National Nurses Week May 6-12

National Nurses Week is being celebrated May 6-12, 2026. The history of this recognition dates to the 1950s, according to the **American Nurses Association** (ANA), which [notes](#) that National Nurse Week was observed Oct. 11-16 in 1954. Around that time, efforts were also made at the federal government level to achieve formal recognition for Nurses Week. Further efforts followed in the ensuing years until 1974 when then-**U.S. President Richard Nixon** issued a proclamation and designated a week in February as National Nurses Week. Subsequently, former **U.S. President Ronald Reagan** signed a proclamation in

1982 establishing May 6 as “National Recognition Day for Nurses.” In the 1990s, the ANA Board of Directors designated May 6-12 as National Nurses Week. The celebration of Nurses Week is linked to the May 12 birthday of Florence Nightingale, who is viewed as the founder of modern nursing.

CMS Rolls Out Electronic Prior Authorization Initiative as Part of Digital Transformation Effort

As part of the ongoing federal work with health plans to [streamline](#) the insurance prior authorization process, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently [announced](#) the addition of electronic prior authorization to the government’s [Health Technology Ecosystem](#). This is part of a broader push to modernize the nation’s digital health system. The CMS announcement indicates that electronic prior authorization interfaces for impacted payers are mandated to go live for Medicare Advantage, Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and Health Insurance Marketplace plans on Jan. 1, 2027.

HHS Announces Action Plan Aimed at Reducing Psychiatric Overprescribing

As part of the broader Make American Healthy Again (MAHA) initiative, the U.S. **Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) this week [announced](#) a plan to reduce overprescribing of psychiatric medications. The effort includes education and outreach, program and policy actions, and research-to-practice efforts. As part of this work, HHS is encouraging providers to prioritize informed consent and shared decision-making, and to regularly review the risks and benefits of psychiatric medications with patients. In a [letter](#) shared with healthcare providers, HHS and affiliated agencies highlighted non-medication approaches as an alternative when clinically appropriate. The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) also released guidance for physicians and other practitioners on the importance of deprescribing and related medical care. Additional education and policy efforts to support this work are also being deployed.

VAFC to Host 2026 Virtual Summit on Professional Development Training June 8-12

The **Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics** (VAFC) is hosting a Virtual Summit June 8-12 focused on professional development training for grant strategy, trauma-informed care, diabetes technology, and workplace well-being. The program is affordable, flexible, and convenient. Registration for non-member organizations is \$100 for an entire team. View the full program agenda and register [here](#).

VDH Investigates New Measles Case Amid Reports of Virginia Hantavirus Exposure

The **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) recently [announced](#) that it has been notified of a confirmed case of measles involving an out-of-state resident who passed through **Washington Dulles International Airport** Thursday, April 23 and Friday, April 24 after international travel. The individual passed through Concourse B at the airport on those dates. To date in 2026, [Virginia](#) has 23 reported cases of measles. There were five cases in 2025. So far in 2026, the U.S. has had 1,814 confirmed measles cases, which is 79 percent of the 2,286 confirmed cases documented across the nation in all of 2025, which at the time was the highest annual count in several decades. The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) [reports](#) that the overwhelming majority of current year cases have been documented in 37 U.S. jurisdictions. Meanwhile, recent [news reports](#) indicate that a Virginia traveler aboard a cruise ship that experienced a [hantavirus](#) outbreak has returned home and is under public health monitoring but has not shown any signs of infection.

Events

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

Register 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 IHI Open School Quality & Patient Safety Certificate Program

The **VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence** is again offering hospital team members the opportunity to participate in the **Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open School Certificate Program in Quality & Patient Safety**. Through the online learning modules available, program participants have one year to complete 13 core courses (from a menu of more than 30) to earn a Basic Quality & Safety Certificate. Those courses take an estimated 13-22 hours to complete, and 17.75 continuing education credits are available for the 13 courses. The [courses](#) offer a dynamic learning environment for healthcare professionals of all levels. IHI is an independent not-for-profit organization and a leading innovator, convener, partner, and driver of results in health and healthcare improvement worldwide. Its online courses are created by world-renowned faculty in quality improvement, patient safety, triple aim for populations, person- and family-centered care, and leadership. Content is delivered through narrative, video, and interactive discussion. Access to courses will be available from June 1, 2026-May 30, 2027. Healthcare professionals including physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, hospital managers, quality, safety, risk management, patient experience, and population health staff and leaders are encouraged to apply for the program. The cost is \$199 to participate or \$399 without the VHHA group rate. The VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence will host a May 14 informational webinar about the IHI Open School Certificate Program in Quality & Patient Safety program for 2026-2027. Register for the webinar [here](#). Please contact **Rachel Pryor** with questions at rpryor@vhha.com.

VHHA to Host June 11 Webinar on VDH Guidance for Optimizing MDRO Flags in EDCC

Patient transfers involve dozens of critical safety elements in a single handoff moment. A patient’s infection status – including pending laboratory results, known colonization or active infection with a multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO), and the transmission-based precautions currently in place – is among the most critical information to convey. Non-disclosure of such details can lead to potential exposures for healthcare workers and patients, resulting in costly contact investigations for hospitals. A webinar being hosted at 10 a.m. on June 11 will provide information on two layers of protection to prevent such miscommunications: the new MDRO Communications Guide from the **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) and optimizing the use of the MDRO flags in the Emergency Department Care Coordination System (EDCC). Register for the webinar [here](#).

VHEMP to Host June 12 Webinar Briefing with National Weather Service on 2026 Hurricane Season

The **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP)** – a partnership between the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**, the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)**, and the four regional healthcare coalitions – is hosting a one-hour webinar on June 12 at noon featuring **Katie Carter**, Emergency Response Specialist with the **National Weather Service (NWS)**. The briefing will focus on the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season and available NWS resources to assist in readiness and response. Register for the event [here](#).

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Shenandoah Valley Dental Clinic Director

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Dr. Cameron Roberts, DDS**, Dental Director for the **Augusta Regional Dental Clinic** that provides oral healthcare to underserved individuals in the Shenandoah Valley, and a practitioner with **Dental Health Associates**. He joins us for a conversation about his personal and professional journey, family history with dentistry, the work of the clinic, the anticipated impact of federal Medicaid funding cuts, 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](#), [Podcast Health](#), and the [World Podcast Network](#). The podcast can also be heard on the radio airwaves – episodes air Sundays at 10 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



The effort Virginia hospitals devote to promoting patient safety is being recognized in a new national assessment by the Leapfrog Group, whose [Spring 2026 Hospital Safety Grades rank Virginia second overall among states for top hospital patient safety performance](#). Virginia hospitals have consistently been top performers in the bi-annual rankings from the **Leapfrog Group**.

For the Spring 2026 period, 59.2 percent of Virginia hospitals evaluated by the Leapfrog Group received an “A” grade, which ranked second overall among states. The Hospital Safety Grade program assigns letter grades to general acute care hospitals across the nation based on data from the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)**, the Leapfrog Group, and other sources. In the latest rankings, 40 of 69 Virginia private general acute care hospitals evaluated received an “A” grade. Hospitals from the following health systems earned A grades during this rating period: **Augusta Health, Bon Secours, Carilion Clinic, Centra Health, HCA Virginia, Inova, Lifepoint**

Health, Riverside Health, Sentara Health, UVA Health, Valley Health, and VCU Health. Virginia also ranked second overall among states in the Fall 2025 ratings. The Commonwealth previously ranked [fifth overall in the Spring 2025 rankings](#) and second in the [Fall 2024](#), [Spring 2024](#), [Fall 2023](#), [Fall 2022](#), and the [Spring 2022](#) periods. The Commonwealth was [first overall in the Fall 2021 rankings](#), fourth in Spring 2021, sixth in Fall 2020, third in Fall 2019, second in Spring 2019, third in Fall 2018, and fifth in Spring 2018. Read more [here](#).