



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 Hosts Webinar on Workplace Violence Reporting, Hospital Weapons Ban Laws

- This week, VHHA hosted a webinar to provide hospital members with updates on state laws pertaining to healthcare workplace violence data reporting and a new hospital weapons ban. The webinar provided updates on recent action by the **Virginia General Assembly** this year and shared guidance on healthcare workplace violence data reporting requirements as well as another law that restricts weapons in facilities providing mental health, developmental, and emergency care services. Contact **Abraham Segres** at asegres@vhha.com with questions.

Watch Video Recap of 2026 Virginia Emergency Preparedness Summit

- A video recap of the 2026 **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit** held in April at The Westin-Richmond can be viewed online [here](#). "The Preparedness Crossroads: Integrating Legacy Challenges with Emerging Global Threats" was the theme for the Summit hosted by the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)** and the **VHHA Foundation**. During the Summit, an audience of more than 250 attendees engaged with Summit programming 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, and supply chain management during disasters. Participants were also eligible to earn continuing education credits. Read more about the event [here](#), view the program brochure at this [link](#), and see an event photo gallery [here](#).

View VHHA Webinar Recording 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. VHHA recently hosted a webinar to provide information on two layers of protection to prevent such miscommunication: 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). View a webinar recording [here](#).

View VHHA Documentary on Hospital Stories, Healthcare History Across the Commonwealth

- The new short film VHHA produced to honor healthcare professionals during the Association's [100th anniversary](#) is available online. *Healing and Hope: Hospitals' Legacy of Service in Virginia* is the documentary title and the film can be viewed online [here](#). In May, the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)** hosted a series of events in theaters around Virginia to show the short film 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. Free film screening events were hosted May 11-18 in Wytheville, Glen Allen,

Woodbridge, Woodstock, Hampton, and Roanoke during **National Nurses Week** and **National Hospital Week**. Read more about the project [here](#). View a documentary trailer [here](#), an accompanying program [here](#), and photos from the premiere events through this [link](#).

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 [WDBJ](#), [Virginia Business](#), and [Insurance News Net](#).

News Updates

Virginia General Assembly, Governor Finalize State Budget Deal Ahead of July 1 Deadline

With days to spare, the **Virginia General Assembly** and **Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger** reached an accord to finalize [compromise budget legislation](#) that sets state government spending levels for the two-year period that began July 1. The deal arrived several months after the legislature adjourned in March without approving a budget bill to fund state government operations for the state fiscal year (SFY) 2026-2028 period. A key holdup in the process was disagreement between the **Virginia House of Delegates** and the **Virginia Senate** on tax incentives for data centers. The budget deal includes [language establishing a data center electricity consumption tax](#) that is projected to generate \$600 million annually for the state general fund. It also contains provisions related to further study and analysis of the impact of data centers as well as enhanced environmental oversight of data centers. This week, the legislature accepted the Governor's [amendments](#) to the budget as a final step in the approval process. In a subsequent [statement](#), Governor Spanberger said that through the budget "Virginia is charting a path toward a stronger, more secure, and more affordable future for every family who calls our Commonwealth home." Several VHHA priority provisions related to Medicaid payments, funding for medical education residency slots, workforce development, and behavioral health programmatic support are included in the budget package. Looking ahead, VHHA will focus advocacy efforts on preparing for the 2027 legislation session and building on the progress in this biennial budget while advancing policies that strengthen the financial sustainability of Virginia's hospitals and health systems.

Virginia Measles Outbreak Spreads in Buckingham, Cumberland Counties

There have been more than 140 [measles cases](#) in Virginia so far this year – a number far greater than the single digit total case count in 2025 – with more than 80 percent of those associated with an active outbreak, according to the **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH). The state health agency recently [announced](#) that there are active measles outbreaks in Buckingham and Cumberland counties. So far in 2026, the U.S. has had more than 2,130 confirmed measles cases, which represents 93 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 most current cases have been documented in 41 U.S. jurisdictions.

New Laws Take Effect on July 1: Workplace Violence Reporting, Test Results, Non-Compete Contracts

In Virginia, July 1 marks the start of a new state fiscal year. It is also the effective date for several new laws enacted by the **Virginia General Assembly**. Among them is a [law](#) that amends an existing statute to clarify reporting requirements for incidents of workplace violence in hospitals. The legislation also directs the state **Board of Health** to promulgate regulations to implement its provisions and calls on VDH to publish a report on healthcare workplace violence statistics by the end of next year. Another [law](#) requires healthcare entities to wait 72 hours before disclosing test results that may indicate malignancy or genetic health markers in a patient's health records, with some exceptions. New state [laws](#) also restrict employers from initiating or enforcing non-compete contracts with healthcare professionals. Additional information about new state laws approved by the legislature, including their effective dates and implications, is available on the [VHHA website](#). A summary of many of those statutory changes is also available in a VHHA [webinar recording](#) that recaps legislative developments from this year.

HosPAC Launches '100 for 100' New Donor Push, Contributions Help Support Hospital Advocacy

The start of July coincides with the effective date of several new state laws that apply to hospitals, healthcare providers, and the communities they serve. From workforce development and reimbursement policies to regulatory changes and public health initiatives, decisions made in Richmond influence how hospitals deliver care, support staff, and meet patient needs. Sustained advocacy efforts that reflect the voice of hospitals are a critical part of the process. The work of HosPAC, the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association's political action committee, helps advance that engagement. In honor of the VHHA centennial anniversary in 2026, HosPAC has launched the "100 for 100 Campaign" with a goal of welcoming 100 new donors as the Association celebrates 100 years of leadership, partnership, and advocacy on behalf of Virginia's hospitals. That proud legacy is a foundation to build a strong future in the next century. Each first-time contribution represents another voice supporting Virginia hospitals and health systems at the **Virginia General Assembly**. Growing the community of hospital advocates strengthens HosPAC's ability to build relationships with policymakers and ensures that hospitals have a strong, unified voice on healthcare advocacy. Read more about the campaign [here](#) and visit this link to contribute [today](#). Questions about HosPAC can be directed to **Hannah Coley** at hcoley@vhha.com.

Virtual Sessions on Hospital Requirement to Report Sickle Cell Diagnoses Set for July, August

[State law](#) requires hospitals, health clinics, and independent laboratories to report patients diagnosed with sickle cell disease to the Virginia Statewide Sickle Cell Disease (SSCD) Registry. The **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) is now expanding statewide implementation of the registry and has informed healthcare providers of the obligation to begin consistently reporting applicable patient data by August 2026, including eligible cases dating back to July 1, 2024. VDH has scheduled informational webinars on [July 21](#), [July 27](#), and [Aug. 6](#), each starting at 4 p.m. Virtual technical assistance sessions will be hosted on [Aug. 11](#) at 4 p.m., [Aug. 19](#) at noon, and [Aug. 27](#) at 4 p.m. Questions regarding the registry or reporting requirements can be directed to sicklecellregistry@vdh.virginia.gov.

Congressional Committee Advances Legislation on Non-Profit Hospital Reporting Standards

This week, the **Ways and Means Committee** in the **U.S. House of Representatives** voted to advance the [Tax-Exempt Hospital Transparency Act \(H.R. 9504\)](#) that proposes additional reporting requirements for certain non-profit hospitals (such as those classified as large tax-exempt hospitals and high-revenue tax-exempt hospitals) to the **Internal Revenue Service** (IRS). View more information about the legislation [here](#).

Events

VASHRM Issues Call for Speakers at Upcoming Healthcare Risk Management Educational Events

The **Virginia Chapter of the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (VASHRM)** has issued a [call for speakers](#) for upcoming conferences and educational events. The group indicates it is “looking for engaging presentations that provide practical insights, innovative solutions, and actionable strategies for risk management professionals” on topics including involuntary behavioral health commitments, artificial intelligence risk financing, making the leadership case for risk programs, the consent rights of teens, safe discharges for unhoused individuals, death with dignity, and the medical malpractice cap. Healthcare leaders, risk professionals, attorneys, clinicians, technology specialists, and operational strategists with expertise and insight on those topics are encouraged to submit a speaking proposal. Submissions can be made through the link above or via e-mail: vashrm2@gmail.com.

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Valley Health System Leader Mark Nantz

This episode of VHHA’s *Patients Come First* podcast features a conversation with **Valley Health** President and CEO **Mark Nantz** that covers how the health system recently won prestigious recognition as one of the top 15 systems in the nation, reflections on his tenure as VHHA Board Chair, how Valley is adapting to coming health policy and funding changes in H.R. 1, 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



Alexander



Curylo



Lesser



Thompson

Jason Alexander, CISO and VP of Information Security at **VCU Health**; **Paul Curylo**, VP and Chief Information Security Officer at **Inova**; **Nate Lesser**, CISO at **Children's National Hospital**; and **Greg Thompson**, Chief Information Security Officer at **VHC Health**; have been named as Healthcare Finalists in the 2026 Capital CISO ORBIE Awards. The ORBIE Awards honor CISOs who set the standard for leadership. This recognition celebrates excellence in security leadership – driving growth, inspiring teams, and transforming organizations across the Capital area.



VCU Health Tappahannock Hospital has announced the hire of **Abby Denby**, DNP, RN, as its new Chief Nursing Officer (CNO). Denby will guide the strategic and operational aspects of patient care and nursing for the hospital, including education, research and community outreach. Denby began her nursing career at VCU Medical Center before transitioning to Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital where she worked for more than 20 years in various leadership roles. She most recently served as the chief clinical officer at Hospice of the Piedmont. Denby is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the American Nurses Association, and the Virginia Nurses Association. She earned an associate degree in Nursing at Piedmont Virginia Community College, a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Old Dominion University, a master of science degree in nursing from the University of Virginia, and a doctor of nursing practice degree from James Madison University. Read more [here](#).

Children's National Hospital has named **Nick Mendyka** as its new Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, effective July 13. Mendyka brings deep healthcare finance experience and a strong track record of strategic, operational, and financial leadership across complex health systems. In this role, he will oversee financial strategy and operations in support of the work to improve the health of children through care, advocacy, research, and education. His past experience includes leadership roles with Jefferson Health in Philadelphia, PA, Allina Health in Minneapolis, MN, and **UVA Health**. Mendyka earned an undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a master's degree in healthcare administration and management from Virginia Commonwealth University.



Augusta Health, Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital, Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, UVA Health Haymarket Medical Center, UVA Health Prince William Medical Center, and Warren Memorial Hospital have been named to the *Becker's Hospital Review* 2026 100 great community hospitals [list](#).