

FYI Weekly

HEALTH CARE NEWS FOR VIRGINIA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

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1. 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, here are some developments of interest to Virginia hospitals and health systems:

- This week, VHHA held a meeting of the **Healthcare Safety & Security Workgroup**, whose members include hospital safety and security leaders focused on sharing experiences, ideas, and best practices regarding current and future safety, security, violence prevention, and response activities in Virginia hospitals and health systems. Contact Abraham Segres at asegres@vhha.com with questions about the workgroup.
- VHHA held a meeting of the **Payor Advisory Committee** this week. The Committee is a forum for hospital payor relations and revenue cycle leaders to discuss priority issues and ongoing payor-related challenges. Contact Craig Connors at cconnors@vhha.com to inquire about the committee.
- This week, the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** approved and granted emergency use authorization (EUA) for updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccines manufactured by ModernaTX Inc. and Pfizer Inc. that include a monovalent component corresponding to the Omicron variant KP.2 strain of SARS-CoV-2. The 2024-2025 vaccines have been updated to more closely target circulating variants and protect against serious impacts of contracting COVID-19 such as hospitalization and death. Read more [here](#).
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** recently [declared](#) a global health emergency due to "the upsurge of mpox in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and a growing number of countries in Africa." It is the second such determination in two years' time due to mpox.
- The **White House**, through the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**, is pressing health insurance companies to enhance consumers experience by providing more

- straightforward information about coverage and making claims and appeals processes less burdensome, with a particular focus on easing claims and appeals processes. Read a letter from federal officials to health insurance company leaders [here](#).
- The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently issued a report summarizing data on submitted complaints and enforcement action pertaining to applicable sections of the Public Health Service Act through June 30, 2024. CMS has received more than 16,000 complaints, many of which are related to provisions of the No Surprises Act. Read more [here](#).
 - The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) has extended the application submission deadline for the ACO Primary Care Flex Model (ACO PC Flex Model) through Aug. 23 to provide applicants with more time to make submissions. The ACO Primary Care Flex Model (ACO PC Flex Model) is a voluntary model that will focus on primary care delivery in the Medicare Shared Savings Program. It will test how prospective payments and increased funding for primary care in accountable care organizations (ACO) impact health outcomes, quality, and costs of care. The flexible payment design will empower participating ACOs and their primary care providers to use more innovative, team-based, person-centered and proactive approaches to care. The model, which starts Jan. 1, 2025, aims to grow participation in ACOs and the Shared Savings Program and increase the number of people with Medicare in an accountable care relationship. Read more [here](#).
 - VHHA recently issued the **2024-2025 Membership Directory**, an annual publication that features summary listing information about Virginia hospitals and health systems, VHHA program areas and staff, associate members, **VHHA Solutions** endorsed partners, and more. Access the VHHA 2024-2025 Membership Directory [here](#).
 - Several national organizations have sounded a warning about blood shortages, including the [American Red Cross](#), which reported an “emergency” 25 percent decline in the national blood inventory. Groups like the [Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies](#) and [America’s Blood Centers](#) are urging people to donate blood to help replenish supplies amid the ongoing shortage.
 - **HosPAC**, the political action committee of VHHA, is in the midst of its 2024 fundraising campaign and needs support from members of the health care community. Financial contributions of any amount, large or small, help HosPAC support candidates for state office who are committed to strengthening the health care delivery system in Virginia by growing the health care workforce, promoting access to care, and investing in public health. By supporting candidates from both parties who champion these values, HosPAC helps advance the voice of the health care community in state public policy development. Please consider contributing to HosPAC to support this important work on behalf of Virginia hospitals, health systems, and their teams. Visit this [link](#) to make contributions and contact Hannah Coley at hcoley@vhha.com with any questions.

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2. Register Now for Early Bird Rate on 2024 VHHA Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit

Registration is open for the **2024 Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit**, scheduled for Nov. 6-8 at The Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, VA. The theme for this annual VHHA event is “Come Home to Healthcare.” The Summit programming agenda is centered around topics of interest and opportunities for networking and engagement with fellow leaders and national experts. Summit participants are also eligible for continuing education credits. Discounted early bird registrations rates

are available until Sept. 6. Visit this [link](#) to register and contact events@vhha.com for questions or registration assistance.

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3. Nominate a Hospital Leader for 2024 VHHA Outstanding Service Awards

VHHA is pleased to announce that nominations for the **2024 VHHA Outstanding Service Awards** are now being accepted. The awards recognize individuals who have made a real difference to Virginia's hospitals and health systems, and to health care in general, through selfless, energetic, and passionate service. Awards are presented in the following categories: the Distinguished Service Award, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Excellence in Governance Award. Each award recognizes those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to contribute to Virginia's hospitals and health systems.

- The **Distinguished Service Award** is given to past or present chief executive officers of member institutions who have long records of performing outstanding, valuable, and unique services to the hospital and health system community.
- The **Meritorious Service Award** honors people other than chief executive officers affiliated with member institutions who have a history of making significant contributions to the health care field – on both a state and local level through commitment to service and leadership. Nominees must be recognized as leaders in health care management and policy issues and be involved in health care from the perspective of management or providing support for delivering health care services.
- The **Excellence in Governance Award** honors people from member hospital or health system governing bodies who have a history of making significant contributions to the health care field – on both a state and local level – through commitment to service and leadership. Nominees must be or have been involved in health care from the governance perspective.

The deadline to submit nomination materials is Sept. 13. The nomination form with submission instructions can be accessed through this [link](#). Read more about VHHA awards and see lists of past recipients [here](#).

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4. Register for Upcoming Sept. 4 Public Health Webinar with VDH Officials

The next webinar in the quarterly public health webinar series for Virginia hospitals and health systems is scheduled for Sept. 4 at noon. The webinar series is hosted by VHHA in collaboration with **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)** officials who provide updates on key topics including disease surveillance, modeling, influenza, RSV, and unique pathogens, among others. Register for the free webinar [here](#). Registrants will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about participating in the webinar.

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5. Register for Sept. 10 In-Person VHHA Security & Safety Workgroup Meeting

This year, the **VHHA Board of Directors** approved the creation of the **Security & Safety Workgroup** to bring together safety and security leaders from Virginia hospitals and health systems with the goal of collaborating on efforts around current and future safety, security, and violence prevention activities. The group has met virtually several times this year. Next month, VHHA will host an in-person learning session of the group on Sept. 10 at its offices in Glen Allen, VA. There is no cost to attend the event –

advance registration is required and space is limited. Visit this [link](#) to register and contact Abraham Segres at asegres@vhha.com with questions.

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6. VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Inova Trauma Care Physician Leader

The latest episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Dr. Paula Ferrada**, a board-certified surgeon, mentor, and educator who serves as the Division Chief of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery at **Inova**. She joins us for a conversation about how family influence attracted her to medicine, her early days as a beauty pageant winner and television host in her native Columbia, her path to the U.S. to pursue her medical career, her views on the importance of mentorship, 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](#), [Overcast](#), [Pocket Casts](#), the [Virginia Audio Collective](#), the [Public Health Podcast Network](#), the [World Podcast Network](#), and the [Family Podcast Network](#). The podcast can also be heard on the radio airwaves – episodes air each Sunday at noon on 100.5 FM, 107.7 FM, 92.7 FM, and 820 AM across Central Virginia and 1650 AM in Hampton Roads, 105.1 FM and 1050 AM in Lynchburg, and Wednesdays at 1 p.m. on 93.9 FM in Richmond. Send questions, comments, feedback, or guest suggestions to pcfpodcast@vhha.com.

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7. CDC Issues Warning on Threat of Human Parovirus B19

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) recently shared a health alert network (HAN) health advisory to alert health care providers, public health agencies, and public audiences about documented increases in human parvovirus B19 activity in the United States. Parvovirus B19 is a seasonal respiratory virus. The CDC indicates there has been an observed uptick of viral cases in Europe, as well as increasing activity in the U.S. Read more [here](#).

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8. Register for VIPTC Blood Culture Stewardship Webinar on Sept. 12

The **Virginia Infection Prevention Training Center** (VIPTC) will host a free blood culture stewardship webinar on Sept. 12 at noon featuring **Dr. Valeria Fabre**, Associate Medical Director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program and Associate Hospital Epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins Health System, for a discussion on the rationale and evidence for blood culture stewardship and the importance of blood culture stewardship guidance in the context of recent national blood culture bottle shortages. Register for the webinar [here](#). In related news, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently issued a [statement](#) featuring remediation recommendations and noting that appropriate federal agencies are monitoring the ongoing shortage.

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9. Federal District Court Blocks Enforcement of FTC Non-Compete Final Rule

A [ruling](#) issued this week by the **U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas** effectively blocks the implementation of a final rule from the **Federal Trade Commission** (FTC) that would have prohibited many employers from entering into non-compete contracts with employees. In July, the court [granted a](#)

[motion for a preliminary injunction](#) that postponed the effective date of the FTC [final rule](#) issued earlier this year that would have made many non-compete agreements unenforceable. Organizations including the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce** pursued litigation challenging the final rule, which had an effective date of Sept. 4. Under the previous standard, non-compete contract language could prohibit workers from pursuing some other employment opportunities.

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10. Around the State

Centra Health has named **Rob Tonkinson** as Senior Vice President and CFO, according to reporting by *Becker's Hospital Review*. Read more [here](#).

Dr. Mark Romness, MD, an associate professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery with a secondary appointment in the Department of Pediatrics at the **UVA School of Medicine**, has received the Virginia Orthopaedic Society's Career Award. Read more [here](#).

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