

The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

September 2017

Delaware works to prevent, recognize, and treat substance exposure in infants

Responding to input from OB/GYN providers, the Division of Public Health (DPH) announced new guidance and educational materials on the dangers of substance abuse while pregnant, and how to screen pregnant women for potential addiction and connect them with treatment. The materials are available at www.helpsherede.com/Health-Care-Providers#obgyn-resources.

DPH Director Dr. Karyl Rattay asks OB/GYNs to use the new materials to prevent babies from being born substance exposed, and to connect those struggling with addiction to treatment. At a September 14 press conference, she pointed out that such screening and counseling is required by Delaware law (Delaware Code, Title 24, Chapter 17 (Medical Practice Act), Subchapter V, § 1769A).

The General Assembly designated September 17 – 23 as “Awareness Week for the Prevention, Recognition, and Treatment of Prenatal Substance Exposure in Infants and to Support Healthy Families in Delaware,” under House Concurrent Resolution 44, sponsored by Representative Ruth Briggs King and Senator Ernie Lopez.

In 2016, Delaware received Substance Exposed Infants In-Depth Technical Assistance funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, and provided by the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare. Read more about Delaware’s efforts to build a better system of care at: <http://news.delaware.gov/2017/09/14/dph-announces-resources-treating-substance-exposure-infants/>.



Representative. Ruth Briggs King



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health



Retail food establishments should have emergency action plans

Food establishments can effectively respond to disasters when they are prepared. Having an emergency action plan can ensure the survival and safety of a food establishment and its employees.

To prepare an emergency action plan, first assess possible emergencies, such as natural disasters, power outages, fire, water and food contamination, or foodborne illness. The Delaware Food Code requires food establishment operators to immediately discontinue operations and notify their public health inspector if an imminent health hazard exists due to an emergency.

The Division of Public Health (DPH) encourages food establishment operators to ask their public health inspector which disasters are common in their area, and to identify resources for creating emergency preparedness and recovery plans.

Next, assess the establishment’s risk for each type of emergency and determine its initial responses to them. Establish communication procedures and maintain contact information for staff, vendors, suppliers, and government agencies. Review the emergency action plan with employees and keep it accessible.

For more information, visit <http://www.foodprotect.org/guides-documents/emergency-action-plan-for-retail-food-establishment/>. The Delaware Office of Food Protection can be reached at 302-744-4546 and www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsp/foodsafety.html.

DPH schedules public flu clinics

All Delawareans are advised to get an annual flu shot. DPH offers free flu shots at many statewide locations. Visit flu.delaware.gov or call DPH at 1-888-282-8672, or www.flu.gov.