

**From:** [Elizabeth Melillo](#)  
**To:** [Mindy Faciane](#)  
**Date:** Jun 29, 2022 at 11:16 AM  
**Subject:** Fw: LDH Today – June 14, 2022 – State offices closed for Juneteenth holiday, June 17

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OMG! found this one too. not really putting on social, but taking out PRIDE

also her telling us to out EMS on social

## Eli Melillo

Public Information Officer  
Bureau of Media and Communications  
*Louisiana Department of Health*  
Cell: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@LA.Gov

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**From:** Mindy Faciane  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2022 9:55 AM  
**To:** Michelle McCalope; Elizabeth Melillo  
**Subject:** RE: LDH Today – June 14, 2022 – State offices closed for Juneteenth holiday, June 17

We haven't highlighted Pride Month yet and I think it's important we do so to show support for our LGBTQ+ team members.

I had already updated Tara's story to reflect her new role and can add that she recently stepped into the position. But I can still take it out if you think we should.

EMS story has been held for several weeks now so it ought to run. I thought Aly had said we were not supposed to post those sorts of items on social anymore because they're of internal interest rather than external.

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**From:** Michelle McCalope [REDACTED]@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2022 9:47 AM  
**To:** Mindy Faciane <[REDACTED]@la.gov>; Elizabeth Melillo <[REDACTED]@la.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: LDH Today – June 14, 2022 – State offices closed for Juneteenth holiday, June 17

See edits below.

Add intern story with picture with governor and Secretary. And that will be the lead.

Can we replace Pride month with health-related campaign or hurricane related or heat related?

Take out Tara story. She is no longer in that role.

Take out headlines highlighted. Seems like Dr. Kanter did a couple of interviews on COVID and we did something locally on the baby shortage formula. See if you can find any other local LDH stories. EMS story seems dated. Is this something we've been holding. Can we put on social?

Thanks, Michelle

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**From:** Michelle McCalope  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2022 9:01 AM  
**To:** Mindy Faciane <[REDACTED]@la.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: LDH Today – June 14, 2022 – State offices closed for Juneteenth holiday, June 17

Thanks. taking a look now.

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**From:** Mindy Faciane <[REDACTED]@la.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2022 8:54 AM  
**To:** Michelle McCalope <[REDACTED]@LA.GOV>  
**Subject:** FW: LDH Today – June 14, 2022 – State offices closed for Juneteenth holiday, June 17

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**From:** Louisiana Department of Health <[REDACTED]@la.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2022 8:30 AM  
**To:** Mindy Faciane <[REDACTED]@la.gov>  
**Subject:** LDH Today – June 14, 2022 – State offices closed for Juneteenth holiday, June 17

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

THIS IS A TEST

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June 14, 2022

## State offices closed for Juneteenth holiday, June 17

In observance of Juneteenth, state

offices will be closed on Friday, June 17.

In 2021, Juneteenth was declared a national holiday by President Joe Biden and a state holiday by Gov. Edwards. The federal Juneteenth holiday is Monday, June 20. 2022 is the first year state employees will have a full day off.

**Juneteenth** commemorates the June 19, 1865 announcement in Galveston, Texas, of General Order No. 3 proclaiming freedom for enslaved people in Texas, the last Confederate state with institutional slavery. The announcement came two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which was made official January 1, 1863.

[Check out this list of regional Juneteenth events!](#)





## Medicaid Executive Director Tara LeBlanc featured on 'Perspective'

Medicaid Executive Director Tara LeBlanc was recently featured on the talk show "Perspective" on WTQT 106 FM. Tara talked about the Public Health Emergency (PHE) unwinding and the Pink Letter Campaign.

The show is hosted by Alfreda Tillman Bester, Attorney Taryn Branson and Dr. Flichter Bell.



## Keep Calm Line receives more than 11K calls

More than 11,000 individuals have called the Keep Calm hotline since March 2020. The hotline provides trained, compassionate counselors to address disaster survivors' reactions such as anxiety and depression following the disaster's impact.

Counselors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week with information and service coordination, linking callers to mental health and substance abuse counseling services. All calls are confidential.

The hotline is part of the Louisiana Spirit Crisis Counseling Program, which has operated since March 2020 under the auspices of OBH. Call 1-866-310-7977 to access the line.

**KEEP CALM HOTLINE**

**GET HELP 24/7**  
CALL THE KEEP CALM HOTLINE  
**1-866-310-7977**

- All calls are confidential
- This service is available at no charge
- This line is for counseling only

\*Operated by the local call center provider VIA LINK

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
Behavioral Health

The graphic features a blue background with a white smartphone screen in the center. The screen displays the hotline's name, a 24/7 help message, the phone number 1-866-310-7977, and three bullet points detailing confidentiality, no charge, and counseling-only services. A small disclaimer at the bottom of the screen states it is operated by a local call center provider via LINK. The Louisiana Department of Health logo is in the bottom right corner.

## COVID update FDA, CDC meeting to discuss COVID vaccine for children 5 and younger

**ADD COVID UPDATE:**

The FDA and CDC are meeting this week review the latest data from Pfizer and Moderna to determine whether the COVID-19 vaccine will be made available to children under 5 years old. A decision could be announced as early as Friday, June 17.

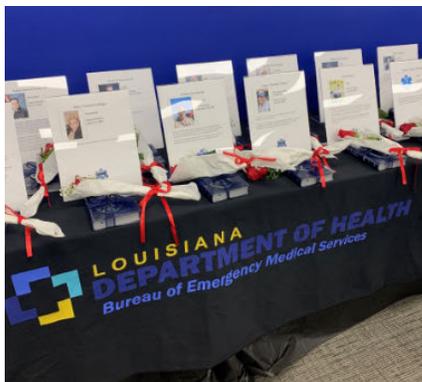


We all want to make the best decision for our children, especially when it comes to their health . Getting the latest, accurate information from reliable sources is crucial in making these decisions. If you are a parent to a child under 5, don't wait to ask questions. Talk to your child's pediatrician as soon as possible about the COVID-19 vaccine so you can make the best decision for your family. Visit [ldh.la.gov/kidsvax](http://ldh.la.gov/kidsvax) or [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov) to find a location near you or learn more information.

Make sure you and your loved ones are up to date on your COVID vaccinations — that is how you keep yourself, your family and your community safe.

***COVID questions, locations and treatment options***

- **Questions and locations:** COVID-19 Support Hotline at 1-855-453-0774
- **Vaccine locations near you:** [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov) or text your ZIP code to GETVAX (438829) in English or VACUNA (822862) in Spanish
- **Treatment options:** [covid.gov](http://covid.gov) or call 1-800-232-0233 (7 a.m. to 11 p.m. CT)



**This seems dated. Not sure I'd include all the names? Can we put on social? Bureau of EMS celebrates EMS Week**

The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) held its annual memorial service at

the end of EMS Week, observed May 15-21. EMS honored 19 EMS practitioners during the service. Staff and their families finished the week with a crawfish boil.

The memorial ceremony includes the “ringing of the bell” for each honoree and the presentation of an EMS Bible, rose and memorial ornament to the families present. Nineteen EMS practitioners who lost their lives this year were honored. They are:

- William Baradell
- Robert Callahan
- Joseph Edwards
- Deon Gullage
- Joshua Hawley
- James Henry
- Jessie Henry
- Michael Hughes
- Grady Lee
- Quentin Liggans
- Peter Lootens
- John Nicholas
- Ralph Parker
- Jarvis Renfrow
- Donald Scafidel
- Melissa Sheffield
- Keith Sonnier
- Allen Trantham
- William Wright

The crawfish gathering was held at the home of Bureau of EMS Director Susan Bailey. Doug Champlin normally has the role of exam coordinator, but he took the title of chief crawfish boiler and provided an excellent feast for everyone. The children enjoyed cooling off on the waterslide while staff and family enjoyed casual, non-work-related conversation.

## Any pictures? OPH Region 6 participates in LaSalle fan drive

OPH Region 6 recently gave out more than 50 table fans at the LaSalle Parish Healthy Initiatives Coalition Fan Drive and Giveaway in Jena. Attendees were able to donate blood, get their COVID-19 vaccines and gather resources from various organizations.

The event was also a Drug Take Back Day, allowing individuals to bring any unused or unneeded medications to be destroyed onsite.

## On the calendar in June...

### ***Weeklong observances***

- **June 15-21:** Men's Health Week
- **June 17-24:** National Nursing Assistant Week
- **June 19-25:** National Lightning Safety Week
- **June 20-24:** Health Risk Management Week

### ***Observance days***

- **June 14:** National Call your Doctor Day; World Blood Donor Day
- **June 15:** World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



- **June 16:** Fresh Veggies Day
- **June 17:** Juneteenth Day — **STATE OFFICES CLOSED**
- **June 19:** Father's Day
- **June 21:** Summer begins
- **June 23:** National Hydration Day
- **June 27:** National HIV Testing Day; National PTSD Awareness Day

## Headlines for the week of June 6-10

- Take out [La. Dept. of Health investigating chemical leak in Minden](#)
- [Nursing homes could have licenses blocked under Louisiana's new hurricane plan review process](#)
- [Health organizations hosting community vaccine event in Lafayette](#)
- [Henderson-area water systems get improvement grant](#)
- [Southern University System Foundation host health initiative](#)
- [LDH intends to award organizations with contracts](#)
- Take out [Proposed EPA settlement could further reduce 'Cancer Alley' toxic emissions](#)
- [Bill to create the Louisiana Office of Women's Health passes unanimously in both chambers](#)
- [Envoc Releases Dependent SMART Health Cards to LA Wallet, Louisiana's Digital Driver's License \(mDL\) App](#)
- [Louisiana lawmakers agree to expand medical marijuana dispensaries](#)
- [For some Acadiana families, teaching kids to swim has become a personal crusade](#)
- Take out [Allegations at St. Mary's Residential Training School Suggest Troubling Pattern of Abuse, Neglect](#)

Any interview with Dr. Kanter on covid update or ldh interview on baby shortage formula?



## Complete the new telework policy mandatory trainings

Here are the new and revised telework policies are attached:

- [Telework Policy](#) – Mandatory training due **June 30, 2022.**
- [PES](#) – New section added, XVI. Violations – This policy has been updated to make it clear that rating supervisors who fail to evaluate their subordinates or fail to evaluate

them in a timely manner may be subject to corrective or disciplinary action.

Please ensure that you have read the new policies and have completed the mandatory telework policy training by **June 30, 2022**.

## Schedule your preventive health checkup

Appointments for 2022 onsite preventive checkups are available! Office of Group Benefits (OGB) members who are screened can earn a wellness credit on their 2023 health insurance premium discount by completing one of two steps below:

Schedule and attend an onsite Catapult Health Preventive Checkup this year, **OR** have your primary care provider complete an [OGB PCP form](#) and submit it to Catapult Health.

To schedule an onsite appointment, [click here](#) or call 1-877-373-9974.

To be eligible for the 2023 health insurance premium discount, the onsite checkup or OGB PCP form must be completed by **September 30, 2022**.



## Share Your News and Photos!

If you have a story, announcement or success story you or your program office would like to share, [let the Bureau of Media and Communications \(BMAC\) know!](#) We'd love to hear about your program updates, recognitions, shout-outs and important deadlines, and see your team member, event and work photos.

We're working with limited space, so we unfortunately cannot share all of the great photos from #TeamLDH. Submissions will run based on content, relevance, photo quality and timeliness.

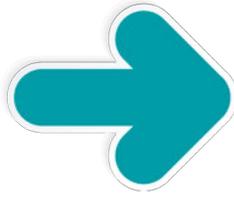
## Submission Guidelines

- **Submit your news by 10 a.m. the Thursday before publication. LDH Today typically publishes on Tuesdays.**
- **Limit items to no more than 225 words.**
- **Attach images as a separate file to the email and include a brief description when submitting.**
- **Items will run based on timeliness and length.**
- **If you would like your item to run in a specific issue, please submit it at least a week or two in advance.**

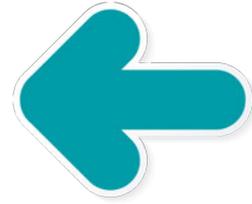
[COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)

[#TeamLDH Guidance & Resources](#)

[Behavioral Health Resources](#)



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