

NEWS

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National Public Health Week

Public health is an invisible shield protecting your health. During the week of April 1st-8th, we are celebrating National Public Health Week and the over 40 ways Jackson County Health Department (JCHD) Protects Your Health. We work behind the scenes to protect people against disease outbreaks from food, water, and poor hygiene. JCHD provides thousands of vaccinations each year and supports providers who also provide vaccinations, all of which protect our children and families from many preventable diseases. The health department also works with the community to promote healthy eating, active living and smoke-free living.

Those working in public health prevent people from getting sick or injured by using data regarding health issues and trends to solve problems, set policy, and promote positive health outcomes. Miriam Link-Mullison, Jackson County Health Department Director stated, "Health Department staff impact many lives every day and this year, to celebrate National Public Health Week, we are featuring some of our staff's stories about how they have impacted our community."

Hank is a food inspector and on a routine visit at a residential facility, he noted that the floor was wet and soon realized that the sewer system was backed up. Hank helped the facility with their clean-up ensuring all surfaces were appropriately disinfected. Through his diligence he not only ensured that no one got sick, he also helped the facility write out procedures so they would know what to do in future incidents.

Sandy is a health educator who teaches a diabetes self-management class in the community. Through the assistance given in this class participants are able to improve their diet and manage their disease more effectively.

Charlotte is a secretary in our clinic and she is often called on to assist in calming clients who are getting shots. She recently reported that she has been holding the hand of one mentally challenged young woman during her flu shots for over 12 years. Even though she is now 19, the client still appreciates Charlotte's support and her hand holding.

Jackson County Health Department will be posting more of the ways we protect your health through daily Facebook posts. We will also be giving out bookmarks listing "40 Ways We Protect Your Health" at community events and at our office all week. How many of these 40 Ways have touched your life?

40 Ways Jackson County Health Department Protects Your Health

Stop the Spread of Communicable Diseases

1. Provides screening for tuberculosis and medications for those with positive results
2. Investigates communicable disease and take actions to reduce spread
3. Offer STD testing and treatment
4. Provides services to persons with HIV which decreases the spread of HIV
5. Ensures the safe handling of food in restaurants and stores
6. Prepares to contain disease during emergencies
7. Provides education on the prevention of STDs and HIV
8. Develops a response to emerging diseases like Ebola, Zika, etc.
9. Ensures the safe treatment of private sewage

Prevents and Manages Chronic Disease

10. Offers asthma education classes
11. Enforces Smoke Free Illinois Act
12. Promotes smoke free public spaces
13. Provides chronic disease and diabetes self-management classes
14. Maintains a current diabetes resource guide
15. Promotes fresh local fruits and vegetables
16. Works with community partners to ensure safe places to bike and walk
17. Promotes worksite wellness programs
18. Supports schools in offering healthy foods and encouraging activity
19. Encourages cancer screenings
20. Prevents dental cavities through fluoride varnish applications in children

Addresses the Opioid Crisis

21. Convenes partners to address behavioral health issues
22. Provides community education on behavioral health resources
23. Promotes drug take back programs
24. Shares data and information about the prescription patterns that increase the risk of addiction
25. Promotes prescribers to use the Prescription Monitoring Program

Provides and Supports Immunizations

26. Provides childhood and adolescent immunizations to protect against many diseases
27. Offers flu clinics and encourages adults to be vaccinated
28. Works with healthcare providers to ensure high rates of vaccination in our community
29. Works with schools to ensure children have required vaccinations
30. Maintains immunization records and shares information with providers

Other ways JCHD Protects Health and the Environment

31. Provides leadership in addressing community health problems
32. Offers WIC program for families and access to community resources
33. Provides breastfeeding support
34. Ensures children in foster care get good healthcare
35. Promotes recycling and provides recycling education
36. Offers vision and hearing screenings
37. Provides blood lead testing
38. Issues private water well permits
39. Enforces open dumping laws and conducts landfill inspections
40. Prepares for public health emergencies of all types