

MEDIA RELEASE



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To: All Media
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For Immediate Release

"LaSalle County Health Department Recognizes National Public Health Week"

OTTAWA, IL - During the first full week of April each year, the American Public Health Association (APHA) brings together communities across the US to observe National Public Health Week. National Public Health Week, with the theme "It Starts Here," will be observed April 7-13, 2025. Public Health serves as an invisible shield of protection to promote and protect the health of people in the communities where they live, learn, work, and play for generations to come. The APHA states "public health starts with each of us making a difference in our homes and communities. It's how the places we live; work and play affect our well-being. It's the way we are all stronger—and healthier—together through the efforts of organizations like the American Public Health Association and others that advocate for healthy communities."

The LaSalle County Health Department is a Certified Local Health Department that provides clinical and environmental services through the operation of various programs, services and partnerships for the last 38 years. The Health Department touches every county resident some way or another in their daily lives. Programs operated by the department monitor your drinking water and the food you eat, immunize adults and children to protect them from diseases, provide maternal and child healthcare services to pregnant women, infants and children with the goal of improving health outcomes, and promote overall wellness of the community

As a reminder, here are a few of the programs and services the Health Department offers on a regular basis. Citizens are encouraged to call and speak with a staff member for additional information and questions.

- Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) – The IBCC Program provides education on women's health with an emphasis on breast and cervical health. Mammograms, Pap Smears and diagnostic screenings are provided at no charge to all women ages 21–64, who are uninsured, underinsured, or have a high deductible. Our IBCCP staff are available to answer eligibility questions and enroll qualified women.
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) – The mission of the LaSalle County WIC program is to improve the health status of women, infants, and children; to reduce the incidence of infant mortality, premature births and low birth weights; and to aid in the development of children. This program serves income eligible pregnant, post-partum, breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age five years. The WIC program provides health screening, nutrition education and counseling, and supplemental foods including formula for infants. Evening appointments are offered the 1st Monday, 3rd Wednesday, and 2nd Thursday of every month.
- Family Case Management Program (FCM) provides outreach, comprehensive case management, and support

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services to prenatal women, infants and children. The primary objective of the program is to reduce infant mortality by ensuring early and consistent prenatal care for women throughout their pregnancy. Education on a healthy pregnancy is ongoing and individually structured to meet the needs of the client. After the baby is born, FCM staff assure that the infants and children are receiving periodic well baby/child check-ups and immunizations.

- Low-Cost Pregnancy Testing is available on a walk-in basis Monday through Friday from 8:00am-4:00pm.
- Childhood Blood Lead levels can cause permanent neurological damage in children and to fetuses in pregnant moms. The Personal Health division staff offer blood lead level screenings to clients in all of our programs who are eligible for testing. Clients with confirmed elevated blood lead levels will also be offered case management services, home inspections, and necessary referrals. Clients will be required to bring their insurance card for billing purposes (no insurance, low-cost option offered). Appointments are encouraged; however, they are not required.
- The Blood Pressure Monitoring Program is open to anyone wants their blood pressure checked and is followed up with education on control measures including nutrition, physical activity, smoking cessation and prescription medications. The program operates on a walk-in basis Monday through Friday from 8:00am-4:00pm.
- Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing includes HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis C, Chlamydia, and Gonorrhea. If you feel you should be tested or have questions regarding your risk factors, our communicable disease nurse is available to answer questions in a confidential setting. A reactive result on an HIV, Syphilis, or Hepatitis C screening test, will need a confirmatory test. Appointments are encouraged.
- Childhood and adult immunizations Stay up-to-date on getting recommended vaccines. Low cost or insurance billing options available. Please call the Health Department to schedule an appointment. (Includes RSV and COVID-19 vaccinations)
- Flu Vaccinations are available at the Health Department on a walk-in basis Monday through Friday from 8:00am-4:00pm.
- Foreign Travel Recommendations LaSalle County residents anticipating foreign travel are advised to contact LaSalle County Health Department for recommendations on international travel. Residents will be provided with detailed information specific to their region of travel. This includes vaccine recommendations, which LaSalle County Health Department offers. Excludes yellow fever.
- Food Sanitation Program the goal of this program is the reduction of foodborne illness through education to food service operators and consumers regarding safe food handling practices. All food service establishments are classified into risk categories based upon the type of menu served, the type of population served, the amount of food handling and/or the procedures of food handling being performed. Food establishments are inspected to ensure compliance with food safety rules and regulations.
- Cottage Food Operations to operate as a cottage food operation, you must register with the local health department where you reside. Contact our Environmental Health Division to learn more about how to start a cottage food business in your home, find out which food are allowed to be produced and packaged, where you can sell your food and how to get registered.

- Free Radon Test Kits – The Health Department, through a grant from the IEMA, has free radon test kits available to residents of LaSalle County. Test kits can be picked up at the health department during regular business hours (Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at 717 E. Etna Road in Ottawa. A staff member will assist you with the instructions on using the test kit, as well as provide information regarding radon, radon measurement, and radon mitigation. Additionally, should your radon test results show a high level of radon in your home, the health department can provide you with a list of licensed radon measurement professionals and licensed radon mitigation professionals for follow-up.
- Free Larvicide to Property Owners – The Health Department, through a grant, offers larvicide to property owners looking to reduce mosquito breeding sites. With West Nile virus season right around the corner, property owners are encouraged to pick up a package of NATULAR® DT. NATULAR® DT, is a mosquito larvicide that controls larvae of mosquitoes for up to 60 days. Manufactured by Clarke, Natular® DT is an easy-to-use, bi-layer tablet that prevents mosquito breeding in standing water sites around yards. The larvicide can be picked up at the Health Department (717 Etna Rd. Ottawa –8:00 a.m.-4:30p.m.). Each package contains 12 tablets. At this time, **supplies are limited to one per household.**

The LaSalle County Health Department will also utilize social media to help increase awareness of public health issues and National Public Health Week during the month of April. The Health Department's Facebook page will be updated frequently with posts that offer tips on a variety of public health issues and also highlight some of the programs available at the Health Department. For additional information on programs and services offered, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit the Health Department's website at www.lasallecountyil.gov. # # #

