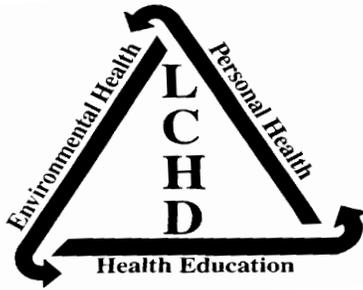


MEDIA RELEASE



Date: March 25, 2019
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“LaSalle County Health Department Holds Educational Events in Observance of 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 “Creating the Healthiest Nation: For Science. For Action. For Health.,” will be observed April 1-7, 2019. 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.

Please join us this week at the Health Department for some important educational events. No appointment is required, and all events are free and open to the public.

Monday, April 1st, Wednesday, April 3rd, and Thursday, April 4th 8:00 a.m-4:30 p.m.

- Breastfeeding Counseling – If you are an expectant mother who is considering breastfeeding, our certified lactation consultant will be available to offer support and education during these times.

Friday, April 5th 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

- Opioid Education Awareness Day - Naloxone (Narcan) training will be provided by the Human Service Center (HSC), a non-profit behavioral health organization located in Peoria. Other agencies planning to be in attendance are Buddy’s Purpose, LaSalle County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and The Perfectly Flawed Foundation. Information on awareness, education, and substance use resources and support will be provided.

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

- Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) – Do you qualify for a free mammogram and pap smear? Our IBCCP nurse is available to answer eligibility questions and enroll qualified women.
- Family Case Management/WIC- These programs offer services for pregnant women and infants. They provide nutritional evaluations, counseling, and education to eligible women, infant, and children. In addition, receiving SNAP benefits will qualify participants for WIC and can be used together, to spread food dollars.

-more-

- Free HIV tests and Hepatitis C Screening (finger stick test) – 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.
- Hepatitis A Vaccination – The Health Department can provide Hepatitis A vaccination free of charge for high risk individuals. Illinois is experiencing an outbreak and the majority of cases are among individuals at high risk for infection--including men who have sex with men (MSM), homeless individuals, and/or those who use drugs. Most of the outbreak cases are among individuals who use illicit drugs and the majority have been hospitalized.

The LaSalle County Health Department will also utilize social media to help increase awareness of public health issues and National Public Health Week. The Health Department's Facebook page will be updated daily with posts that offer tips on a variety of public health issues and also highlight some of the programs available at the Health Department. Educational materials focusing on a variety of health topics, are always available in the Health Department lobby, located at 717 Etna Road in Ottawa. The Health Department is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366. The Health Department's website can be accessed at www.lasallecounty.org.

###

