



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

Essential Service #9. *Evaluate and improve programs and interventions*

Communicable Disease Conference

On December 17, Kane County Health Department held a Communicable Disease Conference for Health Care Facilities at FONA International in Geneva. Barbara Jeffers, Executive Director of the Kane County Health Department was joined by Uche Onwuta, Director of the Division of Disease Prevention, Apryll Elliott, Assistant Director of Communicable Diseases, Aaron Stevens, Supervisor of Emergency Response and officials from the Illinois Department of Public Health and Covenant Living at the Holmstad, site of a recent outbreak of Legionella. More than 50 representatives from long-term care facilities, infection control practitioners and many other public health officials were in attendance. Topics covered included antimicrobial stewardship, closed POD preparedness, communicable diseases, Legionella outbreak at a retirement community and outbreak management. Copies of the speakers presentations are online at kanehealth.com/Pages/Events.aspx.



Ten essential services of Public Health

1. Monitor health status and understand health issues facing the community
2. Protect people from health problems and health hazards
3. Give people the information they need to make healthy choices
4. Engage the community to identify and solve health problems
5. Develop public health policies and plans
6. Enforce public health laws and regulations
7. Help people receive health services
8. Maintain a competent public health workforce
9. Evaluate and improve programs and interventions
10. Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health

Link to Departmental Statistics: kanehealth.com/Pages/Public-Health-Reports.aspx

Essential Service #3. Give people the information they need to make healthy choices

Public Health Outreach

Each year, the Kane County Healthy Places Coalition (HPC), facilitated by the KCHD, participates in numerous community events to provide health education and outreach. Among the discussion topics are lead poisoning, radon, mold, carbon monoxide, tobacco, mother-baby programs and childhood health.

In April, the HPC hosted a radon prevention booth at the Compañeros en Salud Health Festival and educated 150 people. At a health fair at the Prisco Center, public health associate Olga Del Toro (pictured here) spoke with more than 60 participants about hidden lead dangers, including lead poisoning in clay pots. At the August Hosanna Church Back to School Fair in St. Charles, HPC provided immunizations and hosted a table on lead poisoning, IMMZ and tobacco. 110 people stopped by. Also that month, 270 people stopped by the information table at Mooseheart's Safety Day and a whopping 1,748 people visited during a back to school fair in Aurora.



The Healthy Places Coalition Speakers Bureau educated 182 people about radon and lead poisoning at eight separate talks at such diverse locations as libraries, Kiwanis and Rotary meetings, and professional associations.

Essential Service #7. Help people receive health services

Flu Surveillance

Kane County Health Department has conducted Influenza Like Illness (ILI) surveillance since 2003- 2004. Data are gathered from five hospital ERs, six laboratories and schools across the county. The ILI surveillance system is used to measure ILI activity, track the type of flu viruses circulating in the community, detect the beginning of an outbreak and determines where ILI is occurring in the community.

The 2019-2020 flu season started on week 40 (week ending Oct. 5) and runs until week 20 (week ending May 16, 2020). Each week a report is created and shared with the community. The start of flu season this year started with ILI levels higher than seen in previous years with 2.3% of emergency room visits in Kane County due to Influenza Like Illness (fever >100F with cough and/or sore throat). Typically, the start of flu season has ILI accounting for less than 1.5% of emergency room visits. In 2009, high ILI levels (5.4%) were seen due to the H1N1 pandemic. This flu season saw a seasonal high in ER visits for ILI activity reaching 8.5% of ER visits in week 52 (week ending December 28) compared to 5.4% observed in week 52 of 2018.

KCHD continues to monitor ILI activity throughout the flu season and reminds everyone that the best defense against flu is the flu shot. Remember the 3 C's throughout the flu season: **C**over your cough, **C**lean your hands by washing with soap and warm water frequently and **C**ontain germs by staying home if you are sick.

To access the KCHD weekly influenza reports, and for more facts about influenza, see <http://kanehealth.com/Pages/Flu.aspx>.

