



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

Essential Service #2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics for Priority Group 1a

The Kane County Health Department (KCHD) has begun providing COVID-19 vaccine to health care workers at clinics this week. Kane County-based health care workers were notified that they could make appointments for the vaccination. The clinics are not open to the public.



To date, Kane County has received 15,470 doses of the vaccine, which was distributed to the priority group of the five Kane County hospitals and other healthcare workers. KCHD administered more than 2,100 doses to the highest risk Phase 1a workers. KCHD is partnering with Kane County health care providers to administer the vaccine efficiently.

The first group to receive the vaccine under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations are Phase 1a healthcare workers and those serving in healthcare facility settings who are at an increased risk of exposure. For the Illinois Department of Public Health’s definition of Phase1a eligible personnel, please see: kanehealth.com/Pages/COVID-Vaccine.aspx. Health care workers who did not receive the initial call from KCHD are asked to contact COVIDVaccine@co.kane.il.us.

Vaccinations for the general public are not likely to begin until early spring. Kane County residents will be informed of availability at that time. The health department is currently not accepting vaccination appointments. To sign up for vaccination information notification, please visit the Kane County Health Department website at KaneHealth.com.

Ten Essential Services of Public Health 2020

- 1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets
2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population
3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it
4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health
5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health
6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public’s health
7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy
8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce
9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement
10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

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

Essential Service #8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce

Remembering Tom Schluetter 1953–2020 by Kathy Fosser



Thomas A. Schlueter of Aurora, formerly of Naperville, passed away on December 30 after a long and courageous fight with cancer. Tom was a journalist, author, and musician.

Tom was our Public Information Officer and spokesperson for Kane County Health Department from 9/1/2006 thru 4/5/2019. During this period of employment, he had so many contributions. Tom worked through many community health projects such as Community Health Assessments/Improvement Plans, Hepatitis B, H1N1, Tuberculosis, Public Health National Accreditation, Ebola, Zika, Norovirus, Lead Poisoning, measles and many more. He loved establishing important communication partnerships within the community which proved to be beneficial for the Kane County Health Department during a local Norovirus Outbreak in 2017. Tom was recognized with the 2015 Gold Award for Excellence in Public Health Communication from the National Public Health Information Coalition. In 2018, Tom won a NACCHO

prestigious model practice award for “Nontraditional Partnerships Strengthen Community Health.” Tom was a featured speaker at the Illinois Department of Public Health Preparedness Summit in 2018.

Besides being a creative writer with a witty sense of humor, Tom was a wonderful, warm person. He will certainly be missed by all that interacted with him through Kane and those that partnered with Kane County.

Essential Service 3, Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to

January Is Radon Action Month in Illinois

January 2021 is Radon Action Month in Illinois, recognizing the importance of early detection and its impact on the health, life, and safety of all Illinois residents. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is urging all residents to take time this month to test their home for radon.



Radon gas is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Statistics show radon has been found in nearly 40 percent of the homes tested in Illinois. In Illinois, the central and northern regions of the state are shown to have higher levels of radon in the soil. It’s estimated that more than 1,100 people in Illinois develop radon-related lung cancer each year.

Radon can be found in older buildings and new constructions. A simple home test is an inexpensive and easy way to know if you and your family is at risk. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas. This odorless, colorless, tasteless gas comes from the natural breakdown of the soil, and it enters buildings through small cracks in the foundation, sump pits, crawl spaces, floor drains and more. When radon gas mixes with outside air it can become concentrated inside buildings. If not properly mitigated, radon gas can reach drastically high levels and cause major health concerns. For more information, see www2.illinois.gov/iema/NRS/Radon/Pages/default.aspx