



April 6, 2015
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Kicking off National Public Health Week by raising the grade NPHW Day 1

The Kane County Health Department is joining communities around the country by celebrating April 6-12 as National Public Health Week (NPHW) to recognize public health's contributions and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation's health. This year's theme is "**Healthiest Nation 2030**". Each day during NPHW has its own theme, and Monday, April 6 is **Raising the Grade**.

Kane County is raising the grade in several ways by becoming the first accredited county health department in Illinois, by seeing our County Health Rankings improve to where Kane is ranked No. 5 in the state, and by attacking the health priorities that have been listed in our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). In fact, Kane County Health Department is currently in the process of updating its current CHIP.

Despite the major progress we have achieved, there is work to be done if we are to reach our vision of being the healthiest county in Illinois by 2030, as well as realizing the goal of NPHW by becoming the Healthiest Nation by 2030.

For example, we know that the U.S. trails other countries in life expectancy and other measures of good health, and this holds true across all ages and income levels. We have great doctors, state-of-the-art hospitals and are leaders in advanced procedures and pharmaceuticals - yet our health ranks poorly when compared to other countries.

The Health Department will be observing NPHW all week long. Other daily themes will be:

- Tuesday, April 7, Starting from ZIP: Today, your ZIP code says too much about your health. Within the United States, there are unacceptable disparities in health by race and ethnic group, state by state and even county by county.
- Wednesday, April 8, Building Momentum: Influential leaders, companies and organizations are taking important steps in line with creating the healthiest nation.

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- Thursday, April 9, Building Broader Connections: In the work to become the healthiest nation, we can't do it all on our own. We have to expand our partnerships to everyone that has an impact on our health.
- Friday, April 10, Building on 20 Years of Success: 2015 is APHA's 20th anniversary for coordinating National Public Health Week, and the accomplishments of the public health community over the last two decades are significant.

To learn more about how Kane County Health Department is working to improve the health of all the county's residents please visit our website at www.kanehealth.com. You can show your support for public health by signing up for the Stakeholder Group Charter at kanehealth.com/charter.htm.

For more information about National Public Health Week, visit www.nphw.org.

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