

News Release

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Stickers help highlight local public health efforts

This is National Public Health Week and to celebrate, the Knox County Health Department wants local residents to be aware of the multitude of public health efforts in the community. To accomplish this task, health department staff are placing red stickers in various locations that read: “This is Public Health.”

“Public health is a part of everyone’s everyday lives, even if they don’t know it,” said Pam Palm, director of planning, education and promotion for the health department. “From using safe water sources while taking a shower or brushing your teeth, to wearing a seat belt while in a vehicle, to washing your hands and covering your cough, you are constantly practicing public health.

“Weekly trash collection, refrigerated food storage in convenience stores, having a place to walk such as the Kokosing Gap trail, recycling bins, trash cans in public places and drinking fountains are all examples of public health efforts – actions that promote healthy behaviors, prevent people from getting sick and protect the environment,” added Palm.

The stickers are removable and will be taken down next week. “We don’t want anyone to think we are permanently defacing public or private property. The stickers are just a visible means to bring awareness to examples of public health,” said Palm.

The health department staff are posting photos on social media of the stickers in different locations. Local residents are encouraged to also post sticker sightings to #knoxhealth on Twitter or facebook.com/knoxhealth.

Public health efforts also include programs like tobacco cessation, car seat checks and immunizations. Mandated services such as food operation inspections, animal bite investigations, pool and public beach inspections, plus participation with community groups to develop strategies to combat opioid addiction, childhood obesity and mental health are also examples of local public health efforts.

National Public Health Week (NPHW) is an initiative of the American Public Health Association and has been observed during the first full week in April for more than 20 years. The purpose of NPHW is to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation's health.

The “This is Public Health” (TIPH) campaign was created by the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) to brand public health and raise awareness of how public health affects individuals, families, communities, and populations. According to ASPPH, the simple statement – “This is Public Health” - has proven to be a powerful tool in raising awareness about and support for public health efforts.

For more information, contact Palm at the Knox County Health Department at 740-399-8002.

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