

The Public Health Herald

FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's November. I'm not going to lie, I'm in a bit of denial about it being November. For whatever reason, October and Christmas seem really far apart, but once that calendar flips Mariah Carrey starts singing in my head and I think about all the things to do before the holidays....and get a tiny bit overwhelmed. Because of that, I have made it an annual tradition to express gratitude for something different every single day of the month – not just on Thanksgiving. It can be something as big as my Mom driving three hours to stay home with Maren when she has a fever and can't go to daycare, or it can be something as small as someone sending a thoughtful email stating they appreciated the All Staff content. There are so many things around us – big and small – to be grateful for. If you don't already participate in this practice, I challenge you to find something each day you're grateful for. It definitely has a way of changing your perspective, because it can be really easy to focus on the negative. The uncertainty with the IHHS alignment, the changes with the renovation, and the *gestures around wildly* every time you turn on the news. That's why it's important to try and focus on finding something good, and doing what you can to make things better – even if it means having that uncomfortable conversation you've been avoiding.

Speaking of gratitude – can I tell you some of the things I LOVE about November? I love putting up my Christmas tree – and yes I do it before Thanksgiving. I love running a 5K the Saturday after Thanksgiving to raise money for the animal shelter. I love making Thanksgiving dinner with my Mom. I love that it officially becomes kosher in our house to watch the Classic Christmas movies as soon as the turkey is finished.

So many things to enjoy and be grateful for this month. Also, I would be remiss if I didn't mention how grateful and appreciative I am of the great work you all do for JCPH each and every day. Thank you, truly, for the way you serve Johnson County.

In health,

Danielle

PHAB UPDATES

Narrative November is officially upon us! Calendar invites have been sent out but please remember that IF you would like to attend only pick the date/time that works best for you – content will be the same as we navigate creating perfect narratives! As with the first event there is no requirement to attend, HOWEVER, narratives may be assigned to anyone and if you are free why not come hang out with friends, laugh, and enjoy a treat that will most likely be baked last minute?! Again, thank you all for your unwavering enthusiasm and continued dedication to showing PHAB what JCPH is all about.

Date Reminders:

11/17 – 10:30—11am – Room 214B/C
11/20 – 9:00-9:30am – Room 117B



NEW STAFF



Name: Tammy Forseen

Title & Division: Dental Hygienist, Clinical Services

What is a dream vacation you'd love to take?

A trip to Italy & Greece

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

A dentist! My childhood dentist let me squirt water into my brother's mouth when I was 4 years old & I've been obsessed ever since. I also found an upper denture at Oceans of Fun when I was about 10 years old. It didn't gross me out at all! I just wanted to get that denture back to whoever screamed it out of her mouth! LOL

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DIVISION UPDATES

Community Health:

- The Disease Prevention Specialists are finishing up school immunization audits where 20,000 some records are reviewed. The student epi team, based on the hourly volunteer rate, has provided over \$10,000.00 worth of activity in support of this project. Next, the student team will be trained on outbreak investigations and will eventually have their skills tested in hand to hand combat. Just kidding, it'll be a tabletop exercise.
- The HealthyJoCo team has compiled Issue Profiles based on the data triangulation staff and community participated along with primary and secondary data. You can view the issues here: <https://arcg.is/14vLyP1>
 - The next steps will be to prioritize the issues and take feedback from the community. The team compiled and developed the issue profiles within the last two weeks!
- Susan Vileta has taken a student team to bars and restaurants to collect qualitative data from key informant and focus group interviews on perceptions with regard to vaping and enforcement.
 - Coralville Parks and Recreation will also be approaching their final reading of their upcoming Tobacco Free and Nicotine Free Parks policy. This will be the last metro city in Johnson County to have a policy in place. More and more square mileage of Johnson County gets healthier every year!
- Nate Savage won the gold at the Johnson County Madden Football Tournament bringing glory to the department. Bragging rights continue throughout the year until the next tournament. Nate also has been assisting the Service Area's Stop The Bleed Project to identify current and new trainers.
 - Did You Know? Stop The Bleed tourniquets are located in each of Johnson County's AEDs?! While they are not marked as such, they are in there in case of emergency!**
- Giselle, Karrey, and Kristy have been on location across Johnson County's many worksites to jab employees for flu and COVID-19. Remember, everyone is due for an updated COVID-19 vaccine now. If you are an employee that is on county insurance and your dependent who is also on county insurance, so long as you both have county insurance, you're able to be vaccinated as the qualifying criteria is to have county insurance.
- Ari led the first Building Health Equity series post the all department training. The group discussed the past 400 years of - ism in the U.S. Great job, Ari!

Environmental Health:

- EHS Laura attending virtual FDA 112 Food Code Course for Regulators 10/24-10/26
- EHS Laura worked with OEC Sarah to complete large scale edits to the EH website page including the Waste water, Private water wells, and Pool/Spa program updates.
- EHS II Jesse and EHS Tim presented to the Masters in Nutrition U of I students on the JCPH food safety program
- EHS II Jesse and EHS Tim will be attending virtual FDA 312 Special Process at Retail 10/30-11/3
- Watershed program staff created a Mosquito Surveillance Policy & Procedure.
- Watershed program staff revised and updated the Tattoo Program Policy & Procedures.
- EHS II Jesse worked with OEC Sarah to post annual Pool/Spa inspection reports on the JCPH website. Inspections will be updated quarterly and be available for public viewing.



Clinical Services:

- Tammy joined us filling our last vacancy for a Dental Hygienist
- A new dietitian, Susan Szmyrgala, has been hired! She will start 12/4/23.
- Interviews for the Health Educator will begin next week.
- New flooring in the waiting room, exam rooms, and nutrition ed room has been (mostly) installed. Not enough of the flooring was ordered so we are waiting for the last exam room to be finished... whenever the flooring comes in.
- The Clinical Services Team increased the number of clients served again! We served 2,225 families in October!
- ITS submitted their RFA extension for FY 24.



Forms & Events

Social Media & Print Material Request Forms- [HERE](#)

EVENTS:

*Details in the Events & Tabling Calendar, public folders