

The Public Health Herald

FROM THE DIRECTOR

April showers bring May flowers. And a rematch of Iowa WBB against LSU. By the time you read this we'll know if they made it to the Final Four (Editors Note: Go Hawks! Beat UConn). But even if they don't, what an amazing opportunity to watch them on this journey – and to inspire our latest PSA (See page 3)! April also kicks off with National Public Health Week!!! I love this opportunity to celebrate public health and share the amazing work we do. As I'm writing this, I just hoped off a call with other public health professionals from across the State, and the opening question was "What's blooming in you?" What are you excited about? Whether it's cool work you're doing, or something in your personal life, what's blooming in you? At first I was kind of stumped. It's gloomy. It's a Monday. We had sickness in our household all weekend. But after the hour sharing with my colleagues and friends, I could absolutely tell you without a doubt what's blooming in me. There's cool work happening. There are opportunities for change. We hit the submit button to PHAB and we're already over 40% done! We have some amazing things to be excited about.

So here's my challenge to you – think about what is blooming in you. Share it with a colleague, especially a colleague you may not speak to or work with every day. Let your enthusiasm become infectious, and let it spark their energy to think about what is blooming in them. There are always going to be challenges in our work. There will always be politics. Much of it is out of our control. But we can absolutely control how we respond to it. It is times like this – when it's easier to think about all of the challenges ahead of us instead of what's blooming inside of us – that I think about one of my favorite quotes:

"They tried to bury us. They didn't know we were seeds." ~ Dinos Christianopoulos

April showers really do bring May flowers, so share what's blooming in you.

In Health,

Danielle



Join Us!

NAMI Walk Saturday May 4th
8:30 am - Noon
Terry Trueblood Recreation Center

Let's form a public health group & join the JoCo team & represent JCPH at the NAMI walk on Saturday May 4th.
Email Danielle to get on the team!



Environmental Health:

- Laura Sneller attended virtual FD 215: Managing Retail Safety course. The week long FDA course is a requirement of inspectors through the 28E agreement with DIAL
- Tim James attended the MCAFDO (Mid Continental Association of Food and Drug Officials) annual conference in Omaha, NE
- Ethan Turben-Fuhrman and Laura Sneller attended the Public Health Conference of Iowa
- Emma Nelson will be joining the environmental health team. Her first day will be April 15th
- The food program purchased 100 digital food thermometers through an FDA grant branded with the JCPH logo and a QR code linked to the JCPH webpage. Inspectors will give the thermometers to establishments as needed to continue strengthening community and industry relationships. Maintaining strong community and industry relationships is part of Standard 7 of the FDA (VNRFRP) Voluntary national Retail Food Regulatory Program standards
- The watershed program developed internal Policy/Procedures for the Time of Transfer program

DIVISION UPDATES



Pictured: Stef Wagaman, PH Director from Cedar County and Jen Craft, PH Director from Muscatine County

Representative Adam Zabner invited DPM to the Capital to speak in support of House Study Bill 741, which is an act relating to the establishment of an easy enrollment health care coverage program utilizing the state income tax form. This HSB was picked up by Rep. Bobbi Kaufmann, so I invited the Directors from his district to come speak in support. Rep. Dave Jacoby was also on the subcommittee, and it passed through 3-0

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Community Health:

- Lisa and Jamie are navigating through multiple key informant interviews along side Cole and Maddie, two interns supporting the community needs assessment for the county's Opioid Settlement funds. The team has made several connections, uncovering the reality of opioid use in Johnson County along with perceptions and stigmas. The goal will be a completed assessment, publicly available along with data to support informed decision making. The team has made tremendous progress in an area newer to JCPH.
- Susan is finalizing the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation grant. JCPH receives a little over \$112,000 based on a population based formula to support this work across Iowa, Poweshiek, and Johnson Counties. The work continues through educating the public and healthcare providers, policy making, and supporting broader laws and policies.
- Rachel will be finishing the in-person NACCHO series for Infection Prevention in San Diego, CA through stipend provided travel.
- Giselle and Jamie met to discuss being host to two AmeriCorps Interns to support the food security health priority. AmeriCorps provides interns for 10 weeks, 6 months, and 9 months based on need.
- Nate will be traveling to Cleveland, Ohio (rocks!) for the National Preparedness Summit at the end of March. Three persons from Health Care Coalition Service Area 5 will be traveling to represent the service area and return with examples of best practices and other new and innovating projects to support emergency preparedness. Later this summer, Nate and Sam will be traveling to Chicago, Illinois through stipend provided travel on behalf of the Johnson County Medical Reserve Corps. Sam will be presenting on COVID-19 and MRC.
- Giselle was informed by the Healthiest State Initiative that the Employee Wellness Program was a finalist for the 2024 Healthiest State Annual Award. You can see the announcement and other finalists here: https://www.iowahealthieststate.com/news/2024awardsfinalists?fbclid=IwAR2AKUOMQmTUaJEbazKSV5VO5ia9T7PfltxwJCM7sV_nbAoLmHbJQ3TPbd4. Giselle will travel to Des Moines for the Workplace Well-Being Conference later in April.
- Amelia, Jennifer, and Rachel reviewed past reports and actions on the department's last measles outbreak in preparation for future cases. Measles is a highly contagious disease and several outbreaks have been reported across the nation. Local and state public health along with labs are sharing information, updates, and preparing for potential cases. Would you like to know more?
- Ari will be presenting at the City of Iowa City's council meeting with Eschucha Mi Voz for COVID-19 vaccine updates and sharing results from the local assessment completed this past fall. The results will continue to inform where off site clinics could occur, messaging, and correcting misinformation.

CLEVELAND Rocks!



Clinical Services:

- Kritzia Rodriguez completed the American Occupational Therapy Association's SOS Feeding Therapist training. This training will help to identify and treat children with feeding difficulties. Congrats Kritzia!
- I-Smile @ School staff is reporting for this year:
 - 13 out of 16 schools completed
 - 761 students seen
 - 4486 sealant placed
- Kaitlyn Milligan developed materials and sourced tools to help breastfeeding moms identify the correct flange size for their pumps. This is super important to reduce pain and irritation in our clients and for success with breastfeeding. Great work Kaitlyn!
- Clinic staff will be working at the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County. They worked with Sarah to develop a tshirt logo that they can wear. The bright colored shirts will stand out & identify them as WIC Clinic staff.

JCPH Playlist

Help us build our playlist! Add your favorite song to our survey & we'll use it during our All-Staff! Thanks Ari & Giselle for the great idea!

https://johnsoncountyiowa.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bCbkzAi45uTr98G



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PHAB:

Our PHAB reaccreditation application was reviewed and approved by the PHAB Application Board and have officially started our 6-month window for submission (deadline of 9/21/24). This means we have our official parameters for how far back we can go for use of examples – 9/21/2019!

There has been a flurry of documents submitted by various domains for review and I still have nine to review but our current 'completed' total is now 49/115 or 42%! I will sound like a broken record but you all have submitted fantastic examples of the work we do as a department and you all should be proud!

Domain updates... with the department approaching 50% submitted there are a few domains who are fighting for the status of 'FIRST DOMAIN DONE' -best of luck to the Top 3!

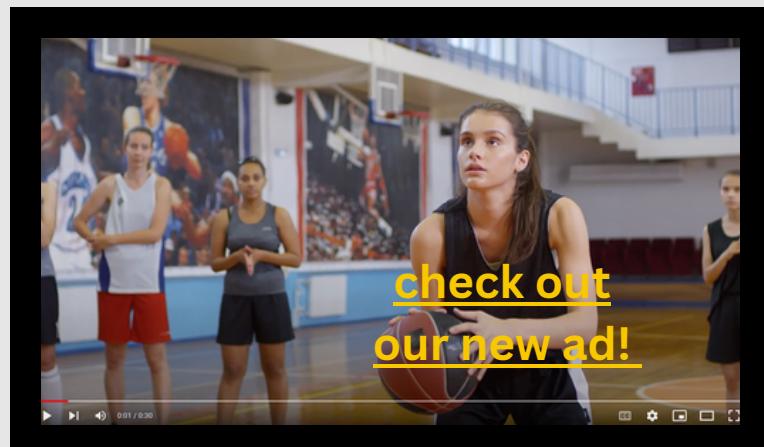
Domain 1 – 72.73% complete

Domain 10 – 69.10% complete

Domain 6 – 63.64% complete

PMQI Updates:

The Performance Improvement Team's (combination of PM and QI teams) first meeting is today (April 5th) where we will review the data that is currently available related to the performance Management and Quality Improvement Assessments. We have received a fairly decent representation of the department but still have about 15-20 left for each assessment so if you still need to take it please complete the assessment(s) by the end of day today! If you need the links again refer to past emails or reach out!



Did you know? Since September JCPH has been running television ads through OnMedia during College Football & now March Madness? Our goal is to reintroduce ourselves to our community as more than just vaccines, although our newest ad encourages routine vaccinations. We're leaning into the madness around Women's basketball. Thanks to Marc in the BOS office for his work in creating this ad!



Coming Soon!

JCPH will be rolling out a new customer satisfaction survey to better address needs of our community.

Full version to launch on April 19th following the All-Staff Retreat.



CONGRATULATIONS! Jesse Bockelman received the Galen Robertson Memorial Award on March 27th at the IEHA business meeting held during the Public Health Conference of Iowa. This award represents a person in the field of food inspections who demonstrates a belief in the importance of inspections, uses practical & common sense in the inspection process, displays a professional & courteous manner while conducting an inspection.

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PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH- FOOD

In's & Out's of Cottage Foods with Tim

As warmer weather arrives and the smell of spring is in the air, many take to the streets to visit one of Johnson County's many farmers markets. Markets from Solon to Iowa City bring an assortment of foods ranging from food trucks, pop up food vendors, local produce, frozen meats, and packaged items such as cookies and cakes. In this article, we will talk about what you can look for at these markets to be a more informed consumer and what it requires if you would like to sell something at the market yourself.

The farmers market can be broken into two different categories. Those who need a food license and those who do not. The license types typically seen at a farmers market included Mobile Unit license, Temporary Event license (Annual or single day), Farmers Market license and the HFPE (Home Food Processing License). These licenses are issued by your local regulatory authority. If you live in Johnson County, JCPH (Johnson County Public Health) will be the issuing authority.

Conversely, there are some items that do not require a food license. These items are called Cottage Foods. Cottage foods are foods that are prepared in a residence that are not subject to licensing or inspection. To be considered a Cottage food, the following criteria must be met.

- The food is prepared in a private residence.
- The food does not require temperature control to ensure safety.
- The food is sold directly from the producer to the consumer.
- The food is properly labeled. (see example below)

Examples of Cottage foods would include cookies, pastries, dried foods, condiments, dressings, and syrups. Examples that are NOT Cottage foods include milk or milk products and meat or meat products. If the items you would like to sell at an event meet the criteria above, you do not need a license. It is up to the producer to ensure all products are properly labeled. Below, you will find an example of a proper food label. Each product sold will need to be labeled. Each label needs to include the following:

1. Information to identify the name and address, phone number, OR Email address of the person who is preparing the food.
2. The common food name.
3. The ingredients used in the product in descending order of predominance.
4. The statement: "This product was produced at a residential property that is exempt from state licensing and inspection."
5. If the product has one or more major food allergens, an additional allergen statement identifying each major allergen contained in the food by the common name of the allergen.
6. If the food is home-processed and contains home-canned pickles, vegetables or fruits permitted under this rule, the date that the food was processed and canned.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Come share your topics & Public Health work, by appearing in an episode of The Healthy Dose!

Contact Karrey, Sarah, or email healthydose@johnsoncountyiowa.gov for more information

