



Public Health Pulse

Mercer County Health Department Newsletter



HEALTH NEWS



We held our 4th Annual Healthy Living Fair on August 6th. This event was held in conjunction with the Aledo Main Street Farmers Market. We had over 20 health-related vendors there and had a wonderful turnout from our community! We hope that those who went left with health education, new resources, and some cool swag!



Walk-in flu shots will be provided at MCHD Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am-12:00 pm, and 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm. Very occasionally, though, our nurses may be out of the office. So we encourage a quick call first to ensure we have staff available.



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month! If you're a woman between the ages of 40–74 and need help staying up to date with your screening mammogram, the Carolyn Adams 'Ticket for the Cure' program is here to help. We offer support in scheduling mammogram appointments, assistance with transportation, and help connecting uninsured women to resources — including vouchers to cover the cost of screening mammograms.

- Making a difference: Since 2021, over 290 women have received mammogram navigation services through this program — and we're here to help even more.
- Encourage someone you care about: A simple reminder from a friend or family member may be the encouragement someone needs to schedule their mammogram.
- Early detection saves lives: Mammograms are the most effective tool for detecting breast cancer early.
- We're here to help! For questions, resources, or assistance scheduling your mammogram, call 309-582-3761.

Upcoming Events

Gobble Wobble Turkey Trot 5K

- November 21st, 2026 at 9 AM
- Starting @ MCHD

Certified Food Protection Manager's Class

- Oct. 21st, 2026 from 8 am - 5 pm
- @ MCHD
- Cost: \$150. License valid for 5 years

Coffee With Your Breast Friend

- October 27th, 2026
- MercyOne Genesis Radiology Aledo

Health Jokes

Q: Why shouldn't you tell germs secrets?

A: Because they spread everything.

Q: Why did the skeleton skip the health fair?

A: He didn't have the guts.

MCHD Health Happenings

In addition to our day-to-day duties, here are some activities our staff have been up to!

WRMJ Interview

Our Breast Health Navigation team members promoted our Healthy Living Fair and discussed services available through MCHD on WRMJ.

Illinois Public Health Association's 85th Annual Workforce Conference

5 of our Community Health Workers attended IPHA's Annual Public Health Workforce Conference, learning, connecting, and bringing fresh ideas back to our community!

Signs of Suicide (SOS)

The Mental Health team at MCHD screened local students for mental health concerns this past quarter. Staff visited Mercer County High School to assist school personnel with mental health education and screenings, connecting students to additional services they may need. We hold this program yearly with both school districts at the high school and junior high levels.

Torniquet Training

4 staff members attended the Mercer County Farm Bureau's Tourniquet training and learned how to apply a tourniquet in emergency situations.

Mercer County Fair

MCHD had a booth in the Merchants' building at the Mercer County Fair again this year. We displayed educational posters and handed out various health-related swag and information.

ICHF Oral Health Convening

Stephanie and Angie attended the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation's Oral Health Convening in Champaign where Stephanie served on a panel to discuss her experiences as a Community Health Worker helping navigate people to oral health services.

NEHA Annual Conference

Diana and Kyle attended the National Environmental Health Association's annual conference.

Illinois Vector Conference

Kyle and Josh participated virtually in the annual Illinois Vector Conference.



Employee Spotlights



Hannah Garrett

Hannah Garrett joined the Mercer County Health Department in August 2020 during the COVID-19 response, initially serving as a contact tracer. Since then, she has taken on an increasingly important leadership role within the department and currently serves as Assistant Administrator and Director of the Mental Health Action Program. She previously coordinated MCHD's Adolescent Health Program and has coordinated and drafted our two most recent IPLAN community health assessment and planning processes and reports. Hannah holds a Bachelor of Science in Community Wellness and a Master of Public Health and is both a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and a certified Community Health Worker. In addition to her public health expertise, she has a talent for graphic design and creates much of MCHD's health education and promotional materials, including social media graphics, posters, and billboard campaigns. Her commitment to the community extends beyond MCHD through her involvement with the Mercer County Housing Initiative, Community Connections, Mercer County Human Services Council, and the Mercer Foundation for Health Board. Outside of work, she enjoys baking and spending time with her husband and two young daughters.



Drue Griffin

Drue Griffin had already retired from a career in nursing when the COVID-19 pandemic compelled her to return to the workforce and put her skills and experience to work for her community. She joined Mercer County Health Department in November 2020, bringing with her a Master of Nursing degree and a wealth of clinical knowledge to assist with COVID-19 contact tracing and MCHD's vaccination response. Fortunately for us, she stayed! Drue has continued serving as a part-time nurse, assisting with immunizations, lead poisoning prevention, communicable disease response, and community education on opioid overdose prevention and Narcan administration. She is always willing to lend a hand wherever she is needed and generously shares her medical knowledge and expertise with both coworkers and community members. After six years as an invaluable member of the MCHD team, Drue will return to retired life in November 2026. We will certainly miss her, but we are excited for her to have more time to enjoy traveling, church activities, and life with her loving husband and family—especially those adorable grandchildren!

Our Holiday Open House is coming up!

Our 5th Annual Holiday Open House & Bake Sale will be held on Wednesday, December 9th, 2026. Please be on the lookout for more information as it becomes available!



309-582-3759



www.mchdil.com



305 NW 7th St. Aledo, IL 61231

coffee with your breast friend.



**grab a friend
and get your
mammograms
together!**

**reward
yourselves
afterwards
with a free*
coffee on us!**

October 27, 2026

@ MercyOne Genesis Aledo,
Radiology Department

How to Sign Up:

- Call the Mercer County Health Department at (309) 582-3761
- Sign up for an available 30 minute time slot for you & one for your "breast" friend
- You and your friend will each get a gift card for free* coffee from the location of your choice. Choose from one of our 5 participating coffee shops!



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MERCYONE.

*Coffee generously sponsored by the Mercer Foundation for Health in the form of a \$10 gift card.



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To Support our Client Assistance Fund

SATURDAY

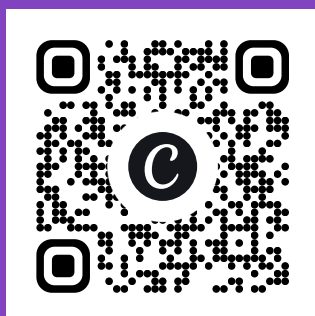
NOVEMBER 21

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL MCHD:

309-582-3759

MCHD.OFFICE@MCHDEPT.ORG

ONLINE
REGISTRATION :



Starts at the Mercer County
Health Department
Finish at the same place
Start Time: 9 AM

REGISTRATION - \$30 PER PERSON
CAN'T MAKE IT IN PERSON?
VIRTUAL 5K - \$40 PER PERSON
(INCLUDES SHIPPING FOR T-SHIRT)