



Public Health Pulse

Mercer County Health Department Newsletter



HEALTH NEWS



The Mercer County Health Department will have an on-site vaccination clinic on the following days:

- Mercer County Junior High - May 5th
- Mercer County High School - May 12th

Parents interested in having their child vaccinated at these clinics, please contact the school nurse for paperwork.



The WIC Program at MCHD is a proud partner of Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank. We are hosting a diaper drive from May 4th to 14th. Any diapers, wipes, incontinence supplies, or period supplies are welcome; however, this is a list of the most urgently needed products:

- Diapers (newborns, Size 3, 5, 6)
- Pull-Ups (2T/3T and 3T/4T)
- Tampons
- Adult Briefs (unisex small, medium, and 2XL)

Together, we can make a substantial impact on the lives of families in our community. Let's get started!



National Public Health Week is April 6th -12th! Ready. Set. Action! is this year's theme. As we celebrate, take a moment to recognize how public health has improved our daily lives, safeguarded our families, expanded our life spans, and strengthened our communities. This week is also a chance to honor the public health workers who show up for us every day - and to advocate for policies and practices that promote good health for all.

Upcoming Events

Breast Cancer Education Event

- April 10th, 2026 from 6-7:30 pm
- @ Mercer County YMCA

Certified Food Protection Manager's Class

- May 12th, 2026 from 8 am - 5 pm
- @ MCHD
- Cost: \$150. License valid for 5 years

ROE #33 Car Seat Training class

- May 21, 2026 from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
- @ MCHD

Health Jokes

Patient: "Doctor, I think I need glasses."

Teller: "You certainly do! This is a bank."

I have a mysterious illness where I seem to get sick only during the work week. My doctor says it's a weekend immune system.

MCHD Health Happenings

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

Signs of Suicide

The Mental Health team at MCHD helped to screen local students for mental health concerns this past quarter. Staff were able to visit both the Mercer County Junior High School and Sherrard Junior High School to assist school personnel with mental health education and screenings in order to connect students to further services they may need. We hold this program yearly with both school districts at the high school and junior high levels.

ASIST Training

Four MHAP staff attended a two-day interactive workshop on suicide first aid. ASIST, or Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, teaches people how to recognize when someone may be struggling with thoughts of suicide and how to support them in creating a plan to stay safe. It's practical, hands-on, and focused on real conversations that can make a difference.

Tobacco Education

Our Smoke-Free Illinois Act Program Staff presented tobacco education and its impacts on your health at Matherville Intermediate School on March 12th. The curriculum used was the CATCH Your Breath Training from the Coordinated Approach to Child Health.

Hepatitis B Clinics

Our Communicable Disease Director held two Hepatitis B vaccine clinics for the Aledo Fire Station. One on March 4th, and again on April 1st.

Wear Red for Women Day

On February 6th, our staff stood together to raise awareness about heart disease and the importance of women's health, today and every day.



Employee Spotlights

Annette Doonan, CHW

Annette Doonan has been a valued member of the Mercer County Health Department team since August 2020, serving as a Grant Coordinator within our Breast Cancer and Women's Health programs. She plays a key role in connecting community members to vital health screenings and preventive care, using her strong health navigation skills to reduce barriers and guide individuals through complex systems. A trained Community Health Worker, Annette is especially adept at community outreach and building meaningful buy-in from local partners, helping programs reach those who need them most. Outside of work, she enjoys time with her husband, children, and grandchildren. Known for her creativity and generosity, she is also a talented baker and is always willing to lend a hand in planning and supporting community events.



Megan Bull, CAMS-I, MHP, CHW

Megan Bull serves as a Student Case Manager in Mercer County Health Department's Mental Health Action Program, providing support to students throughout the Mercer County School District. Bringing a strong background in health education and more than a decade of experience working with youth and families, Megan offers guidance, coping-skills education, and barrier-reduction support to help students access the mental health care they need. She has completed Community Health Worker training and earned certification as an Anger Management Specialist-I, further strengthening her ability to connect with and empower the young people she serves. Megan is known for her strong rapport with students and commitment to collaborative problem-solving within the Mental Health Consortium. Outside of work, she is supported by her husband and their two daughters. Her dedication, compassion, and steady leadership make her an invaluable member of our mental health team.



Special Acknowledgements



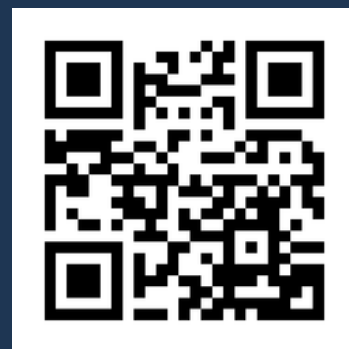
On March 5th, Jesse Hoffeditz completed her Community Health Worker (CHW) training and became a certified CHW. There are now 8 trained CHW's at the Mercer County Health Department. Way to go Jesse!



OTHER INFORMATION

Scan our QR code!

The Mercer County Health Department offers many programs that provide resources to those who are in need of various health services. In order to connect you with the resources you might need, please fill out the survey to the best of your ability!



309-582-3759



www.mchdil.com

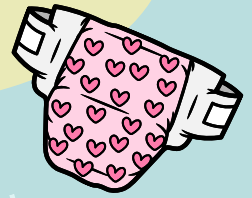


305 NW 7th St. Aledo, IL 61231



Diaper Drive

MAY 4TH - 14TH



DIAPERS IN ALL SIZES

WIPES

PERIOD SUPPLIES

MONETARY DONATIONS



LOVING 
BOTTOMS
DIAPER BANK



BREAST HEALTH EDUCATION



For the young and young at heart!



Join us for an evening of fun, food, and learning! Hear guest speakers discuss breast health, mammograms, cancer risks, risk reduction, and more. A light meal and door prizes will be provided. High school age and older are encouraged to attend.

Friday, April 10th, 2026

6:00-7:30pm

Mercer County Family YMCA
Community Room

*Child watch will be available.

Please scan the QR
code to sign up!



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Mercer County
Health Department

309-582-3761

