



Quick Reads

Thomas Newton, MPP, REHS
Director, Iowa Department of Public Health

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Occupational disease, injury prevention activities to continue

Congratulations to the IDPH [Division of Environmental Health](#) for their recent successful grant application to continue work in preventing occupational disease and injuries in Iowa. The division anticipates receiving nearly \$1.7 million from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health ([NIOSH](#)) over the next five years to conduct surveillance of 13 indicators of occupational safety and health while also investigating unusual cases of occupational injury and disease. In addition, the funding will allow the department to continue surveillance of pesticide poisoning and specialized surveillance of work-related fatalities through a partnership with the University of Iowa.

I am particularly pleased with the work of the IDPH Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance program since it began in 2006. The original grant allowed IDPH to develop certain capacities it had been unable to attain in the past, but which are vital to rural and agricultural states like Iowa. IDPH's successful bid for this competitive funding means that we may continue our work in surveillance and expand our efforts to disseminate to our local partners information regarding prevention of occupational disease and injury.

July symposium focuses on health reform law

I am happy to participate as a panelist in an upcoming [Symposium on Health Reform](#) in Coralville. Hosted by the University of Iowa and sponsored in part by IDPH, the July 20 event will serve as a forum to review and discuss how the recently enacted federal health reforms may affect health policy in Iowa, including the need to address immediate possible impacts in financing and infrastructure. Special consideration will be given to some key aspects of the new law, including: expansion in Medicaid and the

IowaCare provider network; health insurance exchanges; care coordination; and health information technology. For more information or to [register](#), visit <http://ppc.uiowa.edu/healthreform>.

SharePoint requires contractor action

As you may know, more than a dozen IDPH staff members and public health partners have been working diligently to introduce some important [quality improvements](#) regarding our [contracting process](#). This week, I am happy to say that the department and our contractors will start reaping the benefits of these streamlined processes. At the core of these improvements is our new electronic file sharing system. Called SharePoint, the system will be initiated on July 1 for the management of IDPH service contracts. This includes the signatory process for contracts and amendments, submission of required activity reports, and submission of expenditure reports.

A unique web site has been created for each IDPH contractor to protect the integrity of legal and financial documents. To that end, IDPH has sent a SharePoint user memorandum of understanding (MOU) to each of our 550 contractors. This must be completed and submitted to the department in order for these partners to access contractual and financial documents. If you are a contractor and have not already done so, please refer to the [SharePoint Contract Management Webinar Slides](#) and the [MOU frequently asked questions](#) document. For questions, please contact Cheryl Christie at 515-281-6645 or cchristi@idph.state.ia.us. For more information about this and other quality improvement measures, visit the Public Health Modernization website at www.idph.state.ia.us/mphi.

College of Public Health re-accreditation document available for comments

The University of Iowa College of Public Health is undergoing re-accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), an independent agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit schools of public health. As part of the re-accreditation process, the College of Public Health completed and submitted a preliminary self-study to CEPH in May that addressed all accreditation criteria. This self-study is posted for public comment at www.public-health.uiowa.edu/about/accreditation.html. To submit comments, visit www.ceph.org and click on "How to contact CEPH."

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To everyone in public health and all our partners, keep up the great work!

— *Tom*

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