



Quick Reads

Dr. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, B.S.N., M.Ed., M.D.
Director, Iowa Department of Public Health

June 10, 2011

IDPH joins state, local agencies in flood preparation

The Iowa Department of Public Health and our partners always do an outstanding job promoting and protecting the health of Iowans, but the public health star shines especially brightly in times of urgency. Last week, IDPH implemented the [Incident Management System](#) (IMS) to aid in the public health response to flooding in western Iowa. IDPH is working closely with local public health and other state agencies, including the Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa Homeland Security Emergency Management Division, and the Iowa Department of Human Services, as what is expected to be an extended flood event unfolds.

Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills, and Fremont counties are expected to have record flooding through mid-August. To plan, prepare and respond to this event, IMS command staff are meeting regularly, and are also holding LPHA and hospital partner briefing webinars.

I encourage you to stay informed of the flood situation by visiting [Governor Branstad's Missouri River Flooding](#) web page, and to utilize the flood resources found on the [IDPH Flood Page](#).

Ten great public health achievements

Public Health was in the spotlight once again last month when the May 20, 2011 issue of [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) outlined the Ten Great Public Health Achievements of the 21st century. The report describes noteworthy public health achievements in the areas of vaccine-preventable disease, prevention and control of infectious disease, tobacco control, maternal and infant health, motor vehicle safety,

cardiovascular disease prevention, occupational safety, cancer prevention, childhood lead poisoning, and public health preparedness and response. The authors also examine the tools in modern public health practice that have played a major role in the achievements, including the establishment of surveillance systems, the dissemination of guidelines, the implementation of research findings, the development of effective public health programs, and the use of the legal system.

I encourage everyone to read this report to celebrate the successes of public health, as we face the challenges the future presents.

2011 Immunization Conference attended by nearly 800

I was honored to give the opening address at the [2011 Immunization Conference](#), held at Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines. Started more than 17 years ago, the first statewide Immunization Meeting was held in a conference room at the Lucas State Office building with about 25 people in attendance. This year's event boasted a registration list of more than 765 attendees. This is strong evidence of the commitment Iowa health professionals have made to immunizations.

I want to congratulate the [IDPH Immunization Program](#) for the well-organized and informative conference, and also offer my personal congratulations to the 2011 Immunization Award of Excellence winners:

- Iowa Healthcare Collaborative - Des Moines
- Regional Medical Center OB Department – Manchester
LeAnn Fenton RN, BSN-Assistant Manager
- Mercy Medical Center Immunization Clinic – Cedar Rapids
Heather Waters RN, BSN-Infection Control Manager
- Sara Kokke CMA
Primary Health Care - Des Moines
- Lori Baldwin RN, BSN, MA & Sue Nielsen RN, BSN
Siouxland District Health Department – Sioux City

Iowa hospital facts website

The [Iowa Hospital Association](#) has announced the launch of a new website aimed at providing Iowans with information about hospitals and health care in the state. The [Iowa Hospital Facts](#) website is a portal to state and national health care websites where Iowans can connect to data and information about the cost, quality, safety and value of their hospitals. The web portal links to information about quality and patient safety data, hospital economic impact data, community benefit information, job listings for Iowa hospitals, and other pertinent information.

Congratulations and kudos

Congratulations to Amy Liechti of the [Bureau of Nutrition and Health Promotion](#), who was presented with the Roxane Joens-Matre 2011 Ambassador of the Year award by [Live Healthy Iowa](#). This award is given in honor and memory of Roxane, a true ambassador for Live Healthy Iowa and physical activity in Iowa. Each year the award is given to an individual who exemplifies the same passion.

Kudos to the [Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems](#)! Reports for FFY2010 show a two percent increase from 2009 for low-income children ages 0 to 5 receiving oral health services from dentists, physicians, and [I-Smile](#)[™] dental hygienists and nurses.

Statistics are impressive, but in the end, they are just that – numbers. To show the people behind the stats, I am happy to pass along this story shared by Kati McNeme of [Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa](#):

In screening students at a local elementary, I came across a 7-year-old child with multiple areas of decay in both baby teeth and permanent teeth. The child had no dental insurance and mom had completed paperwork for Give Kids a Smile Day. From February to April, she had multiple appointments to get the dental work completed. On her last visit, an x-ray indicated an abscess and the need for surgery. I contacted the mother and in conversation found out she knew she was Medicaid eligible, but had not obtained the birth certificates needed by DHS. I explained "presumptive eligibility" and mailed her an application for the three children that would be eligible.

The following week, I followed up with her because I hadn't received the application. I discovered the child had been taken to the hospital over the weekend with a bloody nose, and sore in her nose that was starting to swell. Initially prescribed antibiotics, the swelling and bleeding became worse and the child returned to the doctor. A CT scan was ordered, which found an abscess in the child's nasal cavity. The child was taken by ambulance to Iowa City, where she was treated for a week, and then successfully released.

I did receive the application and the family was accepted for presumptive eligibility. The child was scheduled for the tooth extraction and mom is scheduling all the kids for well child visits as well as dental exams during this presumptive period. The mom is very thankful for all the assistance I-Smile[™] has provided her, and now understands the importance of preventive dental care.

Stay informed, share your story

To get *Quick Reads* directly in your inbox, please send a blank e-mail to join-quick_reads@lists.ia.gov. To contribute a news item or smart practice, please write to Polly Carver-Kimm at Polly.Carver-Kimm@idph.iowa.gov.

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

— Dr. Miller-Meeks