



Quick Reads

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Ebola concerns

The spotlight has certainly been shining brightly on the importance and the role of public health in battling infectious diseases, as media coverage of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa has expanded to include the treatment of Americans in the U.S. It's understandable that Iowans might be concerned about a case of Ebola occurring in this state, as it has in others. We should all feel confident about the readiness of our public health partners and state health care system. IDPH is in frequent contact with our local public health partners, hospitals and the health care community regarding Ebola guidance from CDC. I encourage everyone to stay abreast of the latest developments in this ongoing public health challenge by visiting the [CDC web page](#) dedicated to the Ebola outbreak.

Public health heroes

The [University of Iowa College of Public Health](#) has recognized four leaders whose contributions across a range of disciplines are helping to promote better health and prevent disease throughout Iowa.

The [2014 Iowa Public Health Heroes Awards](#) were presented at the annual Iowa Public Health Practice Colloquium to Karen Crimmings of Manly, Iowa, head of the Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health; Ronald Eckoff, M.D., of Cumming, Iowa, retired medical director for the Division of Health Promotion, Prevention, and Addictive Behaviors at the IDPH and member of Iowa's Public Health Advisory Council; Binnie LeHew of Des Moines, head of the IDPH Office of Disability, Injury, and Violence Prevention; and

Laurie Zelnio, director of Environment, Product Safety, Standards and Energy/Climate for Deere & Company.

Iowa Cancer Summit

The [Iowa Cancer Consortium](#), an IDPH partner focused on reducing the burden of cancer in Iowa, presents the [Iowa Cancer Summit](#) October 21st and 22nd in Ankeny. This is Iowa's only statewide comprehensive cancer control conference. The keynote speaker, Dr. Patricia Ganz, is UCLA's director of Cancer Prevention and Control Research and director of the Patients and Survivors program. Recently, she chaired an Institute of Medicine committee producing a report titled [Delivering High-Quality Cancer Care: Charting a New Course for a System in Crisis](#).

Healthy Communities

The third edition of [Healthy Communities](#) magazine has been released. This e-publication features articles on the different, innovative public health practices that are occurring across the state. Many of the highlighted stories detail collaborative work with local public health agencies on issues such as clinical prevention, healthy eating, smoke-free living, and safe environments. Healthy Communities is intended to reach all Iowans, but specifically targets local public health agencies and community members that may be able to replicate these projects in their own neighborhoods

Quality Improvement Success

[Iowa Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting](#) (MIECHV) contractors have worked diligently to increase capacity at the local sites and at last report, stood at 98 percent across the state.

IDPH trained 20 local health department staff on basic quality improvement tools over two days in Marshalltown.

The [IDPH Gambling Treatment Program](#) and ISU Extension implemented an email notification system to alert programs when a 1-800-BetsOff caller who requested to talk with a provider was not able to be linked to their local provider.

The IDPH [Division of Tobacco Use Prevention and Control](#) has developed manuals for all community partnerships and commission members to assist with consistent communication.

Congrats and kudos

Janet Horras from the MIECHV team was invited to be a part of Linchpin's home visitation advisory group, a newly developed association for home visitation across the nation. Iowa is one of only a few states invited to participate.

The [I-WALK](#) program, developed by the Community and Economic Development Extension and Outreach unit at Iowa State University and the Iowa Department of Public Health, was published in the [August 2014 issue of the Journal of Extension](#). Congratulations to IDPH Research Analyst Cathy Lillehoj and IDPH I-Walk Coordinator Suzy Wilson.

Congrats to IDPH eWIC Project Manager Brandy Benedict, who has successfully graduated from the [Great Plains Public Health Leadership Institute](#).

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

— Gerd