



# Quick Reads

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## How can you stay informed on the PHMA?

I hope you all saw the special edition of *Quick Reads* last month. If not, go to [www.idph.state.ia.us/do/quick\\_reads.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/do/quick_reads.asp). I talked about the milestone of transitioning from the Redesign initiative to the modernization of public health in Iowa. As we move forward with the [Public Health Modernization Act](#) (PHMA), the department and I will continue to use *Quick Reads* and several other key IDPH publications to educate stakeholders.

If these *Quick Reads* are forwarded to you by someone else, please take a moment to sign up to receive them directly. Just send a blank e-mail to [join-quick\\_reads@lists.ia.gov](mailto:join-quick_reads@lists.ia.gov), and they will arrive in your inbox every three or four weeks. I also encourage you to sign up for these other important mailing lists:

- *Iowa Health Focus* newsletter: Published bimonthly, *Focus* is written for a broad audience and includes in-depth articles featuring departmental news and topics of interest to public health partners statewide. To join the mailing list, send a blank e-mail to [join-iahealthfocus@lists.ia.gov](mailto:join-iahealthfocus@lists.ia.gov).
- *Legislative Updates*: Produced only during legislative session, these easy-to-navigate summaries let you know what's happening week to week in the Iowa House and Senate. Sign up by sending a blank e-mail to [join-idphlegupdate@lists.ia.gov](mailto:join-idphlegupdate@lists.ia.gov).
- For up-to-the minute information about the Public Health Modernization Act, send a blank e-mail to [join-redesign@lists.ia.gov](mailto:join-redesign@lists.ia.gov).

**PHMA presentation now available online**

Staff at IDPH are currently working on a “modernization” Web site to replace the Redesign site. In the meantime, however, I wanted to call your attention to an important resource recently posted to the current site. Please visit [www.idph.state.ia.us/rphi](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/rphi) and look under “Update (11/12/08)” for a [PowerPoint file](#). This presentation comes with an optional script in the “notes” section and includes a history of the Redesign initiative along with an easy-to-understand introduction to the [Public Health Modernization Act](#). Perfect for speaking to your board of health, professional association, or community partners, this PowerPoint file is also customizable to allow you to fill in information about your own organization or location. For questions on how to use this presentation, please contact Joy Harris at 515-281-3377.

### **Smokefree Air Act rules adopted**

I am pleased to say that the [Iowa State Board of Health](#) has adopted the Administrative Rules that accompany the [Smokefree Air Act](#). Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Division of Tobacco Use Prevention and Control, the Attorney General’s office, and other state agencies, these rules clearly outline how implementation and enforcement of the law shall take place. Throughout the process of creating draft rules and making recommendations for final changes, I’d like to recognize public health’s most important partner—the public itself. From June 2 to September 30, 2008, the department received hundreds of public comments on the draft rules. Because of this input, we were able to make recommendations that have resulted in a strong set of administrative rules that clarify the finer details of this important law while maintaining its legislative intent. To view the version of the administrative rules approved by the Board on Nov. 12, visit [www.iowasmokefreeair.gov](http://www.iowasmokefreeair.gov) and look under “Legislation/Statutes.” Also on this Web site under “Important Updates,” visitors can find a summary and the entire list of comments received during the public comment period, as well as a description of the most recently recommended changes.

### **IDPH staff selected for IOM committee**

Congratulations to Randy Mayer, [HIV/AIDS/hepatitis program](#) manager at IDPH. Randy was recently selected nationally by the [Institute of Medicine](#) of the National Academies to serve on their [Committee on the Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis Infections in the United States](#). The [committee](#) will assess current prevention and control activities and identify priorities for research, policy, and action. They will also highlight issues that warrant further investigations and opportunities for collaboration between private and public sectors. A comprehensive report will be issued no later than Nov. 30 of next year.

### **National Influenza Vaccination Week, December 8 - 14**

You all know I love a good challenge. In 2008, we saw great successes with public health workers participating in the Des Moines Marathon and Live Healthy Iowa. Now I am asking those of you who provide influenza vaccinations to challenge yourselves during [National Influenza Vaccination Week](#), December 8 to 14. Last year, this observance was held from 11/26 to 12/2. How many vaccinations did you provide during this time period? (IRIS users can find this out relatively easily.) Can you provide more this year? With manufacturers projecting the availability of as many as 143 million to 146 million doses this season, I'm sure you can!

Organized by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), National Influenza Vaccination Week fosters greater use of flu vaccine through the months of November, December and beyond. This year, Tuesday (12/9) is designated as Children's Vaccination Day. Thursday (12/11) is designated as Seniors' Vaccination Day, and Friday (12/12) will focus on vaccination of health care workers. Good luck!

### **Mark your calendar: immunization conference, June 10-11**

The 2009 Iowa Statewide Immunization Conference is shaping up to be a conference to remember. Even though we're several months away, mark you calendar now for a special evening event on June 10 and a full day of presentations and activities on June 11. Now one of the largest immunization conferences in the nation, the 2009 gathering is expected to draw 750 participants from across the state. More details to follow soon!

### **We want your best practices**

IDPH is committed to telling the citizens of Iowa about the good things public health is doing to make a difference. To do this, we want to highlight your best practices/success stories. Please send your ideas to Don McCormick at [dmccormi@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:dmccormi@idph.state.ia.us).

*To everyone in public health and all our partners—keep up the great work!  
Tom*