



Quick Reads

Gerd Clabaugh, MPA
Director, Iowa Department of Public Health

February 16, 2015

Measles

It seems as though Public Health has been making headlines for months now. I'm proud of the way IDPH and our partners have responded to first the threat of [Ebola](#), then the severe [influenza](#) outbreak, and now a national measles outbreak. At the time of this writing, there are no confirmed cases of measles in Iowa; however, that does not mean public health has not been busy. IDPH has been working closely with our local partners on surveillance and preparation should a measles case be confirmed in Iowa; a statewide measles webinar was held with health care providers and local public health officials; and a measles [Web page](#) has been launched with resources for both the public and health care providers.

Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health

[Registration](#) is underway for the annual [Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health](#). This year's event, themed *Public Health is on the Move: Accreditation, Assessment and Assurance*, is scheduled for April 14 and 15 in Cedar Rapids. U.S. Surgeon General, Vice Admiral (VADM) Vivek H. Murthy, M.D., M.B.A., is a keynote speaker. I hope to see you there.

Medical cannabidiol registration card now available

Working with the Iowa Dept. of Transportation, IDPH met its goal of readiness for implementing the administrative rules for the [Medical Cannabidiol Act Registration Card Program](#), as the rules became effective January 30, 2015. The [application forms](#) for the

Cannabidiol Registration Card are now published on the IDPH Web site and applications are being processed.

Quality improvement

Iowa is one of six states participating in a quality improvement project addressing timeliness in newborn screening. The [Newborn Screening Technical assistance and Evaluation Program](#) (NewSTEPS) is funded through a cooperative agreement to the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) by the Genetic Services Branch of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Congrats and kudos

Iowa was recognized as having one of the best [newborn screening programs](#) in the country at the Association of Public Health Laboratories' Collaboration for Innovation and Improvement Network (CoIIN) Timeliness in Newborn Screening Quality Improvement meeting.

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!

— Gerd