



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Office of Local and Rural Health



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WHAT'S INSIDE

'KEEP OUR SCHOOL HEALTHY' DVD ASSISTS SCHOOLS IN STOPPING SPREAD OF INFLUENZA..... 1

4 NEW WAYS TO FIGHT THE FLU 2

KRHIS TO BETTER SERVE YOU 2

WHAT'S IN A COUGH 3

HEALTH DAY AT THE CAPITAL..... 3

GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE 3

MARCH IS COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH 4

SAFE SLUMBER WORKSHOP 4

NEW LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS..... 4

CAVITY CRISIS IN COWTOWN..... 5

COMMUNICATING OUR MESSAGE: PUBLIC HEALTH, POLITICS AND POLICY 5

KS TRAIN TIPS 5

NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE 6

LANE COUNTY NATURAL DISASTER JANUARY 1, 2007..... 6

LINKS 7

 Trauma 7

 KDHE Response to Snow and Ice Storm in Western Kansas..... 7

 Regional Public Health Meetings and Billing Workshops..... 7

 Aid to Local..... 7

'KEEP OUR SCHOOL HEALTHY' DVD ASSISTS SCHOOLS IN STOPPING SPREAD OF INFLUENZA

by Michael Cameron,

KDHE Risk Communication Specialist



Influenza can spread quickly through an elementary school causing absenteeism and often infecting members of the faculty and staff. To assist elementary schools in stemming this spread, KDHE has produced a DVD called "Keep Our School Healthy."

The DVD, containing two videos and printed material, is being distributed to all elementary schools in Kansas. The videos feature an animated version of Dr. Howard Rodenberg, KDHE Director of Health, and Chris Tuck, R.N., the Kansas School Nurse of the Year. Tuck, a former KDHE employee, is the school nurse at Indian Creek Elementary School, U.S.D. 345 in Shawnee County. Several students from Indian Creek

and Pleasant Hill Elementary Schools also appear in the videos.

The videos, one targeting kindergartners through third-grade and another aimed at students in grades 4-6, were introduced at an all-school assembly at Indian Creek on Feb. 22. Chris Tuck and students who appeared in the videos were recognized with a certificate of appreciation from KDHE, presented by Dr. Rodenberg.

The printed material includes flyers aimed at students, faculty and staff, and a flyer in English and Spanish that can be sent home with students, advising parents to keep their children at home if they are sick due to the flu. Fact sheets and checklists from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), for schools to use during an influenza pandemic are included on the DVD.

The "Keep Our School Healthy" DVD was produced with grant funds from the CDC as part of the KDHE **Don't Let Flu Bug U** program, which was highlighted during a multimedia campaign in December. The campaign included 30-second TV and radio spots aired statewide and newspaper advertising that appeared in nearly every newspaper in Kansas. Print ads were also made available for use by local health departments, and several were assisted with a **Don't Let Flu Bug U** PowerPoint slide that was used as onscreen advertising on flu shot clinics at selected movie theaters.

The videos center on four key messages on how to prevent the spread of influenza:

- Wash your hands often.
- Don't share drink containers or eating utensils.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Stay home from school if you are sick.

The video for grades 4-6 also advises students to get a flu shot. The videos also present information on the symptoms of the flu, advises students to tell their parents if they experience severe symptoms such as extremely high fever and explains what parents can do to help children recover from a case of influenza.

The "Keep Our School Healthy" videos (WMV version) and printed material are available for viewing and downloading on the KDHE *Don't Let Flu Bug U* Web site at: www.kdheks.gov/flu/FluBugU.htm

4 NEW WAYS TO FIGHT THE FLU



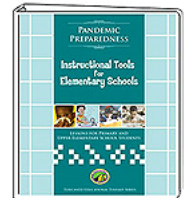
It's never too early to start planning for the next flu season! The Public Health Foundation (PHF) in partnership with ToucanEd is now offering four new toolkits that will help your community prepare and respond to a possible pandemic outbreak.

- The 2nd edition of the best seller, *Pandemic Preparedness and Response: An Educational Toolkit* provides a wealth of resources for public health professionals to deliver thorough, engaging presentations on pandemic influenza preparedness.

Designed specifically for use in schools, the following three resources provide essential tools on pandemic preparedness:

- *Pandemic Preparedness: Instructional Tools for Elementary Schools*
- *Pandemic Preparedness: Instructional Tools for Secondary Schools*
- *Pandemic Preparedness: Planning Tools for School Districts*

Please go to the PHF online bookstore at <http://bookstore.phf.org/index.php> for these and related products.



KRHIS TO BETTER SERVE YOU

The KDHE Office of Local & Rural Health is enhancing and expanding the scope of the Kansas Rural Health Information System (KRHIS) to better serve our 1,200 customers who use this service.

Please note the Bioterrorism Preparedness Topic Category is now titled Emergency Preparedness, and the Public Health Topic Category is now titled Public & Community Health.

Health Information Technology (HIT) is a complex issue that continues to grow in importance and interest for many of our customers, HIT will now be a subcategory under 6 of the 7 Topic Area Categories. Information from state and federal agencies, associations and others on issues such as electronic medical record (EMR) system evaluation and deployment, regional health information organizations (RHIO) development, and telemedicine/telehealth, and HIT financing will be shared with those who select one or more of the HIT subcategories.

There also are three new subcategories within the Public and Community Health Topic Categories:

1. **Schools**; notices will include guidance and updates from state and federal agencies and associations, planning and preparedness resources, conference notices, and journal articles.
2. **Healthy Kansas 2010**; notices will consist of federal updates and state notices and announcements.
3. **Health Disparity & Cultural Competency**; notices will focus on federal and state resources and announcements, conference, training opportunities, and grant opportunities.

Rural Health Clinics, a new subcategory within the Primary Care Topic Category, will receive notices specific to RHC practices, policy, federal requirements and updates, and regional and federal conferences. Also, please note we have changed the Health Professional Recruitment & Retention subcategory title to include **J1 and NHSC**.

To receive the notices for the new sub categories **you will need to** update your KRHIS profile to include these subcategories. Please click on the KRHIS logo above to be directed to the KRHIS registration site. Should you need additional assistance please contact Allen Sester at: asester@kdhe.state.ks.us. We wish you the very best in 2007 and hope that this service will help you to stay current on issues which influence your profession, organization, and your life.



WHAT'S IN A COUGH

The Epidemiology Services Section's Local Health Department Conference Call Series announces their first presentation of the 2007 season: "What's in a Cough, 2007." The presentation will discuss the impact of changing trends in pertussis. Pertussis is the only vaccine preventable disease in the United States that is on the rise. Pertussis spreads most easily among adolescents and college communities, but the highest risks are associated with infants, for whom pertussis can lead to pneumonia, convulsions, brain damage and death. There are several possible explanations for this trend.



This conference call will be presented on March 13 at 3 p.m. and again on March 23 at 12 p.m. Additional information about this conference call, including phone number and access code, as well as a copy of the presentation will be posted on PHIX during the week of March 5. Please contact Amanda Hodle with questions at ahodle@kdhe.state.ks.us.

HEALTH DAY AT THE CAPITAL

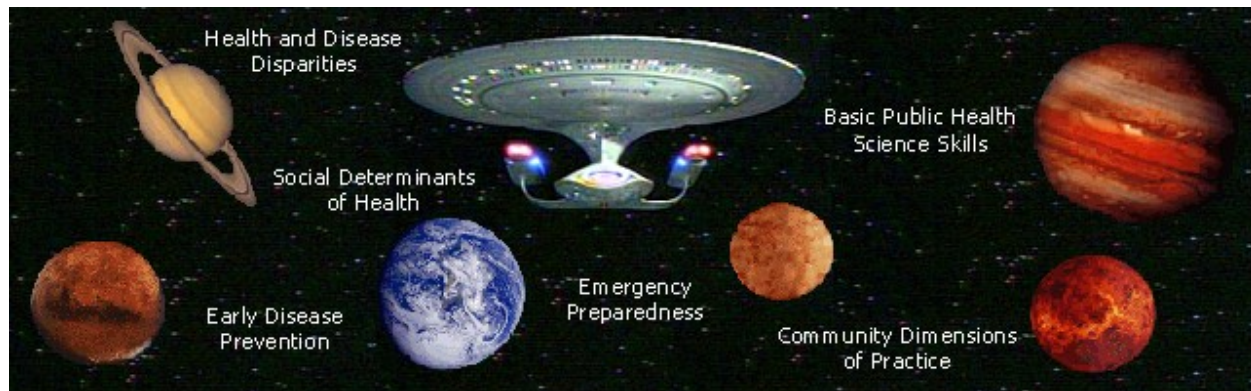
The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) and the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition (KHCC), along with other health organizations involved in the 2007 Alliance for Health Advocates-KS invite you to attend and participate in a Health Fair and Lunch for Health Day at the Capital with Legislators Thursday, March 8. Policy development is one of the core functions of public health. Taking advantage of opportunities to get to know and inform policy makers is critical to successful public health policy efforts.

Boxed lunches will be provided free to legislators, sponsored by the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition and the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc. Advocates are encouraged to call your legislators to personally invite them to come talk with you and enjoy their free lunch! Lunch cost is \$8.

Your attendance and participation is needed and valued. Contact Sonja Armbruster, 316-660-7335 or at sarmbrus@sedgwick.gov.



GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE



Registration for the Governor's Annual Public Health Conference "New Frontiers in Public Health" is now available on KS-TRAIN. **For a copy of the conference brochure click on the planet Earth above.** This year's conference is being held at the Grand Prairie Hotel in Hutchinson. Deadline for registration is April 15. If you do not have a KS-TRAIN account you can follow the instruction on page 10 of the brochure. When making your reservations, ask for the Governor's Public Health Conference room block. Reservations will be accepted on a space-available basis and deadline is April 16.

MARCH IS COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

If you could prevent cancer, would you do it? Would it have to be easy and effective? If you answered yes to both of these questions, you can do something. You can get screened for colorectal cancer to help find precancerous polyps that can be removed before they turn into cancer.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in Kansas and the United States. But it doesn't have to be. This is one cancer you can prevent. March is colorectal cancer awareness month, a time to learn more about this type of cancer and what you can do.

Here is what you need to know:

- If you are over age 50, see your doctor to get screened. For those with a family history of the disease screening should begin earlier.
- Colorectal cancer and precancerous polyps don't always cause symptoms.
- Colorectal cancer affects both men and women equally.
- When found early, colorectal cancer treatment can be very effective.
- Many insurance plans, including the state plan and Medicare, help pay for colorectal cancer screening.

Colorectal cancer represents 12 percent of all newly diagnosed invasive cancers in Kansas. From 2000 to 2004, 7,361 Kansans were diagnosed with colorectal cancer and 2,744 died of the disease. Survival from colorectal cancer depends on the stage of the disease at the time of diagnosis.

Both men and women should follow one of the testing guidelines set out by the American Cancer Society and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force to check for colorectal cancer. This includes a fecal occult blood test, colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy depending on factors such as your age, personal history and other health factors.



SAFE SLUMBER WORKSHOP

The Atchison County Health Dept., in collaboration with the SIDS Network of Kansas, Inc., hosted a Safe Slumber workshop Feb. 15. The outreach training was funded by the D. J. Foundation for SIDS. Christy Schunn, LSCSW, Executive Director, SIDS Network of Kansas, provided an afternoon training to local professionals in child care, nursing and the Healthy Start program.

The training was originally scheduled at the Health Department, but because of the tremendous registration response, the training was moved to a larger facility at the local SRS office. SIDS, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, is "the sudden death of an infant under one year of age which remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation." Because Kansas has the fifth highest SIDS rate in the U.S., the goal of this training was to provide community educators with the knowledge necessary to educate new and expectant families to reduce the rate of SIDS. Participants were also given materials to educate and maintain SIDS training in their communities.



Christy Schunn presented SIDS information to local professionals recently at SRS. The workshop was sponsored by the SIDS network of Kansas and the Atchison County Health Department.

NEW LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS

We would like to welcome these new local public health department administrators (green):

- Coffey - Lindsey Payer, RN
- Dickinson - Linda Davis, RN
- Ness - Sharon Anderson, RN

Grant County Health Department (blue) is in the process of hiring a new Administrator.



CAVITY CRISIS IN COWTOWN

Each year during Children's Dental Health Month, the Sedgwick County Health Department's Dental Clinic coordinates the "Molardrama" for second grade students from Sedgwick County schools. This annual event was held Feb. 5 through Feb. 9, at the Wichita Children's Theater and Dance Center and includes a melodrama titled *Cavity Crisis in Cowtown*. More than 2,500 children attended accompanied by their teachers and several parents. Each child was given a goody bag that contained a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, a coupon for a free apple and a sticker. The Wichita District Dental Society underwrites the cost of the production and Dillon's donated the apple coupons.



COMMUNICATING OUR MESSAGE: PUBLIC HEALTH, POLITICS AND POLICY



A call for presentations has been requested for the 2007 Fall Public Health Conference Sept. 18-20 at the Hyatt Regency, Wichita.

The Conference Committee invites you to submit a presentation proposal for the 2007 Fall Public Health Conference. The conference will focus on communicating our message to the public health workforce, politicians, the public, and policymakers. There will be approximately 20 breakout sessions to give you the opportunity to share your successes and innovative programs with a wide audience.

The 2007 Conference goals are to:

1. Share best practices to promote partnership in public health.
2. Increase effectiveness of public health leadership and management roles.
3. Increase public health workforce competency.

Presentation proposals must be received by April 30. For more information contact Cyndi Treaster at ctreaste@kdhe.state.ks.us or call (785) 296-8113.

KS TRAIN TIPS

Live Events Posted on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org> (not all courses/dates/sessions that are posted on KS-TRAIN are listed below)

1. To access and register for these trainings:
2. Open a new web browser and enter <http://ks.train.org>
3. Log into your TRAIN account
4. On this page, click the title of the course in which you would like to enroll.

The link will take you to the course page in TRAIN. Click the "Refresh" button and then proceed with course registration.

Upcoming courses on KS-TRAIN. Click on Train to go to KS-TRAIN web page:

- ◆ 2nd Annual Governor's Public Health Conference; Hutchinson, Apr 30-May 2
- ◆ ARC: Shelter Operations Overview; Wichita, Mar. 7
- ◆ Chemical Sleuthing: Web-based Tools for Public Health; Internet, March 19
- ◆ HazMed: Medical Management of the Contaminated Patient; Hugoton, Mar. 28
- ◆ Kan Be Healthy Training; Topeka, Mar. 20
- ◆ KDHE/HazMed: Medical Management of the Contaminated Patient, Two-Day Training, Spring 2007; Kansas City, KS, Mar. 22-23
- ◆ KDHE/HazMed: Medical Management of the Contaminated Patient RECERTIFICATION; Eureka, Mar. 15; Coffeyville, Mar. 16
- ◆ KDEM Trng "Incident Command System (ICS) 400 Advanced; Hays, Mar. 20-21
- ◆ KDEM Trng "Fundamentals Course for Radiological Awareness; Newton, Mar. 12
- ◆ KDEM Trng "WEM (R&R): Recovery from Disaster the Local Government Role; Wichita, Mar. 29
- ◆ Preparing for Burn Disasters; Topeka, Mar. 10
- ◆ WMD: Emergency Medical Operations and Planning; Hoxie, Mar. 9-11
- ◆ WORKS! 2007; Hutchinson, Mar. 27-29



NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE

New materials were recently added to the Kansas Center for Public Health Preparedness Library and are available for checkout by local health departments and hospitals. They include:

- ◆ Public Health Emergency Exercise Toolkit – Columbia University
- ◆ Disaster Communications Guidebook – Missouri Department of Health
- ◆ Terrorism and Other Public Health Emergencies – A Field Guide for Media – DHHS
- ◆ Mental Health All-Hazards Disaster Planning Guidance – DHHS
- ◆ Responding to the Needs of People with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness in Times of Disaster – DHHS
- ◆ Dealing with Effects of Trauma – A Self-Help Guide – DHHS
- ◆ Field Manual for Mental Health and Human Service Workers in Major Disasters – DHHS
- ◆ CDC-SNS videos:
 - ◆ Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Alternate Methods
 - ◆ Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Collecting POD Exercise Data
 - ◆ Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Managing Volunteer Staffing
 - ◆ Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Streamlining POD Design and Operations
 - ◆ Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Using Public Information to Enhance POD Flow

All items that are checked out of the library should be returned within 30 calendar days, unless special arrangements are made in advance. Clicking on the "Information" link on the PHIX home page and then selecting "BT Library" directs people to more information about the library. The CPHP Library contains more than 250 print, video and multimedia resources on a wide range of preparedness and response topics. The library is designed to serve as a research, training and education resource for local agencies.

Please contact Mike Heideman at (785) 296-4363 or mheidema@kdhe.state.ks.us if you would like to checkout an item or if you have questions about the library.

LANE COUNTY NATURAL DISASTER JANUARY 1, 2007

Editor's Note:

This article is a first-hand account of a local health department's recent experience in local disaster management.

*Submitted by Dana Shapland R.N. Admin.
Lane County Health Dept.*

I awoke with a phone call from our Emergency Manager, Bill Taldo (who had been hired 2 weeks prior). Dana I need your help. I sort of chuckled and asked what was going on. Bill told me that power was out and we might not get it back for 5 to 7 days, as I picked myself off the floor I said well what do you want me to do, in my mind I was thinking oh darn I didn't fill the tub or the water jugs with water. Bill said he would like me to meet him at the Emergency Operations Center ASAP.

The next phone call was my refrigerator alarm calling to alert me the electricity was off and the vaccine needed to be moved. I hurried to the health department and packed the vaccine and moved it to the hospital. I was so glad I had purchased a refrigerator and set up there just in case.

I met Bill along with the Sheriff, 2 County Commissioners, and some other very giving souls. We all sort of looked at each other and wondered what we were going to do. I said we need to check on the elderly and make sure they are ok with food and heat. I provide an elder care program so I had a list of a few citizens that we could get a hold of. I started calling, most of them were fine at the moment but weren't to sure if they would be able to make it through the night or for an extended time. Volunteers went door to door checking on people giving them information where to go and numbers to call if they needed help. Many people didn't have the land line phone to be able to call out.

We decided to set up a shelter; according to our plan the school was the location we had chosen. The only problem was we didn't have a generator large enough to heat the school. We decided to set up at the 4-H building at the fairgrounds. Bill called the electric company and they assisted us in connecting the generators and starting the heaters. I pulled my numbers from my SOG to call Red Cross for assistance. I was unable to reach anyone at the Chapter in Garden City so I called Wichita, we were told that this storm has hit 18 counties in Western Kansas and that they would be unable to assist and that the conditions were to dangerous to send out any of their volunteers. We had no blankets, cots, food or supplies to set up a shelter.

I called my sister-in-law and ask her to call everyone she knew and for them to call everyone they knew and bring blankets pillows and air mattresses to the 4-H building. I along with some volunteers hit the grocery store, with flash lights and carts we strolled the aisles collecting food for the shelter. The 4-H building had

electric cook stoves so we were unable to cook. Volunteers donated stew, chili and sandwiches to help feed the victims of the disaster. We kept coolers outside the building to keep the food cool.

One thing we didn't count on was the special needs population. We had several people in the community that were on oxygen and c-packs, electric chairs and walkers. The shelter didn't have electricity for oxygen concentrators or c-packs or the respiratory treatments. We moved 6 people to the hospital to receive the extra care. Elderly people also have much difficulty getting off and on an air mattress. I suggest having a MOU with your hospitals or nursing homes. The third night we received cots from the National Guard.

We had a total of 30 citizens and 4 people driving through town in Dighton. Healy Methodist church set up a shelter and housed about 60 citizens at one time or another. Volunteers from their community also brought in food and supplies to assist

We have implemented a form for the special needs population to fill out telling us personal information, nearest contact and emergency and medical information. We are looking at a better place to set up a shelter or possibly getting a bigger generator, purchasing cots and blankets. Please note that this experience was my own, there were many other crisis's going on.

The emergency radios were not working, towers had collapsed, and water towers were unable to fill. People were unable to get fuel for the generators and vehicles. Road conditions were awful unless you had 4-wheel drive, ice and snow everywhere. Not to mention about 3,000 electric poles down.

I also learned a lot about human compassion and the strength of our community. I am very proud to be from Lane County. Hopefully I will never have to endure a disaster like this again, but I'm pretty sure I will be better prepared and so will the citizens of our community.

LINKS Trauma



Kansas Trauma System is dedicated to reducing the death, disability and suffering that results from traumatic injuries and mass casualty events by providing a comprehensive and integrated system of statewide prevention and trauma care resources throughout the continuum of care. Click on the

Trauma logo to learn more about the Kansas Trauma Program's "Golden Hour" (10 minute video).



KDHE Response to Snow and Ice Storm in Western Kansas

Click on the tree to view an article regarding the Kansas Department of Health & Environment's (KDHE) Center for Public Health Preparedness (CPHP) involvement in the State Emergency Operations during the January winter storm that struck Western Kansas.

Regional Public Health Meetings and Billing Workshops

New! Click on the **Public Health sign** to view dates, times, and locations of Regional Public Health meetings and Billing Workshops.



Aid to Local

Aid to Local grants are now being accepted until March 15. To view the application, forms and reporting guidelines click on the library bookcase.

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