



# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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**Kansas Public Health Association Fall Conference and the Kansas Health Literacy Summit**

*by Bureau of Community Health Systems*

*Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)*



Registration is open for the 69th Annual Kansas Public Health Association Fall Conference and the Kansas Health Literacy Summit to be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Topeka, Oct. 1-3. Conference sessions will focus on the theme, "Healthy Food for a Healthy Kansas." Click the conference logo to review the brochure, which provides descriptions for all plenary and breakout session descriptions, learning objectives, and bio-sketches for speakers. Registration for these events are now available online through Wichita State University. See the conference logo for more information.

**Kansas Reports Cases of West Nile Virus**

*by the Office of Communications, KDHE*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) reported on Aug. 28 that there are five confirmed cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) in the state. Health officials here say an additional 17 cases reported are probable. Of the 22 total cases reported in Kansas, one patient has died due to West Nile Virus. "Sadly, someone in Kansas has died due to West Nile virus disease. In many places around the country, including Kansas, cases are on the rise, and we urge caution about the spread of this disease and encourage the use of methods that prevent mosquito bites," said Robert Moser, M.D., KDHE Secretary and State Health Officer.

No other details about the patients or the one death will be provided at this time. West Nile Virus can be spread to people through bites from infected mosquitoes, but it is not contagious from person to person. Symptoms range from a slight headache and low-grade fever to swelling of the brain or brain tissue and in rare cases, death. People who have had West Nile virus before are considered immune.

KDHE recommends the following precautions to protect against West Nile Virus:

- When you are outdoors, use insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient on skin and clothing, including DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535. Follow the directions on the package.
- Many mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Be sure to use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants at these times or consider staying indoors during these hours.
- Make sure you have good screens on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.
- Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets and barrels.
- Change the water in pet dishes and replace the water in bird baths weekly. Drill holes in tire swings so water drains out. Keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when they aren't being used.

Cases are most common in the late summer and early fall months. In 2011, one confirmed case of West Nile virus was reported in Kansas. The three-year median for WNV for 2008-2010 was 5 cases. Incidences declined sharply after 2003; this is likely due to acquired immunity through exposure to the virus. Birds are not tested for West Nile Virus in Kansas and KDHE will not be collecting information about dead birds. If you find a dead bird, KDHE recommends that you wear gloves, place the bird in a plastic bag, and dispose of it in the garbage.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides this web page with helpful information about West Nile Virus and preventing mosquito bites: [www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes/](http://www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes/).

## RWJF Publishes New Report - Transforming Public Health

*by Jane Shirley, Director local Health  
Bureau of Community Health Services, KDHE*



A few weeks ago hundreds of local, state and national public health practitioners gathered electronically for a webinar on a new report, "Transforming Public Health", supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). The goal of the webinar was to help public health officials and policymakers prioritize critical public health functions as budgets and governmental changes transform public health and responsibilities.

Key presenters included Terry Cline, PhD, commissioner of health of the Oklahoma State Department of Health; David W. Fleming, MD, director and health officer for public health in Seattle and King County in Washington State; and Paul Kuehnert, senior program officer and director of the RWJF Public Health team.

You will find the summary document, "Transforming Public Health," by clicking the RWJF logo.

## Quality, Innovation and Care is at the Heart of This Kansas Family Dairy

*by Kathleen Cuddy, Midwest Dairy*



Consumers who spoon into a cup of Dannon yogurt may not be thinking of a dairy in western Kansas as they enjoy that meal or snack, but, rest assured, those at McCarty Family Farms are always thinking of them. Indeed, a farm-to-cup approach drives the philosophy and daily operations at the 90-year-old McCarty Family Farms, LLC. What started nearly a century ago with members of

the McCarty family milking cows by hand at a small farm in Pennsylvania has evolved into three thriving dairy farms in Bird City, Rexford and Scott City, Kansas, and a recently-opened milk processing plant at the Rexford site, specifically designed to supply milk solids to The Dannon Company. McCarty family members are involved at nearly every level of the business.

While McCarty Family Farms has long been committed to being stewards of the land and providing top-quality, nutritious dairy products, the company's innovation, sustainability and focus on health and wellness reflects the latest advances in production and processing. In its partnership with The Dannon Company, those advances include a unique process for processing milk. After milk from the dairy's three farms comes into the plant, water is removed through an evaporator, and the cream is separated from the milk. The condensed cream and condensed skim milk are sent to Dannon's yogurt plant in Texas, while all of the water is recycled and reused throughout McCarty's Family farms operations. That process, the only one of its kind in the country, significantly reduces the plant's carbon footprint and underscores both companies' priority of sustainable development.

Meanwhile, following the long-held tenet that animals that are well cared for ultimately produce superior products, McCarty Family Farms also focuses on animal well being. Cows live in barns and outdoor pens designed for comfort, and their diets are developed by a nutritionist and overseen by farm staff, including fourth-generation members of the McCarty family. "The responsibility of feeding the world - we take it very, very seriously," says Mike McCarty, manager of the Bird City dairy farm.



That emphasis on health and nutrition extends to finished products, including a variety of nutrient-rich yogurts under the Dannon brand that are made with milk produced at the McCarty Family Farms. Milk quality, a cornerstone of nutritious dairy products, is based on farming practices, milk production practices and processing practices. The farm-to-cup process continues to be refined and improved. In addition to its new processing plant, McCarty Family Farms and partner The Dannon Company also continue to look at other ways to innovate and to improve sustainability. To learn more about McCarty Family Farms, click their logo above.

**Reminder**  
Next KDHE Statewide Public Health Conference Call will be  
Tuesday, Sept. 25, at 10:00 A.M.

Questions:

Jane Shirley, Director, Local Public Health Program

[jshirley@kdheks.gov](mailto:jshirley@kdheks.gov)

## Kansas Drug Card Free to All Kansans

by Angela Garvey, Program Director  
Kansas Drug Card



The Kansas Drug Card is a free discount prescription drug card. All Kansas residents are eligible for this statewide Prescription Assistance Program (PAP) that provides prescription medication savings (average savings is 30-35 percent) at most all pharmacies. The Kansas Drug Card was launched to help the uninsured and under insured people of Kansas afford their prescription medications. However, the program can also be used by people who have health insurance coverage with no prescription benefits or those you use non-formulary or non-covered drugs.

Kansas Drug Card Highlights:

- FREE for everyone in Kansas
- Has NO restrictions, no enrollment forms, no age or income requirements, no waiting periods, no eligibility required, no exclusions, covers pre-existing conditions, no claim forms to file, no annual or lifetime limits.
- Includes discounts on brand name and generic medications and utilizes lowest price logic to guarantee the best pricing on prescriptions

Email [angela@kansasdrugcard.com](mailto:angela@kansasdrugcard.com) to request flyers or wallet cards to distribute. To learn more about the program click the Kansas Drug Card logo.

## Accreditation Corner

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

### KDHE Management Team Strengthens Agency Accreditation Learning Session

by Brenda Nickel, Director  
Center for Performance Management, KDHE

Twenty-five members of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Executive and Management Team recently spent the day together to learn about the public health accreditation process and the opportunity to advance quality and performance within the State health department. Shirley Orr, Public Health Consultant, worked with the KDHE team presenting information about the public health accreditation process and assisted in the facilitation of participant's review of the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) standards and measures with participants from the Division of Environment (DOE), Division of Health (DOH), Division of Health Care Finance (DHCF), and the Executive Team.



### KDHE Accreditation Team

Next steps for the accreditation journey will be the selection of KDHE staff to join the agency Accreditation Team and serve as key contacts for securing the evidence documenting the meeting of standards and measures, engaging colleagues in the agency in quality improvement work, and serving as agency guides for the ongoing assessment and sharing of information throughout the agency.

Training for the Accreditation Team is scheduled for Sept. 19-20 with Ms. Orr and the agency Accreditation Coordinator, Brenda Nickel, Center for Performance Management. For more information about the accreditation process, go to <http://www.phaboard.org/>. For more information about the accreditation journey the agency will be undertaking, contact Brenda Nickel, Accreditation Coordinator, at [bnickel@kdheks.gov](mailto:bnickel@kdheks.gov) or 785-296-1419.



### KDHE QI Culture Planning

On Aug. 28, members of the agency Executive Team attended the work session, "KDHE Quality Improvement (QI) Culture Planning," at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library. Jack Moran, PhD, Public Health Foundation facilitat-



ed the session. Click the image on the right to read more about QI programming.

The purpose of the session was to begin the process of developing a QI Plan for the agency. Participants developed the, "KDHE QI Story," which included identifying the current use of QI in the agency, exploring what is needed to embed the use of QI in all agency programs and services, identifying barriers that need addressed and committing to moving the agency forward with a more intentional use of quality improvement by staff in all programs.

## Training Announcements

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

### Enroll Your Organization in the Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds Fall 2012 Series



*by Mary Beth Warren, Statewide Director  
Area Health Education Center, University of Kansas*

The Kansas Association for Local Health Departments, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and University of Kansas Medical Center's Department of Preventive Medicine and Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) are once again collaborating to make available the Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds series. The fall 2012 series began Wed., Aug. 22 and will run to Dec. 5. Sessions are from 12:00–1:00 P.M. via the internet utilizing the Adobe Connect webconferencing system.

Topics for the fall series include, parent health literacy, multi-jurisdictional accreditation for public health, future of public health nursing, tobacco cessation and other priorities for the Kansas Health Foundation, top public health concerns for Kansas, STD surveillance in Wyandotte Co., reintegration of female veterans, low/no cost comprehensive HIV care and the use of GIS in public health.

The fee for the fall series (11 sessions left) will be \$100 per organization per computer and will include continuing education credit for physicians and nurses employed by your organization and attending at your location.

Your organization may enroll by e-mailing the AHEC office at [ksphgr@kumc.edu](mailto:ksphgr@kumc.edu) or calling at 620-235-4040. If you have questions, please feel free to contact John Neuberger at 913-588-2745 or Mary Beth Warren at 620-235-4040.

### Deputization of Local Health Departments to Serve Underinsured Webinar

The Kansas Immunization Program (KIP) will be conducting webinars, Sept. 4 and 5, Noon-1:00 P.M., or 5:30-6:30 P.M. for Kansas Local Health Departments on the, "Deputization of Local Health Departments to Serve Underinsured Children Process," which was recently implemented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Effective Dec. 31, only Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) or Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) will be permitted to immunize underinsured children under the VFC program unless an FQHC or an RHC has deputized the local health department as a provider.

If you did not receive the webinar email invitation from Tim Budge, KIP, contact him at [tbudge@kdheks.gov](mailto:tbudge@kdheks.gov).

### High Plains MHC Brings Mental Health First Aid to Oakley, Sept. 18-19

*by Cindy Mullen, Regional Public Health Coordinator  
West Central Public Health Initiative*



Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is a 12-hour course designed to give members of the public key skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The course teaches participants a five-step action plan that includes how to assess a situation, select and implement interventions, and secure appropriate care for the individual. The 12-hour training introduces participants to risk factors, potential causes, and warning signs for depression/suicide, anxiety/trauma, psychotic behavior, substance use disorders, eating disorders and self-injury. This evidence-based public education program is often considered the mental health version of CPR.

To register for the Sept. 18-19 event, go to <http://ks.train.org>, course # 1034297.

### Take Action Cycle: Act on What's Important Webinar



by Linda Frazee, Public Health Workforce Specialist  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE

The County Health Rankings and Roadmap project is now offering a monthly webinar series, "Take Action," at no cost, to offer tips on how to use the County Health Rankings

tools and how to carry out community health improvement planning.

Once you've decided which policy or program will fit your community, the next step is to work on adoption and implementation. Since there are no, "one size fits all," blueprints for success, communities need to build on inherent strengths, capitalize on available resources and respond to unique needs. Learn about guidance, tools and resources for ensuring that your community's selected policies and programs are adopted, implemented, improved and maintained in order to achieve intended results.

The Sept. 11th webinar will be held from 2-3 P.M. Click the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps logo to register for this training event.

### Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU) Annual Conference



by the Primary Care Program

Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE

Registration is now open for the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU) Annual Conference, which will be held Sept. 19-21 in Wichita. This year's theme is, "Plugged In! Connecting to Provide Quality Health Care." The conference provides a good opportunity for staff who work with the state's Primary Care Clinics to come together with dental, mental health, and primary care providers. A variety of national and local speakers will share information relating to Health Information Technology (HIT), quality improvement, data collection and reporting, state and federal health care laws and other topics. Click the KAMU logo to view the agenda and registration.

### KDA and KDHE Conducting Zoonotic Disease Workshops

by Ingrid Garrison, State Public Health Veterinarian

Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, KDHE

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) are facilitating, "One Health Zoonotic Disease Workshops," for veterinarians, health care professionals and the public health workforce in 2012 and 2013. The day-long workshops will be held Oct. 11, Dodge City and Mar. 2, 2013 in Wichita. A workshop for the northeast area is to be announced soon. Registration for the learning events, are through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID# 1033834.



The objectives of the workshop include:

- Information sharing regarding zoonotic and foreign animal disease preparedness and response measures.
- Discussion of general accepted practices regarding surveillance, disease prevention, routes of transmission, disease reporting, and biosecurity, cleaning & disinfection.
- Overview of specific zoonotic and foreign animal diseases.
- Encouraging networking and communication among the participants.

The workshop will include various presentations and conclude with an informal discussion based exercise. Please direct workshop questions to Dr. Tarrie Crnic, Kansas Department of Agriculture, at 785-296-2326 or [tarrie.crnic@kda.ks.gov](mailto:tarrie.crnic@kda.ks.gov).

### Local Health Program Sponsoring Quality Improvement (QI) Training



by Jane Shirley, Director, Local Public Health Program

Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE

The Local Health Program, Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS), Kansas Department of Health and Environment will be hosting an interactive workshop, "KDHE-LHP: Quality Improvement (QI) in Kansas Public Health," on Oct. 18, at the Webster Center in Salina. Funding through the Kansas Health Foundation is supporting this education event to assist local health departments in development of their agency QI plans. Faculty for this event are Sonja Armbruster and Ty Kane, Sedgwick County Health Department. Registration is now open through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, course # 1034581.

At the conclusion of this workshop learners will be able to:

- Discuss the components of a Public Health Agency QI Culture Roadmap
- Describe the elements of a QI Plan
- Produce an Agency QI Plan

Local Health Departments will be encouraged to send a team to work on the development or assessment of their own local agency QI plan. Seating will be limited to two representatives from 40 total local health departments. There will be no registration fee and a travel stipend will be available. Details on application for stipend and recommended pre-workshop learning activities will be communicated to all registrants.

Questions on this upcoming training should be directed to Jane Shirley, Director, Local Health Program at 785-296-6549 or [jshirley@kdheks.gov](mailto:jshirley@kdheks.gov). Click QI image to download the registration information.

### 6th Annual Built Environment and Outdoors Summit

*by Erika Devore, Director*

*Community and Program Outreach, Kansas City Healthy Kids*



The 2012 Built Environment and the Outdoors Summit (BEOS) will be held on Oct. 24-26 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan. The Summit continues its tradition of excellence by providing its attendees with resources to enhance their efforts to promote health as it relates to the built environment and the outdoors. The summit highlights the ways in which the design of a community - where people live, work, learn and play - and the built environment - a community's design, bikeability and walkability, access to fresh fruits and vegetables, and safety - profoundly affect each community member's ability to be healthy

and active. The event is planned and coordinated by a variety of state, local government, non-profit and community organizations and advocates who are committed to promoting active lifestyles and healthy environments.

The mission of the summit is to promote health in Kansas by focusing attention on the connection between the design of the physical environments in a community and the well-being of the individuals who live, work, learn and play there.



The 2012 BEOS offers conference attendees numerous opportunities over three days to learn about the many resources available to promote healthy and active lifestyles in



their communities through enhancements to infrastructure and access. Individuals will have the chance to network and engage with a diverse audience of presenters, panelists and other conference attendees representing a wide array of public and private entities. Attendees will also bolster their organization's knowledge of best practices and replicable interventions and benefit from the lessons learned by others around the country working to improve community health through the design and re-design of built and outdoor environments.

To learn more about the summit click on any of the images above.

### Save the Date - National Center for Farmworker Health Webinar

*by Cyndi Treaster, Director Special Population Health  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program (KSFHP) will host a webinar at noon on Nov. 1st with Hilda Bogue, RN, MS, CHES from the National Center for Farmworker Health as the invited presenter. The National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health status of farmworker families by providing technical assistance, training, information services and resources to community centers, migrant health programs, private providers and other organization and individuals involved in farmworker health. This webinar will provide health providers and their staff with training and tools for understanding and correctly determining the migratory or seasonal status of their farmworker users. More information will be coming soon on how to register. Questions, please contact Cyndi Treaster, Director of KSFHP at [ctreaster@kdheks.gov](mailto:ctreaster@kdheks.gov) or call 785-296-8113.

## What's New on the CDC Learning Connection Website

by Mary Bryant-Mason

Health Education Specialist Educational Design and Accreditation Branch, CDC

This month the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Spotlight, focuses on, "Traveler's Health," and features products and resources to help the public health community learn more about the practice of travel medicine, including infectious diseases that commonly pose a risk to international travelers such as malaria and dengue fever. Below are a few of the learning products provided this month.

- [CDC Commentary: Clues to Diagnosis in the Patient With Post-travel Illness](#) - Information on the three phases of pre-travel consultation
- [Malaria 101 for the Health Care Provider](#) **CE** - Designed to teach clinicians about the epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of malaria.
- [Yellow Fever Vaccine: Information for Health Care Providers Advising Travelers](#) **CE**  
Provides comprehensive and up-to-date information on the history and epidemiology of yellow fever, vaccine recommendations, the pre-travel consultation and how to become a designated yellow fever vaccination provider
- Also be sure to check out the [Travelers' Health Resources](#) from a variety of sources, including CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), International Society for Travel Medicine (ISTM), and The Practice of Travel Medicine: Guidelines by the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA). [View more on Travelers' Health](#)

### New on TRAIN from CDC

- [Diagnosis and Management of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome](#) (Course ID 1034202) **CE**
- [Emerging Issues in Sexually Transmitted Diseases: 2010 STD Treatment Guidelines](#) (Archived Webcast) (Course ID 1033564) **CE**
- [Public Health Grand Rounds: The Growing Threat of Multi-Drug Resistant Gonorrhea](#) (Archived Webcast)(Course ID 1034190) **CE**

\*Public Health Grand Rounds are posted to CDC TRAIN each month. Visit [CDC TRAIN](#) or [KS-TRAIN](#) to view the complete list of public health training resources available, many of which offer free CE. Visit the CDC [Learning Connection](#) today and sign-up to, "get email updates."



### NACCHO Accreditation Support Initiative – Deadline Sept. 28



With funding from the Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NACCHO is pleased to announce that it will soon be offering a second round of funding through the [Accreditation Support Initiative](#). Approximately 15-20 awards of up to \$40,000 each will be provided. This opportunity will be open to all public health departments (local, state, territorial, and Tribal) and organizations that assist local/Tribal health departments (i.e., states, SACCHOs, Public Health Institutes) to support activities that will assist in moving the health department(s) toward accreditation application.

Applicants may apply under one or more of the following four categories:

- Addressing standards, measures, or unmet PHAB requirements,
- Contributing to payment of PHAB accreditation fees,
- Completing other readiness activities, and/or
- Providing technical assistance to health departments.

Agencies are encouraged to review NACCHO's [standard contract template](#). NACCHO is unable to modify contract terms; agencies should apply for the Accreditation Support Initiative only if they can accept these contract terms.

Full details and the application template will be announced in next week's *accreditNATION* newsletter. Agencies may begin preparing now by identifying objectives and activities for their efforts, as applications will be due Fri., Sept. 28. Questions about this initiative may be directed to [accredsupport@naccho.org](mailto:accredsupport@naccho.org).



### Improving Our School's Together – Deadline Oct. 12

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation (LCEF) knows how hard you work for your kids and your community and we're dedicated to helping your parent-teacher group achieve even more for your school. Apply for our Toolbox for Education Grant now and build on your already impressive parent group success with Lowe's. To learn more click the Toolbox for Education logo.

## News and Resources

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

### National Public Health Nursing Enumeration



The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, in collaboration with the Center of Excellence in Public Health Workforce Studies at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, has initiated an important project that will assess the size and composition of the national public health nurse workforce for the first time. The study is guided by an advisory committee that includes representatives from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations. They will provide important information on demographics, education and training background, recruitment and retention factors, and shortage projections for public health's largest professional group. Strong participation is vital to producing meaningful results for your state and for the enumeration overall, so ASTHO encourages health departments to participate in this important study. Health departments that complete the survey will receive a brief report of study results profiling their state's public health nurse workforce. Questions about the study may be addressed to the [Association of Public Health Nurses](#). Kansas health departments that have been randomly chosen to participate in the study include: Gove, Grant, Hodgeman, Johnson, Linn, Meade, NEK Multi-County, Neosho, Ness, Phillips, Rush, Salina-Saline, Wilson and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. <http://www.astho.org>



### Meeting the Health Equity Challenge: State Case Studies

The Association of State and Territorial of Health Officials (ASTHO) has developed [six health equity case studies](#) to demonstrate how diverse states address the economic case for health equity. In addition to adverse health outcomes, health inequities and disparities have severe economic consequences for the health system. Alaska, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Oregon and Texas are featured.

### Promising Practices in the Coordination of State and Local Public Health

ASTHO Officials and the National Association of City and County Health Officials, in collaboration with the University of Chicago, have released a [study](#) highlighting examples of how to coordinate public health services across federal agencies, state health agencies, tribal, local and territorial health departments. This study, part of the National Public Health Improvement Initiative administered by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, focuses on nine states and describes how state and local health departments have developed structures and processes to facilitate collaboration. The report includes key findings in the areas of communication, alignment of funding and quality improvement.

### Infectious Disease Infrastructure and Refugee Health

Two new infectious disease web pages are available on ASTHO website: [Infectious Disease Infrastructure](#) and [Refugee Health](#). The Infrastructure web page offers fact sheets on five topics: infectious disease and immunization infrastructure, the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Program, the Emerging Infections Program and tuberculosis. The Refugee Health page shares resources and presentations from the, "Enhancing Partnerships in Refugee Health Conference," and three recommendation documents from the Association of Refugee Health Coordinators. In addition, there are many resources from federal partners and affiliates and links to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention information.

### Toolkit for Legal Authorities

ASTHO has developed a series of [toolkits](#) that address the key information needs of public health officials in understanding and using legal authorities to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies. This series arose from needs identified by state and local public health agencies regarding certain legal questions and uncertainties that were perceived to be barriers to effective planning and response to infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, intentional acts and other emergency events. The toolkits and their component documents are designed to be used as a resource to assist in education, training, and planning activities to prepare for emergencies, as well as to serve as a quick reference resource during an emergency response to an event.



### Recommendations for Hepatitis C

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) finalized the expanded [screening recommendations](#) for identifying persons with hepatitis C virus (HCV) chronic infection. The new recommendation that all baby boomers (people born from 1945-1965) be tested once is intended to increase the proportion of persons with chronic HCV who are diagnosed and ensure they receive appropriate prevention services and are linked to needed care and treatment. More than two million U.S. baby boomers are infected with HCV, accounting for more than 75 percent of all American adults living with the virus.

### Influenza A H3N2 Virus

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently monitoring an increase in the number of cases of the Influenza A H3N2 variant virus that is attributed to recent human exposure to swine during state and county fairs. CDC continues to advise people to take recommended precautions when interacting with pigs or their environments, including frequent hand washing and avoiding contact with pigs that appear ill. Signs and symptoms of A H3N2v virus infection cannot be differentiated from those caused by other respiratory infections, including seasonal influenza virus infection. CDC reports the expectation of an increase in related hospitalizations during the next several weeks, specifically among those who are at higher risk, including children. CDC advises that the [infection control principles and actions](#) relevant for seasonal influenza are appropriate for the control of A H3N2v.

### West Nile Outbreak Could Be Biggest Ever

This year's [West Nile virus](#) outbreak is on track to be the biggest ever since the virus first appeared in the United States in 1999. As of the third week of Aug., there have been a total of 1,118 cases of West Nile virus in people in 38 states, including 41 deaths.

### CDC Stacks

[CDC Stacks](#) is a free, digital archive of scientific research and literature produced by the CDC. This online archive is composed of curated collections tailored for public health research needs. This repository is retained indefinitely and is available for public health professionals, researchers, as well as the general public.

### The Public Health Law Network



**The Network  
for Public Health Law**

The Network for Public Health Law website has great fact sheets on policy issues such as tobacco control, obesity prevention, the affordable care act, the farm bill and environmental impact of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) among many other topics. You can join the network to receive updates and periodic announcements of new information on public health legal issues. Click the Network for Public Health Law logo to learn more.

### Be Ready! September is National Preparedness Month



September 2012 marks the eighth annual National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. One goal of Homeland Security is to educate the public about how to prepare for emergencies, including natural disasters, mass casualties, biological and chemical threats, radiation emergencies and terrorist attacks.

Throughout Sept. there will be activities across the country to promote emergency preparedness. More than 3,000 organizations - national, regional, and local public and private organizations - are supporting emergency preparedness efforts and encouraging all Americans to take action. Looking to become more involved? You can join the effort by following four steps:

- Get a Kit
- Make a Plan
- Be Informed
- Get Involved

For more information click the image above.



### **Take Time to Review Safety Guidelines When Returning to School**

Safe Kids Kansas reminds you to take time out to teach and review safety guidelines with your children to get them back to school safely. Read about the safety tips provided by Safe Kids on Walking to School, School Bus Safety, Riding Bikes and Driving Children to School by clicking on the Safe Kids Kansas logo.

### **Hospitals are Reaching the Limit of Efficiency, Cost-Saving Measures**



A summary from the Advisory Board Company discusses two new reports from Standard and Poor's on health systems and stand-alone hospitals. Findings within these reports indicate that the financial performance of not-for-profit hospitals and health systems remained steady in 2011 but may weaken in the upcoming year as

management teams reach their limit on cost-saving measures amid pressures of pending federal budget transformation, reform implementation and state budget constraints. The agency reports that, "improvements of the past several years," such as robust cost containment, increased economies of scale and revenue enhancements, "may be reaching their limit and thus will not be able to keep pace with longer-term revenue pressures, especially in light of weaker volumes." To read the report click the Advisory Board Company logo.

### **Abstracts Needed About Your Experiences with Academic Health Departments**



In partnership with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the Public Health Foundation (PHF) is calling for abstracts for an upcoming Academic Health Department

(AHD)-themed issue of the, "*Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*." Scheduled to appear in Nov./Dec. 2013, this issue will highlight partnerships between academic health professions institutions and public health practice organizations, such as state or local health departments, which are designed to enhance public health education and training, research, and service. To learn more click the PHF logo.

### **Next Steps to Promote Use of Electronic Health Records and Health Information Exchange**



The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) and The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released final requirements for stage two that hospitals and health care providers must meet in order to qualify for incentives during

the second stage of the program, and criteria that electronic health records must meet to achieve certification.

### **Infections among Homeless Could Fuel Wider Epidemics**



Homeless people across the world have dramatically higher rates of infection with tuberculosis (TB), HIV and hepatitis C and could fuel community epidemics. With an estimated 650,000 homeless people in the United States

experts said high levels of infection would not only cause yet more poverty and distress for those without homes, but could also become a wider problem. To read more about this information click the MedlinePlus logo.

### **New Analysis Ranks States - Finds 12 States Exceed 30 Percent for Obesity**



Twelve states currently have an adult obesity rate above 30 percent, according to a new analysis released by the Trust for America's Health (TFAH) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). The analysis used the state obesity rates released

made available by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## Researchers Identify Evidence-Based Public Health Interventions for Policy Makers



Government policies that make healthy foods more affordable; improved sidewalk, street and land-use design to encourage physical activity; and bans on public, workplace or residence smoking; are among 43 effective public health strategies identified in an American Heart Association statement. Click the red heart for more information.

### Job Openings

#### Finney County Health Department

The Finney County Health Department is taking applications for the following positions:

- [Registered Nurse - WIC Program](#)
- [Staff Registered Nurse](#)



#### Harvey County Health Department

The Harvey County Health Department is taking applications for the following position:

- [Director](#)



#### Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department is taking applications for the following position:

- [Communications Coordinator](#)
- [Director of Community Health](#)



#### Riley County Health Department

The Riley County Health Department is taking applications for the following positions:

- [Healthy Start Home Visitor](#)
- [Medical Clerk](#)



#### Sedgwick County Health Department

The Sedgwick County Health Department is taking applications for the following positions:

- [CHN II - TB Control Program](#)
- [WIC/Immunizations Action Plan \(WIC/IAP\)](#)
- [C - Part Time Breastfeeding Peer Counselor \(BFPC\)](#)



#### Shawnee County Health Department

The Shawnee County Health Agency is taking applications for the following position:

- [Clinical Medical Assistant](#)



#### Wyandotte County Health Department

The Wyandotte County Health Department is taking applications for the following position:

- [Public Health Nurse](#)



#### Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter

Email Pat Behnke at [pbehnke@kdheks.gov](mailto:pbehnke@kdheks.gov)

Previous issues of Public Health Connections may be found at

[www.kdheks.gov/olrh/publications.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/publications.htm)

Send your public health news to

Pat Behnke at [pbehnke@kdheks.gov](mailto:pbehnke@kdheks.gov) or

Debbie Nickels at [dnickels@kdheks.gov](mailto:dnickels@kdheks.gov)