



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Office of Local and Rural Health



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Kathleen Sebelius, Governor

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STAPHYLOCOCCUS INFECTIONS

*submitted by Linda Wilburn
Public Health Foundation*

Across the country, there have been increasing reports about Staphylococcus infections. The Public Health Foundation (PHF) is committed to protecting and promoting health by making you aware of vital information that could help.



Staph is a type of bacteria that may cause skin infections that look like pimples or boils. Some Staph (known as Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus or MRSA) are resistant to certain antibiotics, making it harder to treat. These once rare bacteria have found a way into gyms, locker rooms, and other facilities throughout the country. While these infections are treatable, extreme cases can require multiple surgeries to get rid of them.

Prevent MRSA in your community today by using the following simple, inexpensive measures:

- Wash your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Clean, dry, and cover cuts, scrapes, or scratches;
- Avoid sharing personal items like towels, razors, or tweezers; and
- Seek medical attention for skin abrasions that appear to be spider or insect bites;

PHF, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is now offering several poster packages to help prevent MRSA infections. All posters are illustrated and contain preventive messages; in addition, 4 posters are targeted towards athletes and encourage them to report possible skin infections to a coach or athletic director.



Please visit the PHF online bookstore for a complete listing of resources click on the poster above. For questions, please contact Linda Wilburn at lwilburn@phf.org or (202) 218-4404.



Other Web sites for MRSA information: CDC www.cdc.gov/Features/MRSAinSchools, Massachusetts Department of Health www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/antibiotic/mrsa_school_health.htm, and Tacoma/Pierce County, WA www.tpchd.org/page.php?id=364. If you have questions or to report an outbreak of MRSA in Kansas, contact an epidemiologist at KDHE at (877) 427-7317.



DENTAL CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

*submitted by Marcia A. Manter
Oral Health Kansas*



Oral Health Kansas (OHK) received a \$40,000 grant from the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities. The funds will work to establish the foundation for improved oral health services for adults with developmental disabilities. This grant follows the decision of the 2006 Kansas legislature to extend dental benefits to Medicaid beneficiaries receiving services through the federal Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers for

developmental disability, physical disability and traumatic brain injury.

The grant calls for three outcomes:

- A comprehensive assessment to determine where dental services currently exist to treat this population;
- A system of continuing education for dental teams on services for adults needing special care; and
- A resource kit to provide oral health education and tools to adults with disabilities, families, caretakers and service organizations.

In addition to these services, OHK is also partnering with the Kansas Department on Aging to support the implementation of the dental program for elders. The 2007 legislature further extended dental benefits to individuals receiving services through the HCBS frail elderly waiver.

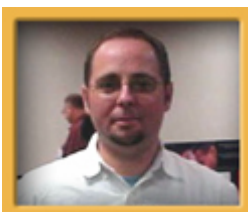
Oral Health Kansas recently received a four-year \$640,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to help ensure access to dental care for children with special needs.

The funding will be shared between the State Office of Oral Health, Oral Health Kansas and GraceMed Dental Clinic in Wichita. The project will provide specialty treatment for children at GraceMed, while Oral Health Kansas will develop a statewide education program targeting parents and caregivers about the importance of oral health.

OHK's education program will (1) utilize extended care permit hygienists to provide preventive services and education and (2) provide training and educational materials to families and caregivers of children with special needs.

For more information contact Marcia Manter at (785) 235-6039 or mmanter@oralhealthkansas.org.

OLRH ANNOUNCEMENT



Robert Stiles has transferred from his position as Regional Case Manager for the Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program to the new role as Primary Care Clinic Coordinator for the state funded safety-net clinic program. In this position, he will be the point of contact and key liaison with KDHE programs for over 30 primary care clinics and their managers, health professionals and volunteers across the state. Stiles, obtained a masters degree in medieval history from Indiana University and a masters of public health degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Wichita. Prior to his work with migrant farmworkers in Missouri, then Kansas, he spent one year in

Guatemala promoting farming improvements and sustainable methods of production among agricultural workers.

LANE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR

Arlene Doll has become the new administrator for the Lane County Health Department. Ms. Doll is originally from Vinita, Oklahoma, but has lived in Healy (Lane County) for the past 30 years with her husband and sons. Arlene graduated from Garden City Community College nursing program in 2000. Ms. Doll has several ideas for things she wants to accomplish as a Public Health Nurse, but at this time she is staying busy with learning the ropes and giving flu shots. She is looking forward to meeting and working with others in public health.

JOHNSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE A SUCCESS!

submitted by Barbara Mitchell

Johnson County Health Department



At the Open House, Leon Vinci presents Annabeth Surbaugh with a public health shirt.

The Johnson County, Kan. Public Health Department held an open house for its new office wing on Oct. 19. Departmental staff, along with dignitaries from government, the community, and other agencies attended.

In addition to a gala showcasing of the recently renovated space, nutritious foods were offered throughout the building.

The Johnson County Public Health Department's WIC Program, Health Education Division, and Public Health Emergency Program offices are housed in the new area. The move included additional program space, employee work areas, with increased privacy and confidentiality for clients.

The afternoon was highlighted with a star-studded program including Board of County Commissioners Annabeth Surbaugh Chairman, Mike Press, Hannes Zacharias and Bernice Duletski. Director of Public Health, Leon Vinci, DHA, welcomed the gathering and served as the master of ceremonies. He commended the public health staff for their dedication and hard work and thanked the facilities department for the renovation and move.

WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH?

submitted by the Office of Local and Rural Health

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

To promote awareness of the Core Functions and Essential Services of Public Health, Connections will be highlighting an Essential Service of the month by utilizing "What is Public Health?" *An Orientation to the Public Health System for Participants and Spectators*. **Click on the logo** to download the complete document.

The Core Function Assurance is related to the implementation of legislative mandates and the maintenance of statutory responsibility. It is critical that mechanisms are in place to guarantee that necessary services are provided to both in the public and private sectors, accountability to people setting health objectives and providing reports on progress, and developing adequate responses to health crisis. The assurance function requires the exercise of authority. It also provides the guarantees for certain health services. This Core Function addresses Essential Services 6, 7, 8, and 9.



Essential Service #8: Assure a competent public and personal health care workforce.

This service includes education and training for personnel to meet the needs for public and personal health service; efficient processes for licensure of professionals and certification of facilities with regular verification and inspection follow-up; adoption of continuous quality improvement and life-long learning within all licensure and certification programs; active partnerships with professional training programs to assure community-relevant learning experience for all students; and continuing education in management and leadership development programs for those charged with administrative/executive roles.

The following provides a sample of the activities performed under this service that impact the public's health: Tracks continuing education for management and leadership development to guide the competency of a trained workforce; assures that priority health needs are being addressed through education, training and assessment of license and/or professional personnel; provides lifelong learning programs and partnerships with professional training programs

Professionals who provide these services include the public health administrator, public health educator, public health trainer, public health associations, public health credentialing associations, schools of public health, board of health.

Questions to ask yourself to help determine if you/your agency perform functions that contribute to Essential Service #8:

- Do I/my agency assist in educating, training, licensing, monitoring or evaluating public and personal health care workers to guarantee skills necessary to fulfill daily responsibilities of meeting public health needs?
- Do I/my agency help staff develop goals and evaluate responsibilities?

If you/your agency are **not** checking one of the boxes, how will you/we **assure** that this essential service is provided in your community, and how do we as public health professionals work to fulfill that mission in the daily performance of our duties and responsibilities?



OUTBREAK AT WATERSEDGE

"Outbreak at Watersedge," is a computer game developed by the University of Minnesota Midwest Center for life-long-learning in public health that is designed to introduce high school students to the field of public health. You can access the game by visiting:

<http://www.mclph.umn.edu/watersedge>.

The need to recruit the next generation of public health professionals has never been greater. This interactive game provides a fun and challenging way to introduce students to the field of public health. Possible audiences

and uses:

- High school guidance counselors or undergraduate advisors who want to guide students with an interest in science and/or health careers to explore their options for further education;
- Students who want to know more about the field of public health and other health careers;
- Science teachers who want to introduce students to the basic principles used to investigate disease outbreaks

Game players will be able to apply their investigative skills to discover the source of the outbreak and stop it before more Watersedge residents get sick; learn how public health professionals investigate disease outbreaks; and discover how the roles of public health professionals promote health and prevent illness. The overall goal of this game is to: introduce the player to various professional roles within the field of public health; expose the player to basic epidemiological principles and methods of investigation, data gathering, data interpretation, and point source contamination; and provide the player with resources to further explore the field of public health.

This game is appropriate for any player who is old enough to be considering career choices or who has an interest in solving mysteries. This game is also available in a CD format. To request a CD, please contact (612) 626-4515.

MICHIGAN INFORMATICS

The University of Michigan Health Sciences Libraries is pleased to announce the availability of nine free online tutorials at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/mi-info/>. The series of online tutorials are part of the MI-INFO grant project, funded by a public health subcontract from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Greater Midwest Region. The tutorials focus on health information

and computer literacy skills and are designed not only to support academic public health informatics programs and public health outreach training initiatives but also to help general audiences in finding, evaluating, and using reliable health information on the Internet. The tutorials are competency-based and feature learning objectives, key concepts, exercises, and case studies.

Information tutorials include: Evidence Based Public Health; Finding Health Statistics Online; Searching the Internet; Searching the Public Health Literature; Staying Informed; and Health Education Resources. Software tutorials include basic: PowerPoint; Access; and Excel.

WISER FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER) is a system designed to assist first responders in hazardous material incidents. WISER provides a wide range of information on hazardous substances, including substance identification support, physical characteristics, human health information, and containment and suppression advice.



Free downloads of version 3.0 for Palm and version 3.1 for Windows and pocket PC is available at <http://www.wiser.nlm.nih.gov/>.

When an Internet connection is available, use your web browser to access the same functionality of the stand alone applications. WebWISER includes support for PDA browsers, including BlackBerry, Pocket PC, Palm, iPhone, and many other phones.



FLUORIDE VARNISH EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is currently creating a new Fluoride Varnish Education Program! The Bright Smiles program through a grant from the United Health Methodist Ministry Health Fund will provide you with a free toolkit which includes 50 free fluoride varnish applications and reimbursement coding information. This will be delivered to your office by the KDHE Oral Health Outreach Coordinator.



“Bright Smiles for Kansas Kids” is a one-hour online educational program, found on [KS-TRAIN](#), Course #1010214, for pediatric providers on fluoride varnish application along with a free tool kit featuring 50 free fluoride varnish applications for children ages 0-3. Program goals: provide education to providers on applying fluoride varnish for children ages 0-3, a free toolkit—that includes 50 free varnish applications, and coding reimbursement information.

Free Category 1 Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Nursing Continuing Education (CE) credits are available. This program helps providers implement application of fluoride varnish as a part of the integration of oral health into physician’s offices. Check aapkansas.org for updates on the Bright Smiles program!



GREAT AMERICAN SMOKE-OUT NEWS



On Nov. 15, smokers across the nation will take part in the American Cancer Society’s Great American Smokeout® by smoking less or quitting for the day. The event challenges people to stop using tobacco and raises awareness of the many effective ways to quit for good.

In many communities, local volunteers support quitters, publicize the event, and press for laws that control tobacco use and discourage teenagers from starting. Research shows that smokers are most successful in kicking the habit when they have some means of support, such as nicotine replacement products, counseling, prescription medicine to lessen cravings, guide books, and the encouragement of friends and family members.

Despite that, only about one in seven current smokers reports having tried any of the recommended therapies during his or her last quit attempt. Kansas Quitline is a convenient resource at 1-866-KAN-STOP or the American Cancer Society at <http://www.cancer.org/docroot/subsite/greatamericans/smokeout.asp>



2007 STATUES AND REGULATION BOOK ORDER NOW

submitted by Elaine Schwartz

Executive Director, Kansas Public Health Association



Regulations Book.

Looking for a compilation of Kansas public health statutes? Look no further than to the state’s Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA). The KPHA Statutes and Regulations Book latest revision includes all the changes made in the 2006 Legislative session. You can receive it in electronic copy so that you can do an electronic search. Thanks to Dr. Kim Richter, University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC), and Cydne Rabourn, Esq., KUMC for their help in getting the book ready for publication. Click on Capitol building for the order form of the 2007 Statutes and



JOIN THE KANSAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

*submitted by Elaine Schwartz
Executive Director, Kansas Public Health Association*

The KPHA has been influencing policies and setting priorities in public health for Kansas since 1920. Throughout the history of the organization it has been in the forefront of numerous efforts to prevent disease and promote health.

KPHA is the oldest and largest organization of public health professionals in the state, representing more than 500 members from over 50 occupations/organizations. KPHA brings together researchers, health service providers, administrators, teachers, and other health workers in a unique, multidisciplinary environment of professional exchange, study, and action.

KPHA members are concerned with a broad set of issues affecting personal and environmental health, including federal and state funding for health programs, pollution control, programs and policies related to chronic and infectious diseases, a smoke-free society, and professional education in public health.

Click the KPHA logo to read more about the organization and become a member.



JOHNSON COUNTY JOB OPENINGS



The Johnson County Public Health Department, located in the Kansas City Metro area is seeking applicants for the following position:

- Outreach Nurse #100571
- Public Health Epidemiologist II #103696

To review the job specifications click on the Johnson County logo on left and scroll down the page.

Interested applicants may send resume and cover letter to Stacy Barr, Recruiter; stacy.barr@jocogov.org or for complete details and to apply on-line, visit <http://hr.jocogov.org>; or fax resume to (913) 715-1419; or mail to: Johnson County Human Resources; 111 S. Cherry, Suite 2600; Olathe, KS 66061. EOE

JOB OPENING AT SEDGWICK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Sedgwick County Health department is taking applications for the following position:

- ARNP/PA – General Clinic - 20001829082207
- Healthy Babies Nurse Home Visitor - SC091807
- WIC Registered Dietician - 20003753100907

For more information click the Sedgwick Seal on the right, or contact Jeff Goetzing, Human Resource Assistant, Sedgwick County Health Department at (316) 660-7333.



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