



LaSalle County Health Department

News Releases 2008



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**LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
717 ETNA ROAD
OTTAWA, IL 61350**

433-3366

DECEMBER 30, 2008

N E W S R E L E A S E

“ORA QUICK HIV TESTING ”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 433-3366.

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department would like to announce that we offer rapid testing for HIV. The Ora Quick test for HIV gives a person their results in approximately 30 minutes, making HIV testing easier, more accessible and less invasive than ever before. Appointments will not be necessary and walk-ins will be welcome.

There is an estimated quarter of a million Americans who are infected with HIV but are not aware of it. While we have made tremendous strides in treating HIV disease and related infections, those advances mean little to someone who doesn't know they are infected. If you have ever had unprotected sex with someone who uses injectable drugs, if you have ever shared needles, if you are a man who has ever had sex with another man, or if you have other factors that put you at risk for HIV infection, you should consider getting an HIV test.

The LaSalle County Health Department offers free anonymous or confidential HIV counseling and testing. If you would like to schedule an appointment to be tested or learn more information about HIV, contact Andy at 433-3366 or 1-800-247-5243. You can also access our website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
433-3366**

October 31, 2008

NEWS RELEASE

“LaSalle County Health Department Supports the Proposed Extension of the Environmental Health Practitioner Licensing Act”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366

State’s Inaction May Lead to Public Health Crisis

OTTAWA, IL - With just a few days in November remaining for the Illinois General Assembly to debate legislative issues, the Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators (IAPHA) is warning state lawmakers of a pending public health crisis concerning the delivery of environmental health protection services in Illinois. IAPHA is a statewide association which represents over eighty (80) certified local public health departments located outside the Chicago metropolitan area.

According to IAPHA President Stephen Laker, there is proposed legislation currently located within the Illinois House of Representatives that changes the repeal date of the Environmental Health Practitioner Licensing Act. Laker commented that “if the House fails to approve this legislation, the current state law requiring the licensure of environmental health professionals will expire.”

The legislative intent of this Act is to safeguard the health, safety, and general welfare of Illinois residents by assuring qualified and competent individuals are practicing in the field of environmental health. Environmental health services conducted by licensed environmental health practitioners in Illinois include milk and food sanitation, regulation of private water supplies and the management of onsite wastewater disposal systems. The LaSalle County Health Department requires all of their Environmental Health staff to be licensed as an Environmental Health Practitioner through the State of Illinois. According to Julie Kerestes, Public Health Administrator, “we pride ourselves on the fact that all of our

Environmental Health staff are licensed. It's hiring the best qualified people to assure a professional job is being done throughout the county.”

IAPHA Legislative Chair, Greg Chance said “simply put, if this licensing act isn’t renewed, there are no hiring standards for these health inspectors. The loss of professional standards takes Illinois back decades, which is an unacceptable situation for our taxpaying citizens. Therefore, if the House of Representatives fails to take action on this legislation, the State of Illinois will be unable to assure its residents that qualified, competent professionals are protecting their health.”

At this time, IAPHA is working with other public health advocacy groups to encourage leadership within the Illinois House of Representatives to vote on the proposed extension of the Environmental Health Practitioner Licensing Act to insure the adequate protection of the public health.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 433-3366

September 19, 2008

NEWS RELEASE

“Additional Tetanus Clinics Scheduled in Flood Affected Regions”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS: contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 815-433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department will offer additional tetanus clinics in Sheridan, Utica and LaSalle. The Sheridan clinic will be held on Monday, September 22nd, at the American Legion Hall from 1pm to 3pm. The Utica and LaSalle clinics will be held on Wednesday, September 24th. The Utica clinic will be held at the Utica Village Hall from 9am to 11 am. The LaSalle clinic will be held at the LaSalle City Hall from 1pm to 3pm. A tetanus booster may be needed if you have been exposed to flood water. Typically, a booster is recommended every ten years. However, if you have been injured and it has been five years since your last vaccination, a booster is strongly recommended. The vaccinations will be free of charge and on a walk-in basis. For more information on flood precautions, please contact LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit the Health Department’s website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

September 15, 2008

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION; contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 815-433-3366.

“Dove Tests Positive for West Nile virus in LaSalle County”

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department reported that a dove found September 8th in Ottawa has tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg. This is the first documented West Nile virus activity in the county for 2008.

The LaSalle County Health Department is also testing mosquitoes, again this year. Mosquitoes are tested for West Nile virus and St Louis encephalitis. The mosquito collection and testing equipment was purchased with grant money. Also, with the grant money the health department was able to purchase a large quantity of mosquito larvicide. Larvicide is used to treat potential mosquito breeding sites, and was distributed to licensed mosquito control applicators from local municipalities and villages throughout the county.

The best way to prevent West Nile disease or any other mosquito-borne illness is to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and to take personal precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Precautions include:

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn. Use prevention methods whenever mosquitoes are present.
- When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut, especially at night.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires and any other receptacles. In communities where there are organized mosquito control programs, contact your municipal government to report areas of

stagnant water in roadside ditches, flooded yards and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any dead crows, blue jays, robins, or potential mosquito breeding sites to the Health Department at 815-433-3366.

A complete listing of West Nile virus statistics for LaSalle County is available on the Health Department's web site at www.lasallecounty.org/hd . A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health's web site at www.idph.state.il.us. Go to the West Nile virus page and select "2008" under surveillance. In addition, the Illinois Department of Public Health has activated the West Nile virus hotline again this year. The number is 866-369-9710 (toll-free) and is available Monday through Friday from 8am-5pm.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 433-3366

September 15, 2008

NEWS RELEASE

“PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR AREAS AFFECTED WITH FLOOD WATERS”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS: contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 815-433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – Due to recent flooding in the county, the LaSalle County Health Department recommends the following precautionary measures be taken when dealing with flood water. A tetanus booster may be needed if you have been exposed to flood water. Typically, a booster is recommended every ten years. However, if you have been injured and it has been five years since your last vaccination, a booster is strongly recommended. The Health Department will be offering tetanus shots on Thursday, September 18th beginning at 10:00 a.m. at 717 Etna Road, Ottawa. These vaccinations will be free of charge and on a walk-in basis.

Homeowners with private water wells affected by the flood water need to disinfect their water wells in order to ensure that their water is safe for consumption and use. Until disinfection of the well is completed and verified, only bottled water and/or water that has been brought to a rolling boil for 3 to 5 minutes should be used. Disinfecting procedures vary according to the type of well located on the property and can be found on the Health Department’s website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd. Any homeowner with a well that has been affected by flood water should contact the LaSalle County Health Department for free water sampling after all disinfecting and pumping procedures have been completed in order to verify a safe water supply.

Also, the LaSalle County Health Department must be notified by all food and food related retail establishments who have been affected by the recent flooding. The Health Department will assist owners/operators of these establishments with appropriate cleaning methods and proper disposal of potentially contaminated products. The Health Department will assist in documentation of these contaminated products or to help determine which products may be salvaged. Examples of products that could pose public health risks if contaminated are food products, paper products, and pharmaceutical products. Food establishments that have had electrical outages due to the flood should also notify the Health Department to assure that food products are being held at temperatures which inhibit bacterial growth.

For more information on these precautions, please contact LaSalle County Health Department from

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at 815-433-3366.

How To Disinfect Your Well

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Rd.
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 433-3366

September 4, 2008

NEWS RELEASE

“Sixteenth Annual Food Service Seminar”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS: contact Jenny Barrie 815-433-3366

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department will be sponsoring their Sixteenth Annual Food Service Seminar on September 8, 2008. The seminar will be held at Pitstick Pavilion, Rt. 23, Ottawa. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Registration is from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. The seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 12:15 p.m. Speakers include Steve Johnson from Ecolab Pest Elimination Division who will present information on pest elimination, Michelle Burns from U.S. Foodservice who will discuss HACCP, Leah Rogers from the Illinois Department of Public Health who will discuss the Smoke-Free Illinois Act, and Kevin Dreesman from the Illinois Department of Public Health who will present information on menu review and critical control points.

September is **National Food Safety Education Month®** and a good time to be reminded of the four core practices that can help reduce risk of foodborne illness. The theme this year is “Be Food Safe.” For more information on food safety, visit www.befoodsafe.org or www.lasallecounty.org/hd. To pre-register for the food service seminar, please call the LaSalle County Health Department at (815) 433-3366.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366

July 21, 2008

“WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL—The LaSalle County Health Department would like to inform the public that “World Breastfeeding Week” is August 1st -7th. This years theme is Mother Support: Going for the Gold! Research is clear that breastfeeding is the optimal nutrition and the perfect life-sustaining food for babies. The theme celebrates the importance of breastfeeding for a healthy start on life.

Breastmilk gives babies all the nutrients they need for the first 6 months of life and helps protect them from infection and diseases. It also provides many benefits to the mother as well, like helping to protect against breast and ovarian cancers, and weak bones later in life. Not to mention that it also helps the mother get to her pre-pregnancy shape faster.

Breastfeeding also allows you and your baby to get closer- physically and emotionally. So while your child is feeding, the bond between you can grow stronger. All the while you will be helping to protect your baby from ear infections, gastro-intestinal infections, chest infections, urinary tract infections, childhood diabetes, eczema, obesity, and asthma.

We encourage and congratulate all breastfeeding moms on making the best possible choice for your baby! For more information on breastfeeding you can contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd.

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SEAL OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Proclamation

WHEREAS, during the first 6 months of life, breast milk is the only food a healthy full-term infant requires, providing the most complete form of nutrition physiologically tailored to fit their maturing digestive systems, supporting optimal growth and development, and strengthening babies' immune systems to reduce the incidence of serious illnesses; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding is an important part of an infant's physical development, providing skin to skin contact between mother and child which fosters emotional and cognitive development and promotes bonding between mother and child to build a loving relationship and healthy foundation for a new family to grow; and

WHEREAS, the World Alliance for Breastfeeding 2008 calls for greater support for mothers achieving the gold standard of infant feeding: breastfeeding exclusively for six months, and providing appropriate complimentary food with continued breastfeeding for up to two years or beyond; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding is identified by the U.S. Surgeon General and Secretary of Health and Human Services as a high priority for the year 2010, with the national goal of increasing the percentage of mothers who breastfeed their infants in the early postpartum period to at least 75 percent and the percentage of mothers who breastfeed their infants until 6 months of age to at least 50 percent; and

WHEREAS, Illinois Breastfeeding Promotion Month reminds us that breastfeeding benefits infants, mothers and society through lower health care costs, a healthier workforce and stronger family bonds; and

WHEREAS, the observance of August as Breastfeeding Promotion Month provides an opportunity for government to join forces with families, healthcare professionals, and hospitals to help promote and maintain communities where breastfeeding is encouraged, protected, and supported to advance the health of current and future Illinois residents; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Human Services will continue a united effort to establish links between maternity facilities and community breastfeeding support networks to ensure that all families will live, work and receive health care in a breastfeeding friendly culture:

THEREFORE, I, Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim August 2008 as **BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION MONTH** in Illinois.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this NINTH day of JUNE, in
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
EIGHT, and of the State of Illinois
the one hundred and NINETIETH



DeeDee White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Rod Blagojevich

GOVERNOR

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366

April 23, 2008

News Release

“LaSalle County Health Department Begins Dead Bird Surveillance”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department will begin collecting dead birds on May 1, 2008 and will continue this process through October 15, 2008. Dead crows, blue jays, and robins are important sentinels for early detection of West Nile virus activity. During the past six years, West Nile virus activity has been documented throughout LaSalle County. LaSalle County citizens should report any deceased crow, blue jay, or robin to the Environmental Division at 815-433-3366.

Birds submitted for testing should be “eligible birds” that have no obvious cause of death such as being found crushed in a roadway and most likely killed by a motor vehicle, or birds killed by a gunshot. Birds submitted should be believed to be dead for less than 48 hours. Birds should only be submitted if they have not been damaged by scavenging animals and are not decomposed. Decomposed animals can be recognized as having a strong odor present, eyes deflated or dried, maggots present or bloated from decomposition gases.

The following information may be useful in helping to distinguishing crows from other birds with black feathers:

Crows can be confused with other birds with black feathers such as starlings, grackles, blackbirds and cowbirds. Adult crows are larger, about 17-21 inches in length, while juvenile crows are about 10 inches in length. Adult crows are all black including feathers, beak, legs, and feet. Juvenile crows have brownish-black feathers. The crow’s nostrils are covered with bristles.

Grackles are 11 inches to 13 inches long, also black, smaller than crows but larger than robins. The head of a grackle has a purple or green iridescent sheen. The rest of the body is black or brown-black. The eyes are yellow. They can also be distinguished from crows because their tails are V-shaped and tail feathers are nearly as long as the body.

Health Department staff is also getting ready to begin testing mosquitoes, the vector for West Nile virus and St. Louis encephalitis, again this year. The mosquito collection and testing equipment was

purchased with grant money. The Health Department was also able to use the grant money to purchase a large quantity of mosquito larvicide. Larvicide is used to treat potential mosquito breeding sites, and will be distributed to licensed mosquito control applicators from local municipalities and villages throughout the county.

Also, during the spring and summer months, Health Department staff extend outreach efforts to all city, municipal, village, and township officials in the county. Information packets will be distributed to local hospitals, medical centers, nursing homes, pharmacies, veterinary clinics, pet shelters, campgrounds, daycares, libraries, and pool supply companies.

For additional information on West Nile virus, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 6350
433-3366

April 14, 2008

NEWS RELEASE

“April 25th is DNA Day”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

OTTAWA,IL – Did you know that your family’s health and habits can tell you the diseases for which you may be at risk? Friday, April 25th is DNA DAY, which means you can talk to a Genetic Counselor about your health at NO cost. Genetic

Counselors will be available between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the DNA Day Information and Referral Hotline. Call toll free 1-877-300-GENE (1-877-300-4363).

The LaSalle County Health Department invites you to learn about your family’s health. Talk with your relatives and make a list of conditions or diseases each family member has had, when it occurred, and keep your list updated. By being educated about your family’s history and starting healthy habits like exercising and eating right, you can help keep you and your children healthy. For more information you can visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd .

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**LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
717 ETNA ROAD
OTTAWA, IL 61350**

433-3366

April 3, 2008

NEWS RELEASE

"LaSalle County Health Department Celebrates National Public Health Week"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL - The American Public Health Association has announced National Public Health Week will be observed April 7-13th, 2008. The theme of this year's National Public Health Week is "Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance". For more information regarding Public Health Week, please visit www.nphw.org. In celebration of National Public Health Week, the LaSalle County Health Department will be offering free blood pressure screenings at the Health Department all week from 8:30am-4:00pm. Health Department staff is also encouraging the public to pick up educational materials focusing on a variety of health topics, which will be available in the lobby.

The LaSalle County Health Department was created in November of 1986 with the passage of a referendum by the voters of LaSalle County. In 1987, the Health Department began offering programs in three areas: environmental health, personal health, and health education. Programs available at the Health Department focus on the prevention of the spread of disease and food borne illness, elimination of potentially harmful environmental situations, protection of groundwater from contamination, prevention of injuries, promotion of healthy behaviors, preparedness to respond to bioterrorism issues, and assurance of access to quality health services. For further questions and additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or 1-800-247-5243. The department's website can be accessed at www.lasallecounty.org/hd, and contains beneficial health information.

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
RETAIL FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT OPERATING GUIDELINES
BOIL WATER ORDERS OR INTERRUPTED WATER SERVICE

To continue operating under “boil water” orders or interrupted water service from municipal water supplies, all retail food service establishments (restaurants) must secure and use potable water from an approved source, e.g., from tank trucks or bottled potable water, for all water usage. This includes the following uses:

- 1) coffee, tea, other beverages made in the food establishment
- 2) direct feed coffee urns plumbed directly into the water system
- 3) post-mix soda or beverage machines
- 4) ice machines that manufacture ice on-site
- 5) washing produce or thawing frozen foods
- 6) employees hand washing
- 7) washing all dishes and cooking utensils
- 8) all water used in 3-compartment sinks
- 9) all water for sanitizing solutions
- 10) water for mechanical dishwashers

Retail food establishments may consider the following alternative procedures to minimize water usage:

- 1) commercially-packaged ice may be substituted for ice made on-site
- 2) single-service items or disposable utensils may be substituted for reusable dishes and utensils
- 3) pre-prepared foods from approved sources may be used in place of complex preparations on-site.
- 4) restrict menu choices or hours of operation

- 5) portable toilets may be made available for sanitary purposes

After the “boil water” order is lifted or water services resumes, these precautionary measures must be followed:

- 1) flush the building water lines and clean faucet screens, water line strainers on mechanical dishwashing machines and similar equipment
- 2) purge all water-using fixtures and appliances of standing water such as ice machines, beverage makers, hot water heaters, etc.
- 3) clean and sanitize all fixtures, sinks and equipment connected to water lines

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350**

815-433-3366

February 15, 2008

NEWS RELEASE

“Boil Order Guidelines”

For Immediate Release

For Information or Interviews; contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 815-433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL -The City of Peru has notified the LaSalle County Health Department of a water main break in Peru. During periods of low water pressure and water main breaks the LaSalle County Health Department recommends not drinking the water prior to boiling. Attached are boil order guidelines.

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**LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
717 ETNA ROAD
OTTAWA, IL 61350**

January 25, 2008

NEWS RELEASE

"Board of Health Member Resigns"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL- The LaSalle County Health Department announced the resignation of Board of Health member, Sherwood Jackson, after 21 years of service. Mr. Jackson was appointed as the first Board President in November 1986, after the Health Department was created through a Referendum. He served as Board President of the Department until 1996, remained as a member at large until 2000 when he served as Vice President until his resignation on Thursday, January 18, 2008.

According to Julie Kerestes, the Department's Administrator, Jackson will be sorely missed. "Sherwood's history, experience and dedication serving the Health Board and the Department can not be replaced. I appreciate all the support Sherwood has shown me and the staff over the years. Sherwood as a Board of Health member was always striving to provide LaSalle County residents with the greatest number of services for the least amount of local tax dollars." Sherwood Jackson resigned for personal reasons.

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