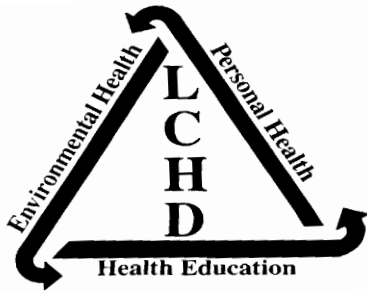


## MEDIA RELEASE



Date: March 30, 2023  
To: All Media  
From: LaSalle County Health Department  
717 Etna Road  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)  
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)  
Phone: (815) 433-3366  
**For Immediate Release**

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### **“LaSalle County Health Department Recognizes National Public Health Week”**

**OTTAWA, IL** - During the first full week of April each year, the American Public Health Association (APHA) brings together communities across the US to observe National Public Health Week. National Public Health Week, with the theme “Centering and Celebrating Cultures in Health,” will be observed April 3-9, 2023. Making communities safe and healthy is public health’s top priority. Public Health serves as an invisible shield of protection to promote and protect the health of people in the communities where they live, learn, work, and play for generations to come.

As a reminder, here are a few of the programs and services the Health Department offers on a regular basis. Citizens are encouraged to call and speak with a staff member for additional information and questions.

- Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) – Do you qualify for a free mammogram and pap smear? Our IBCCP nurse is available to answer eligibility questions and enroll qualified women.
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)- The mission of the LaSalle County WIC program is to improve the health status of women, infants, and children; to reduce the incidence of infant mortality, premature births and low birth weights; and to aid in the development of children. This program serves income eligible pregnant, post-partum, breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age five years. The WIC program provides health screening, nutrition education and counseling, and supplemental foods including formula for infants.
- Free HIV tests and Hepatitis C Screening (finger stick test) – If you feel you should be tested or have questions regarding your risk factors, our communicable disease nurse is available to answer questions in a confidential setting.
- Low-cost childhood and adult immunizations - Please call the Health Department to schedule an appointment.
- COVID-19 Vaccinations – Individuals who need to start the COVID-19 vaccination series or receive a booster, should call the Health Department to schedule an appointment.

**-more-**

- Free Radon Test Kits – The Health Department, through a grant from the IEMA, has free radon test kits available to residents of LaSalle County. Test kits can be picked up at the health department during regular business hours (Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at 717 E. Etna Road in Ottawa. A staff member will assist you with the instructions on using the test kit, as well as provide information regarding radon, radon measurement, and radon mitigation. Additionally, should your radon test results show a high level of radon in your home, the health department can provide you with a list of licensed radon measurement professionals and licensed radon mitigation professionals for follow-up.

The LaSalle County Health Department will also utilize social media to help increase awareness of public health issues and National Public Health Week. The Health Department’s Facebook page will be updated daily with posts that offer tips on a variety of public health issues and also highlight some of the programs available at the Health Department. For additional information on programs and services offered, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit the Health Department’s website at [www.lasallecountyil.gov](http://www.lasallecountyil.gov).

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