Lafayette County Health Department Quarterly Newsletter

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LCHD attended Missouri Valley Community Action Agency’s annual Back-to-School Fair. This event provides free school supplies and information about area services to children and their families. Approximately 23 families were served. LCHD handed out pencils, pencil pouches and packets containing combs, hairbrushes, and toothbrushes with toothpaste as well as information about immunizations and the WIC Program. LCHD looks forward to attending this event every year as it is yet another opportunity to talk with families in Lafayette County, hear their needs, and hopefully help connect them with services they need.

Pictured are Georgia Guthrie, Public Health Nurse, and Missy Martin, Health Program Rep, getting ready to meet the public and hand out information and supplies.

September saw the start of the 2019-2020 Saving Smiles year. We started the program year off in Lexington at the Early Childhood Center. LCHD will visit each school in the fall and spring to apply fluoride varnish to pre-school through 4th grade students, with students receiving a dental screening in the fall. We have also expanded Saving Smiles to two daycares in Odessa.

It was all hands on deck for Saving Smiles prep in the office.
The 2019-2020 Tar Wars is off and running! We kicked off the year at Trinity Lutheran School in Alma and quickly followed up with the 5th graders at Lexington Middle School. Georgia Guthrie and Missy Martin travel to the 5th grade classes in Lafayette County to spread the word about the dangers of smoking. Due to the rise in vaping and vaping-related deaths, we’ve added a special section regarding the dangers of vaping. The PowerPoint presentation is full of great visuals and fun science experiments. The year will end with a poster contest. Stay tuned for the winner!

Pictured are students from Trinity Lutheran getting ready to pop their balloons for a science experiment.

NEHA Conference

July 8-12, our environmental health specialist, Debbie Dreves, attended the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) conference in Nashville, Tennessee. The conference lasted five days and included important topics such as Climate and Health, Food Safety, Septic Systems, Data and Technology, General Environmental Workforce and Leadership, and Healthy Communities. Missouri was represented by 10 members from the Kansas City and St. Louis areas.
In addition to the MVCAA Back-to-School event, LCHD attended several other back-to-school nights in the county. This was our first year attending Lexington’s National Night Out and it was a success! There were many tables full of prizes and information and ours was no exception. We gave away toothbrushes as we signed children up for our dental sealant program. We also provided back-to-school immunizations for incoming 8th and 12th graders. Lots of other giveaways as well as information on immunizations and the Lafayette County WIC Program were handed out. This was our first time attending this wonderful event and we’re looking forward to attending again next year!

We also attended Leslie Bell Elementary back-to-school night. We signed several 2nd through 4th graders up for our dental sealant program and gave parents flu forms for our upcoming school flu clinic at the school. Children that signed up for the dental sealant program received free toothbrushes.

On September 5th we traveled to Wellington to participate in the Wellington-Napoleon Resource Night at the school. We set up a table full of information about the WIC program and the upcoming school flu clinic. Breann Jensen did several car seat checks and discussed the health department’s car seat program with families.

Attending events like these is one of our favorite things to do here at the health department. It gives us a chance to get out in the community, connect with people, let them know what we can provide and hear what they have to say. We will continue to go out and spread the word to prevent, promote and protect!
Having Fun at Community Events

Pictured at left, LCHD’s table at LBS Back-to-School Night full of information about dental sealants, WIC, and flu shots.

Breann Jensen has fun helping a Wellington family make sure that their car seat is safely installed.

Missy Martin, Breann Jensen, and Mendi Hamilton are ready to talk WIC and car seat safety in Wellington.

Breann and Missy talked to children about dental sealants and handed out cups and pencils for back to school at National Night Out. Angel Jiovenale and Sarah Dodson gave back-to-school vaccines at the next table.
September is the start of flu shot season here at Lafayette County Health Department. LCHD strives to get as many Lafayette County citizens their flu vaccines as possible. One way we do this is through outreach clinics. Starting this month, we will travel throughout the county holding flu clinics in various senior centers, city halls, businesses, and schools. We kicked off our outreach flu season in Odessa at the senior center on September 12th. Outreach flu clinics are scheduled through the end of October, ending in Lexington at a clinic held at the Lafayette County Jail and Courthouse for county employees.

We are also trying something new this year. Lafayette County Health Department will hold a drive-thru flu clinic October 1st from 3:00-6:00 PM at Dyer Park in Odessa. Vaccines will be free to participants, but they are asked to please bring their Medicaid or Medicare cards. This is an emergency preparedness exercise for us, while also getting more Odessa community members vaccinated against the flu.

It is our hope that these outreach clinics provide a hassle-free, convenient way for Lafayette County residents to get their flu vaccines and will in turn help fight the flu in Lafayette County.

Angel Jiovenale and Heather Campbell, LCHD Public Health Nurses, get ready to do some flu shots at the Odessa Senior Center.