

Health Matters



from the Kane County Health Department

— July 21, 2016 —

Trending Matters:

August is:



It is soon Back to School time and immunizations are an important part of the preparation

Scroll down for our article about the importance of immunizations

And visit our [Immunizations Webpage](#)

First *Big Latch On* event set for August 5 & 6

The Kane County Breastfeeding Coalition is excited to host the first annual Big Latch On event Aug. 5 and 6, at three Kane County locations. Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) in Aurora, Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital in Geneva, and Advocate Sherman Hospital in Elgin will be holding the events.



What is the Big Latch On?

The Global Big Latch On is hosted at locations all around the world. This is a chance for women to come together to breastfeed and offer peer support to each other. All breastfeeding mothers, pregnant women, and families are welcome. This is a time to join the celebration to promote and support breastfeeding as a healthy infant feeding choice. Hosting the Big Latch On in the Kane



County area will create a lasting support network for the community.

The Global Big Latch On History

In 2005 Women's Health Action started the Big Latch On in New Zealand. In 2010 the Big Latch On was introduced to Portland, Ore., by Joanne Edwards and 2,045 children were breastfed among two countries at the event. By 2011, a member of Le Leche League USA, Annie Brown, worked with Joanne to expand the Big Latch On in the United States. As of 2015, records show that there are now 28 participating countries, 654 individual locations, 14,889 breastfeeding children who have latched on, 15,336 breastfeeding women and 36,502 people in attendance at the event. [Website](#)

Join Us

Join us at one of our three locations to celebrate breastfeeding. Find out more about the fun and resources for families, normalize breastfeeding as a feeding choice, and participate in great family activities.

We Can't Do It Alone

Help us promote this event to engage the community members as well as increase awareness of breastfeeding as a great and normal infant feeding choice! You can do this by following our Facebook account, sharing posts, liking posts, and tagging mothers, breastfeeding moms, soon to be moms, and families on our page!

[Facebook Link](#)

Following our Facebook account will allow you to stay updated on the event, help with our promotional efforts, and get great tips & facts about breastfeeding.

To learn more about the Coalition, including its membership, please visit our webpage [HERE](#).

Kane County Big Latch On Events:

VNA Health Care

400 N. Highland Ave., Aurora

Friday, Aug. 5 9:30 -11:30 a.m.

RSVP to Maria Vargas (630)-482-8158

Advocate Sherman Hospital

1425 N Randall Road, Elgin

Saturday, Aug. 6 9:30-11:30 a.m.

RSVP to nicolebuczek@gmail.com

Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital

351 Delnor Drive, Geneva

Friday, Aug. 5 10:00-11:30 a.m.

RSVP to (630)-208-4068

2015 Annual report takes a look back at an eventful year

By looking back at where we've been, we can get a good idea of where we need to go. Producing an annual report gives us a chance to review the preceding year and keeps us moving forward on our journey. Our bilingual annual report touches on a few of the highlights for the previous year.

For example:

- We saw a continued effort to battle chronic diseases as we accepted a \$90,000 grant from



the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to lead chronic disease prevention programs and promote school health in our communities.

- We took steps to fight infectious disease when we held an emergency vaccination clinic at Elgin Community College to prevent a possible measles outbreak.
- We launched the new data platform [Kane Health Counts](#), which puts health, community and demographic information at your fingertips.
- And of course we are always proud to be recognized by our peers for the Model Practice Awards from the National Association of County and City Health Officials.

These are but a few of the activities of note from 2015. Details from these stories and much more are **available for download in the full-length electronic version of the report on the Administration Page on our Website** [HERE](#).

Each year we try to build on the previous one, improving the quality of our service and building a healthier community as we move toward being the healthiest residents in Illinois.

Right: Barbara Jeffers, Executive Director Kane County Health Department



**National Immunization Awareness Month
celebrates the importance of vaccines for all**



August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). Immunizations represent one of the greatest public health accomplishments of the 20th century. The purpose of NIAM is to celebrate the benefits of vaccination and highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages.

Four messages are central to the month-long awareness campaign:

- Vaccines protect against serious diseases.
- These diseases still exist and outbreaks do occur.
- Vaccines are recommended throughout our lives.
- Vaccines are very safe.

Getting vaccinated according to the recommended immunization schedule is one of the most important things a parent can do to protect their child's health. Diseases can quickly spread among groups of children who aren't vaccinated. Whether it's a baby starting at a new child care facility, a toddler heading to preschool, a student going back to elementary, middle or high school – or even a college freshman – parents should check their child's vaccination records.

Child care facilities, preschool programs, schools and colleges are prone to outbreaks of infectious diseases. Children in these settings can easily spread illnesses to one another due to poor hand washing, not covering their coughs, and other factors such as interacting in crowded environments.

The State of Illinois requires vaccinations to protect children from a variety of diseases before they can enter school. For school entrance, students must show proof of diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, haemophilus influenza type b, hepatitis b, and varicella, as well as pneumococcal and now meningococcal (depending on age) vaccinations.

For more information about immunizations, visit the [Illinois Department of Public Health's immunization page](#). You'll find their vaccination schedules [HERE](#).



When children are not vaccinated, they are at increased risk for disease and can spread disease to others in their play groups, child care centers, classrooms and communities – including babies who are too young to be fully vaccinated and people with weakened immune systems due to cancer and other health conditions.

What would happen if?

Preparing for a possible terrorist attack, Health Department participates in

full-scale, statewide exercise

The scenario: A terrorist group releases weapons-grade anthrax in several locations.

The action: Mobilize the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS).

The result: Medical Counter Measures are distributed throughout Kane County.



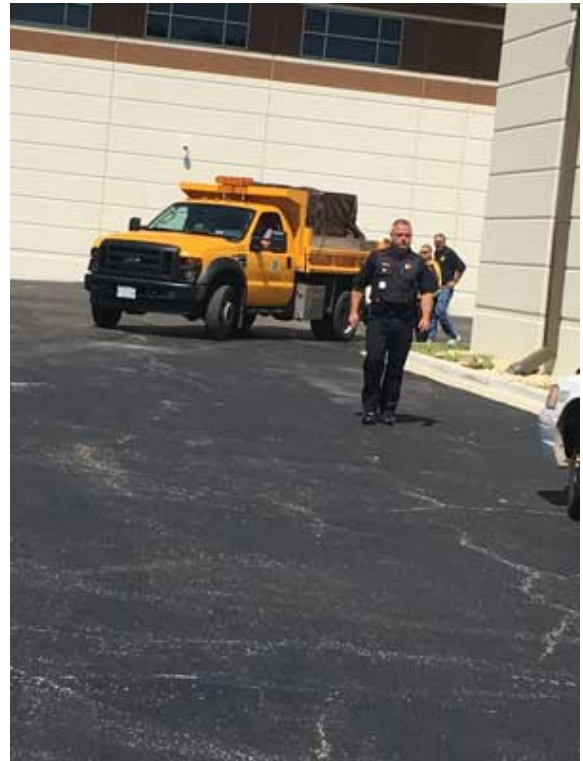
Kane County Health Department partnered with agencies across Kane County and the northern Illinois to stage the three-day, full-scale exercise June 13, 14 and 15.

In Kane County, Office of Emergency Management, the Division of Transportation, the State’s Attorney’s Office, Human Resources, Judiciary and Kane County Forest Preserve District played major roles. Public Information Officers with the Cities of Elgin, St. Charles and Batavia, St. Charles School District 303, Kane County Forest Preserve District and Kane County Sheriff’s Office participated in the Joint Information Center, helping to exercise the cooperation needed to disseminate crucial crisis information

First responders from agencies throughout the county were able to participate in receiving the SNS. In the end, hundreds of boxes of “medicine” (in reality, just empty boxes), were able to be distributed throughout the county.

In a larger sense, local health departments all throughout Illinois participated in the exercise, each following its own scenario as a way to test its readiness. The Illinois Department of Public Health served as the lynch pin of the entire exercise.

In the event of a real emergency, the Governor would request the SNS from the Federal Government, and the proper medicines and supplies would be delivered within 48 hours. It would then be up to the local health officials to schedule Points of Dispensing at various, pre-planned sites to ensure that our residents and their families receive the medicine they need.



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Illinois**

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