



10-3-2024

From Public Health Director Billy Pitts

Please see the attached Community Update provided by our Regional Epidemiologist, Blake Johnson. Thank you Blake!

This month's update is filled with much information.....important information.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Breast Cancer has impacted thousands of individuals and families over the years. The statistics in the attached update are staggering. Early detection is key!

Domestic violence, mental health awareness, and health literacy are also featured in October. Please take time to be aware of these important population health issues affecting our communities.

Respiratory illness season is upon us. In the next few months, we expect to see increases in flu, RSV, and COVID19. Blake did a great job quantifying what constitutes an outbreak in the update. Outbreaks are to be reported to the local health departments.

Have a great day!

Billy Pitts, MHA, MHR
Public Health Director
Marshall County Health Department
Office 270-252-2700
Mobile 270-970-1957



Breast Cancer Awareness

Every month, public health and healthcare professionals highlight national health observances (NHOs) to raise awareness about important health topics and to encourage individuals and communities to stay healthy.

The KY Cancer Registry says 1 in 8 women in Kentucky will be diagnosed with breast cancer during her lifetime. In 2021, an estimated 4,600 women received a breast cancer diagnosis. Current recommendations encourage women between the ages of 40–74 should have a mammogram every 2 years. If you have a higher risk of breast cancer, your doctor may recommend starting mammograms at an earlier age. Finding breast cancer early is key to successful treatment! Talk to your doctor to find out what is best for you.

The month of October highlights several NHOs such as health literacy, breast cancer, domestic violence, and mental health awareness.

This October we invite you to take a moment to learn about the topics highlighted this month, talk to your primary care provider, or reach out to show support to family or friends.

The myhealthfinder logo features a red apple icon. Below it is a form titled "See which preventive services you need this year." with fields for "Age:", "Sex: M F", and "Pregnant?". A green "GET STARTED" button is at the bottom, along with the healthfinder.gov logo and the tagline "Live well. Learn how."/>

myhealthfinder

See which preventive services you need this year.

Age:

Sex: M F

Pregnant?

GET STARTED ▶

healthfinder.gov
Live well. Learn how.

Health Literacy Month

This October, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is celebrating 25 years of Health Literacy Month!

Health literacy is the ability to find, understand, and use information and services to make the best health-related decisions for you and your family.

To learn about health literacy, start by exploring the MyHealthFinder tool at myhealth.gov/myhealthfinder





Domestic Violence Month

Not only is October a month to take a special interest in our health, as we head into respiratory season, but it's also a time to raise awareness on domestic violence.

According to the 2023 Kentucky domestic violence report, 1 in 2 women and 1 in 3 men have experienced domestic violence. However, national data suggests that only about 54% of domestic violence incidents are reported. This October take the time to share the domestic violence hotline!



Risk Less. Do More.
Get your Flu and Covid shot!

Want to hit the sweet spot to reduce the risk of catching the flu? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend getting your Influenza and Covid vaccine before October 31st! If you have questions about which vaccine is best for you, ask your doctor or call the Marshall County Health Department at 270-527-1496.



Upcoming in Reportable Disease

2024-2025 Respiratory Outbreak Reporting

Outbreaks of respiratory illnesses such as Covid-19, Influenza, or RSV in various settings should be reported to the local health department and the Kentucky Department for Public Health.

Long-term Care Facilities:

An outbreak is defined as two (2) or more cases of the same respiratory illness occurring within 72 hours of each other in patients and/or staff. Outbreaks will be closed after two (2) incubation periods (which equals one (1) week) have passed without any new cases in patients and/or staff. For any questions about this, reach out to the local health department or regional epidemiologist.

Childcare Facilities: An outbreak of Covid-19, Influenza, or RSV occurring in childcare settings is defined as three (3) or more cases of the same illness within 72 hours identified in the same area of the building in children and/or staff (not including same-household contacts). For any questions about reporting childcare facility outbreaks, reach out to the local health department or regional epidemiologist.

In addition to long-term care and childcare facilities, outbreaks should be reported if there is an unexpected increase in mortality in any population and/or unexpected rates of severe illness/hospitalization in specific vulnerable populations. Since KDPH is no longer tracking individual cases of Covid-19, schools are not required to track and/or report Covid-19 cases.

When notifying one of the designated individuals about an outbreak, it's important to provide detailed information about the situation. This includes the nature of the outbreak, the number of sick individuals, and any immediate measures already taken. After reporting, the individual will initiate the necessary collaboration with the other parties involved to ensure a coordinated response. The facility will receive timely follow-up to manage the outbreak effectively and to prevent further spread. This streamlined communication helps in maintaining a clear and efficient response protocol, ensuring that all relevant parties are informed and that the necessary actions are implemented properly.

Outbreak Staff

Marshall County Health Department

Clinical Director

Joanna Colson

p: 270-527-1496

e: jcolson@mcphd.org

Kentucky Dept for Public Health

Regional Epidemiologist

Blake Johnson

p: 502-382-6438

e: BD.Johnson@ky.gov

Kentucky Dept for Public Health

Regional Infection Prevention

Linda Smit

p: 502-871-2629

e: Linda.Smit@ky.gov