National Public Health Week: April 1-7

Public health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play.

While a doctor treats people who are sick, those of us working in public health try to prevent people from getting sick or injured in the first place. We also promote wellness by encouraging healthy behaviors.

From conducting scientific research to educating about health, people in the field of public health work to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy. That can mean vaccinating children and adults to prevent the spread of diseases or educating people about the risks of alcohol and tobacco.

Public health sets safety standards to protect workers and develops school nutrition programs to ensure kids have access to healthy food.

Public health works to track disease outbreaks, prevent injuries and shed light on why some of us are more likely to suffer from poorer health than others.

The many facets of public health include speaking out for laws that promote smoke-free indoor air and seatbelts, spreading the word about ways to stay healthy and giving science-based solutions to problems.

WCHD is dedicated to making Warren County a healthy place to live, work, and play by preventing the spread of disease, promoting health lifestyles, and protecting the community from exposure to health risks.

The Warren County Health Levy enables WCHD to investigate infectious disease outbreaks, provide primary care services, link individuals to other healthcare and behavioral care services, build community partnerships, and investigate environmental public health hazards.

The dedicated staff at WCHD provide quality, accessible, respectful, and credible services to all members of the community. WCHD is working to build a healthier Warren County every day.

For more information regarding the programs and services offered by the WCHD visit www.warrenchd.com.

Prescription Drug Take Back Day—April 27

The Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Warren County is collaborating with the Lebanon Police Department, for the annual Prescription Drug Take-Back Day.

The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

Bring expired and unused medications to the drop-off site listed in this article for proper disposal by law enforcement. No questions will be asked. Prescription drugs only. No needles, syringes, or liquids will be accepted.

For additional information on safe ways to dispose of medication visit: www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm101653.htm

Drop off location will be at the Lebanon Kroger 1525 Columbus Ave.

Saturday, April 27th 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

If you are not able to make it to the event, there is also a drop off box available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the Warren County Sheriff's office lobby (822 Memorial Drive, Lebanon).

2019 County Health Rankings

Warren County Ranks 6th

Once again Warren County has proven to be one of the healthiest counties in Ohio with an overall ranking of 6th out of 88 counties.

The annual rankings provide a revealing snapshot of how health is influenced by where we live, learn, work and play. They provide a starting point for change in communities.

For the complete report visit: www.countyhealthrankings.org

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State law requires all animal bites from animals with the ability to transmit rabies to humans be reported to the local health department for investigation.

Upon receipt of an animal bite report, our Environmental Health Staff issues a written quarantine notice to the owner of the dog, cat, ferret, pig, or other domestic animal capable of contracting and transmitting rabies. The animal can be quarantined at its usual residence or at an animal boarding establishment for the duration of the quarantine. Following the quarantine period the animal's condition is checked for symptoms of rabies.

The animal is subsequently released from quarantine, if properly vaccinated against rabies. At the end of the quarantine period the victim is notified of the animal's condition. If a problem is found with the condition of the domestic animal involved in the bite or if a wild animal is involved, the animal is humanely euthanized, the rabies specimen collected and the specimen is sent by courier to Columbus, Ohio, for rabies analysis.

For more information or to report an animal bite call 513-695-1220 or visit www.warrenchd.com.

Poultry and Salmonella

It's not unusual to see soft and cute baby poultry put on display in agricultural feed stores, especially during the spring. But most people do not realize that live poultry (chicks, chickens, ducks, ducklings, geese, turkeys) can be a source of human Salmonella infections, especially for children. When live baby poultry carry Salmonella they don’t appear to be sick, but they can still spread the germs to people.

People can be exposed to Salmonella by holding, cuddling, or kissing the birds and by touching things where the birds live, such as cages or feed and water bowls.

Salmonella can make people sick with diarrhea, vomiting, fever, and/or abdominal cramps. Sometimes, people can become so sick from a Salmonella infection that they have to go to the hospital.

Young children, elderly persons, and those with weakened immune systems are more likely than others to develop severe illness. When this occurs, Salmonella may spread from the intestines to the bloodstream and then to other body sites and can cause death unless the person is treated promptly with antibiotics.

How do people get Salmonella infections from live baby poultry?

Live poultry may have Salmonella germs in their droppings and on their bodies (feathers, feet, and beaks) even when they appear healthy and clean. The germs can also get on cages, coops, and other things in the area where birds live and roam. Additionally, germs can be found on the hands, shoes, and clothing of those who handle the birds, or work or play in areas where birds live and roam. People become infected with Salmonella when they put their hands or other things that have been in contact with droppings in or around their mouth.

How do I reduce the risk of Salmonella infection from live baby poultry?

— Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water right after touching live baby poultry or anything in the area where they live and roam. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

— Adults should supervise hand washing for young children.
— Don’t let children younger than 5 years of age handle or touch chicks, ducklings, or other live poultry.
— Don’t snuggle or kiss the birds, touch your mouth, or eat or drink around live baby poultry.
— Don’t let live baby poultry inside the house, in bathrooms, or especially in areas where food or drink is prepared, served, or stored, such as kitchens or outdoor patios.
— Keep live poultry outside.
— Don’t eat or drink in the areas where the birds live or roam.
— Don’t clean any equipment or materials associated with raising or caring for live poultry, such as cages or feed or water containers, inside the house.
— Don't give live baby poultry as gifts to young children.

For more information on Salmonella visit www.cdc.gov/salmonella.