



## Scott County Health Department

600 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street | Davenport, IA 52801-1003 | P. 563-326-8618 | F. 563-326-8774  
health@scottcountyiowa.gov | www.scottcountyiowa.gov/health

### Director's Report to the Board of Health December 12, 2025

#### Director's Attended External Meetings –

- American Public Health Association Legislative Update
- CDC Response Team: All State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Health Department Update
- Continuing Conversations with Large Iowa County Health Directors
- Iowa Counties Public Health Association (ICPHA)
- Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) Public Health Office Hours
- Iowa HHS Behavioral Health Town Hall
- Iowa HHS High Consequence Infectious Disease Workgroup
- Iowa Public Health Association (IPHA) Legislative Forum
- Jail Health Advisory Committee
- Live Lead Free Quad Cities
- National Weather Service Winter Outlook
- Project Renewal Board
- Quad City Health Initiative
- Scott County Information Technology Artificial Intelligence Policy Workgroup
- Scott County Kids Executive Decategorization Board
- Scott County Kids Fiscal Committee
- Vera French Clinical Care Committee
- WAGABOX® Inauguration at Waste Commission of Scott County

#### Recognition of Years of Service with the Department:

Jessica Riddick, Office Assistant	2 years	December 27 <sup>th</sup>
Lydia Amissah-Harris, Family Health Coordinator	3 years	December 19 <sup>th</sup>
Lenore Alonso, Informing Specialist	20 years	December 19 <sup>th</sup>
Tiffany Peterson, Community Health Manager	21 years	December 6 <sup>th</sup>

#### Introduction of new employee:

Robin Cousins, Environmental Health Specialist	Start Date	November 26 <sup>th</sup>
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#### Assessment

*Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets*

### Cancer in Iowa: 99 Counties Presentation (Scott County)

Multiple staff attended the *Cancer in Iowa: 99 Counties (Scott County)* presentation. The Iowa Cancer Registry and the University of Iowa College of Public Health, in collaboration with the Iowa Cancer Consortium, University of Iowa Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Iowa Rural Health Association, are hosting this series to present county-specific cancer information and address community concerns in each of Iowa's 99 counties. Iowa has the second highest rate of new cancers in the United States and Iowa's rate is 14% higher than the United States rate. Presenters gave background information on how cancer can occur due to multiple risk factors, including genetics, lifestyle, environment, and other factors.

Scott County ranks ninth out of 22 metro counties in Iowa for new cancers. Each year there are approximately 1,105 new cancers diagnosed and 339 cancer deaths in Scott County. The top five cancers in the county include 1) female breast; 2) prostate; 3) lung; 4) endometrial (uterine); and 5) colorectal. Presenters provided a breakdown of the number of new cases, number of deaths, and options for screening for each of these cancer types. Finally, presenters gave an overview of resources available in Iowa to better understand and address cancer, as well as state and local policy examples that could have an impact on cancer rates.

Staff assisted in the promotion of the presentation and a number of elected officials, community partners, and members of the public participated.

*Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population*

### Communicable Disease Program

Twelve confirmed communicable diseases were reported during November. They included three E. coli infections, one case of hepatitis B, one case of hepatitis C (HCV), six cases of pertussis, and one shigellosis case.

Since July 2025, staff have investigated more than 40 cases of pertussis and their close contacts (21 plus 16 epi-linked in December as of 12/10). Scott County is currently seeing much higher case numbers than other locations in the region. A memo was distributed electronically to area health care providers on December 5<sup>th</sup> with testing, treatment, and exclusion recommendations.

### Animal Bite Program

In November, 21 individuals required rabies risk assessments after exposure to 16 dogs, four cats, one squirrel, and one raccoon. Five victims were recommended for rabies prevention treatment for a high-risk exposure or bite above the shoulders, and six victims started treatment. One of the individuals began treatment before a recommendation was provided; the dog was available for quarantine.

Clinical Services staff and the deputy director met with Officer Huston from the Animal Protection Services (APS) of the Humane Society of Scott County to discuss improvements in the animal bite reporting form, the revised process for reporting animal bites, and providing animal bite care recommendations to victims. APS will implement the new animal bite reporting form and recommendations letter on Dec. 1, 2025.

### Sexually Transmitted Disease Program

Sixty individuals received sexual health services at the department during November. Five clients tested positive for chlamydia and three clients tested positive for gonorrhea at the department's sexual health clinic. An additional two clients tested positive for chlamydia and one client tested positive for gonorrhea in the department's express clinic. In total, 58 cases of chlamydia, 31 cases of gonorrhea, and two cases of syphilis were reported in Scott County during the month. There were 13 additional syphilis cases investigated and determined to be out of jurisdiction, not identified as a case, or had a pending result. These cases were closed, referred, or remained open pending additional results.

### Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

In November, there were 17 lead poisoned children on the department's caseload. One case was transferred to Illinois because the family moved and two cases were closed during the month. The remaining 14 children will continue to receive public health nursing services until two consecutive blood lead levels equal to or below 10 ug/dL are obtained. Of these 14 children, three had blood lead levels between 15-19 ug/dL, five had blood lead levels between 10-14 ug/dL, and six had blood lead levels less than 10 ug/dL.

Six children utilizing the department's immunization clinic accepted lead testing services at their November appointment. There were no new positives identified during these efforts.

Staff completed a lead dust wipe clearance inspection at a Davenport residence. Clearance testing at this location has been ongoing for months. The laboratory results from the State Hygienic Laboratory showed that the final two floors where carpeting had been installed finally passed the clearance threshold. The property has now passed inspection, and a lead clearance letter will be sent to the tenants, property manager, and property owner.

### **Policy Development**

*Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health factors that influence it, and how to improve it*

### Information Shared at the Quad Cities ANP-PA Alliance Fall Conference

Various program staff hosted an informational booth at the Quad Cities Area Nurse Practitioner/Physician Associate Alliance's 2025 Conference. Information was shared on STI testing and treatment; immunizations; childhood lead poisoning; oral health; Quitline Iowa; and the Ask, Advise, and Connect Program for tobacco use.

### Education for Child Care Providers

Staff virtually presented the training, *Breast Milk Feeding Promotion and Support in Child Care*, to twelve child care providers. The training reviews the benefits of breast milk feeding, storage and handling of breast milk, bottle feeding techniques, and local resources and support for parents.

Staff also partnered with a child care program to support and educate staff on medication

administration. Eleven staff completed the online medication administration course approved by HHS and Healthy Child Care Iowa. Program staff then met with department staff to complete an individual, one-hour skills demonstration. The course encourages a skills demonstration every two years and retaking the course every five years.

#### Booth Hosted at the Milestones Area Agency on Aging Caregivers Conference

Staff attended the Milestones Area Agency on Aging Caregivers Conference. There were approximately 150 attendees and 30 vendors. Staff promoted the I-Smile Silver Program and offered assistance in finding dental care.

#### *Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities, and partnerships to improve health*

#### Public Health and Safety Team Convenes

Staff attended the first Scott County Public Health and Safety Team (PHAST) meeting organized by Overdose Data to Action in States (OD2A-S) grant staff. PHAST team members represent many sectors, including substance use treatment and recovery services, harm reduction, public health, first responders, behavioral health, and community-based organizations. The group shared their roles in addressing overdoses in the community and services their organization provides. OD2A-S grant staff presented an overview of the PHAST framework, structure, and goals to the team to establish a shared understanding of these foundational elements.

The group was given a short introduction to the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) which tracks real-time data from first responders on suspected overdoses. Local EMS, fire departments, and police departments can enter information on these cases, including if it was fatal or non-fatal, if naloxone was administered or not, and the suspected substances that were involved. OD2A-S grant staff worked with MEDIC EMS of Scott County to get connected to this platform so the team can track overdose trends locally. The team discussed how to use this data in addition to other data collected by PHAST team members related to overdoses and substance use. There was also extensive discussion on the availability of substance use treatment and harm reduction services in the community. Two team members connected on naloxone distribution at the meeting.

#### Quad Cities Chamber as a Partner on Community Transformation Outreach

Staff met with Deanna Jensen-Valliere, Quad Cities Chamber, to learn how the department can better utilize its membership to communicate about the Community Transformation Program and other services available. Staff learned how to update the department's landing page on the Chamber's website and submit press releases. Ms. Jensen-Valliere also encouraged attendance at the Quad Cities Chamber meetup and business exchange to network and share information about services and programs.

#### Quad Cities Breastfeeding Coalition

Staff attended the Quad Cities Breastfeeding Coalition/Taskforce at UnityPoint Health – Trinity Bettendorf. The group discussed educational focuses for the year, deciding to align with the same topic as the Healthy Pregnancy Coalition, mental health. Interest was expressed in arranging continuing education for providers and professionals through the organization, Postpartum International.

### WAGABOX® Inauguration at the Scott Area Landfill

Staff and I had the opportunity to attend the official inauguration of the WAGABOX® unit at the Scott Area Landfill. This project is a joint venture between Waga Energy, Linwood Mining & Minerals, and the Waste Commission of Scott County. The project converts landfill gas into pipeline quality renewable natural gas sold into the transportation fuel market utilizing a local pipeline built by MidAmerican Energy. The project provides environmental benefit by avoiding 15,800 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>eq, which was previously flared, and now provides 205,000 MMBtu annually to fuel natural gas-powered vehicles. Work on the project commenced in 2022 and is Waga Energy's first collaboration in Iowa. They have 32 units in operation worldwide, with 18 under construction, including 11 in the United States.

### Food Safety Taskforce

The Food Program hosted its annual Food Safety Taskforce meeting on November 13th. Owners and managers from several local food service establishments were in attendance and a variety of topics were discussed including employee health reporting, allergen awareness, proper cooling and thawing methods, responsibilities of the person-in-charge, cold brew coffee, etc. The Food Safety Taskforce is one of the ways that the department works to meet the Food and Drug Administration's Voluntary Retail Food Regulatory Program's Standard 7, Industry and Community Relations.

*Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health*

### Child Care Centers Supported with Plans and Policies for Health and Safety

Staff conducted a Health and Safety Checklist assessment at a child care center. The checklist is a required component of Iowa's quality rating improvement system, Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K), for providers applying for levels 3-5. The checklist process requires at least three onsite visits to assess, share findings, and support the development of a plan to meet best practices. Follow-up with the participating center is ongoing.

Staff also met with child care center staff in Clinton to provide education and support for the safe and successful enrollment of a child with a special health need.

*Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health*

### 2025-2023 K-12 Immunization Audits

Immunization audits for K-12 schools were completed and reported to HHS. The total Scott County student enrollment was 28,366 for the 2025-2026 school year. Of the 28,366 students enrolled, 26,102 (92.02%) students had certificates of immunization, 429 (1.51%) students had provisional certificates, 1,710 (6.03%) students had religious exemptions, 46 (0.16%) students had medical exemptions, and 79 (0.28%) students had an unacceptable or no certificate of immunization (Attachment 2).

There was a slight decrease in the total enrollment (28,607) for the county, with decreases in provisional certificates (446) and increases in religious exemptions (1,489) when compared to the 2024-2025 school year. The total number of invalid or unacceptable certificates (97) decreased. One new charter school was audited this school year.

In reviewing the audit results by grade, the highest percentage of religious exemptions occurred in 7<sup>th</sup> grade (9% and 7%) during the 2025-2026 and 2024-2025 school years. Data for additional school years is being compiled. The 2024-2025 school year was the first following changes to Iowa Administrative Rules which no longer required religious exemptions to be notarized. Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade are required to receive a dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) and one dose of meningococcal (MenACWY) vaccine for entry. If they have not received the Tdap vaccine, they are typically able to obtain a provisional certificate to start school because of prior doses of the vaccine; this is not the case for the Meningococcal vaccine since it is given for the first time on or after the student's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### Verified Food Service Complaints

Facility	Reason	Complaint Status
Isle of Capri, Isle Parkway, Bettendorf	Pest Control	Resolved
Olive Garden, West Kimberly Road, Davenport	Food Handling	Resolved
The Tangled Wood, Tanglewood Drive, Bettendorf	Pest Control	Resolved
Cold Stone Creamery, Utica Ridge Road, Davenport	Pest Control	Resolved
Wide River Winery, North Cody Road, LeClaire	General Facility Sanitation, Pest Control	Resolved

#### Swimming Pool Program Closures

Facility	Reason	Status
Double Tree Hotel Pool, East Second Street, Davenport	No safe drain certificate	New certified safe drain installed

#### **Assurance**

*Assure an effective system that enables access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy*

#### Dental Services Throughout the Collaborative Service Area

Dental staff provided dental services at three preschools, three elementary schools, and The Friendly House. Approximately 270 children received dental screenings, fluoride, risk assessments, and sealants as needed. Children without dental homes (a regular dentist managing their care) or with obvious cavities (dental caries) received care coordination or were scheduled for dental care coordination based on their risk assessment.

Staff assisted a local dentist in helping provide the required ninth grade student dental screenings at West High School. Approximately 125 students received a dental screening. Parents of students that had oral concerns were contacted via email with I-Smile Program information.

### Sexual Health Outreach Testing

Throughout the month, staff conducted STI/HIV/HCV testing at the Center for Alcohol & Drug Services (CADS); Humility Homes and Services; and the Scott County Jail. In total, services were provided to 27 individuals. All clients who tested positive were either treated at the Health Department or referred to a provider of their choice for treatment.

*Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce*

### Iowa Source Water Research Assessment Report Presentation

Staff attended the Iowa Source Water Research Assessment Report presentation hosted by Food & Water Watch. Polk County funded a project to better understand their waterways and drinking water. The study provides a comprehensive, unbiased analysis of water quality in the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers. While the study focused on Polk County, experts believe the concerns identified are similar throughout most of Iowa. The full report is available on the Polk County website at <https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/public-works/water-resources/polk-county-water-quality-initiatives>.

### Domestic Violence Conference

Members of the Family Health team attended a Domestic Violence Conference in Dubuque. The conference covered victim-centered approaches in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence between intimate partners, stalking, and other domestic violence relationships. The conference discussed the legal process of domestic violence cases, which includes reporting, investigation, going through the court process, and ongoing support from community resources to help survivors move forward.

*Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement*

### I-Smile, I-Smile Silver, and Maternal Oral Health Reviewed

Staff attended a two-day workshop for I-Smile coordinators and project directors. Staff from three other Child and Adolescent Health (CAH) agencies and oral health consultants from HHS attended to discuss the status of programs and brainstorm future program improvements. This workshop replaced the traditional site visit for the I-Smile (children's) Program.

HHS Consultant, Melissa Woodhouse, visited the department to complete a site visit for the I-Smile Silver and oral health activities for the Maternal Health program. Services numbers were reviewed, and successes/challenges were discussed. There were no items for follow-up generated from the site visit.

*Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health*

### Department Infrastructure Teams

#### *Health Equity Committee*

The Health Equity Committee completed planning for its December Brave Conversations session which includes a mini poverty simulation and tested materials that will be used. The

group continues to discuss Health Equity in Action project ideas and made changes to the department's website to reflect the department and county non-discrimination policy.

#### *Health Promotion Team*

The Health Promotion Team finalized a template in Canva for the new Public Health Connection newsletter. This template will be utilized starting in 2026. Paper copies will only be available upon request. The Public Health Connection will be shared virtually and available on the SCHD website. Winter content for the waiting room tv was drafted.

#### *Public Health Policy Committee*

Senator Mike Zimmer joined the Public Health Policy Committee for its November meeting. Senator Zimmer was able to learn more about the department and the legislative topics being watched, as well as share topics he anticipates being discussed during the 2026 Iowa Legislative Session. Senator Zimmer expressed support for the work of public health and Scott County Health Department in his current role as Iowa State Senator, as well as during his previous roles in the educational system.

#### *Quality Improvement Council*

The Quality Improvement (QI) Council is in the implementation stage of two QI projects, with completion planned by Spring 2026. The Council continues to brainstorm ways to recognize QI champions within the department.

#### *Workplace Culture Committee*

The Workplace Culture Committee presented on the Cloverleaf Team Platform at the November All Staff meeting. The presentation highlighted adding survey results and completing surveys, individual profile settings, coaching network and teams, coaching hub, and daily tips. Staff brought their laptops and were able to follow along and make changes or try out features. In addition, team members hosted a Cloverleaf support walk - in session where staff were able to stop in to ask questions and receive support with technical issues, learn how to navigate within the system, and explore the tools and services that the program has to offer.

#### *Workforce Development Committee*

The Workforce Development Committee has joined with the QI project team working on reviewing and revising the department's internship/student procedure. Professional development of current and future public health staff is called out in the department's Workforce Development Plan as part of the department's Agency Profile (Learning Culture) and Workforce Profile (Future Workforce). The group affirmed support and enthusiasm for hosting students/interns with the desire to have meaningful experiences for all involved.

#### **Meetings Attended by Staff**

Angela Drent, Siouxland District Health Department

Annual Destination QC! 2025

Bettendorf Wellness Committee

Bi-State Regional Trails Committee

Cedar County Early Childhood Iowa

Clinton County Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC)



Deanna Jensen-Valliere, Quad Cities Chamber  
Food Rescue Partnership  
Iowa Academy of Science Chapter  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources/HHS Inspectors  
Iowa Environmental Health Association  
Iowa HHS Behavioral Health Town Hall  
Iowa HHS, Child Care Nurse Consultants, and Child Care Resource and Referral  
Iowa HHS Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Contractors  
Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL) Food Contractors  
Iowa HHS Community Health Assessment and Health Improvement Plan Partners  
IPHA Social Media Community of Practice  
I-Smile Coordinator Project Director Workshop  
Jennifer Kitsis and Mary Angerer, MercyOne Genesis Care for Yourself Program  
Live Lead Free QC  
MercyOne Genesis Hospital  
Nina Struss, Prairie River Network  
Overdose Data to Action in States (OD2A-S) Capacity Coordinator Community of Practice  
OD2A-S Local Public Health Community of Practice  
OD2A-S Peer Recovery Coach Community of Practice  
Physical Activity Policy Research and Evaluation Network (PAPREN) Workplace Workgroup  
PAPREN Midlife & Lifestyle Subcommittee  
Quad Cities Behavioral Health Coalition  
Quad Cities Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Disaster Planning Committee  
Quad Cities Breastfeeding Coalition  
Quad Cities Chamber Business Exchange  
Quad Cities Chamber Meetup  
Quad Cities HEARTSafe Coalition  
Quad Cities Housing Cluster  
Quad Cities Regional Disaster Conference Committee  
Quad Cities Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition  
Quad Cities Trauma Informed Consortium  
Scott County CPPC  
Scott County Kids School Health Committee  
Scott County Public Health and Safety Team (PHAST)  
Service Area 5 Healthcare Coalition Executive Committee  
Service Area 5 Healthcare Coalition  
Service Area 5 Healthcare Coalition Public Health Partners  
Tobacco Free Quad Cities (TFQC)  
Vera French: Carol's Village Gardens Walk-Through  
YMCA Iowa Mississippi Valley Child Care and Family Services Board

Attachment 1: Report from department database on education provided to the community and service providers

Attachment 2: 2025-2026 School Immunization Audit Results



## ***Education provided between November 1, 2025 and November 30, 2025***

<b><i>Education To:</i></b>	<b><i>Presentation Date</i></b>	<b><i>Total Audience</i></b>	<b><i>Requesting Organization</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
<i>Community</i>				
	11/3/2025	9	Jefferson Elementary School	Hands-Only CPR & AED Training (Quad Cities HEARTSafe Coalition)
	11/12/2025	9	Adam Elementary School	Hands-Only CPR & AED Training (Quad Cities HEARTSafe Coalition)
	11/18/2025	50	Wood Middle School	Tobacco and Vaping
	11/18/2025	20	Friendly House Youth Program	Oral Health & Hygiene
	11/18/2025	12	Child Care Resource and Referral	Breast Milk Feeding Promotion and Support in Child Care
	11/19/2025	5	Safer Foundation	Hands-Only CPR & AED Training (Quad Cities HEARTSafe Coalition)

<i>Education To:</i>	<i>Presentation Date</i>	<i>Total Audience</i>	<i>Requesting Organization</i>	<i>Description</i>
	11/20/2025	7	Blackhawk Bank & Trust - Davenport	Hands-Only CPR & AED Training (Quad Cities HEARTSafe Coalition)
	11/24/2025	121	Davenport Central High School	Tobacco and Vaping
	11/26/2025	9	Vera French: Carol Center	Tobacco and Vaping
<i>Service Providers</i>				
	11/7/2025	50	Quad Cities NP/PA Alliance	SCHD Programs
	11/12/2025	11	MercyOne Genesis Hospital	Prevention of Non-Ventilator Hospital Acquired Pneumonia through Oral Care
	11/26/2025	0	MercyOne Genesis Hospital	Prevention of Non-Ventilator Hospital Acquired Pneumonia through Oral Care

Scott County 2025-2026  
K-12 Immunization Audit Results

Attachment 2

School	Total Certificate of Immunizations	Total Provisional Enrollment	Total Medical Exemption	Total Religious Exemptions	Total Non-Acceptable Cards	Total Enrollment	Total Valid Certificates
Bettendorf	3834	48	15	227	7	4131	4124
Davenport	11338	321	10	604	29	12302	12273
NonPublic	2651	37	5	394	23	3110	3087
North Scott	2971	5	6	202	12	3196	3184
Pleasant Valley	5247	14	10	281	5	5557	5552
Public Charter	61	4	0	2	3	70	67

County Totals	26102	429	46	1710	79	28366	28287
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County Percentage	92.02%	1.51%	0.16%	6.03%	0.28%	100%
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