



# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 2008

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**PUBLIC HEALTH SAFETY NOTE** 2

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NOTE** 2

**CLINICAL SERVICES NOTE** 2

**COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT** 3

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS, INFORMATION AND PLANNING SERVICES NOTE** 3

**COMMON CONFUSIONS** 3

**CALENDAR** 4

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- National Preparedness Month (2)
- Grants to Counties Program (2)
- Head Lice (2)
- Scott County Kids (3)
- I-Smile Dental Home Project (3)
- What Age Should You Start Seeing a Dentist? (3)

## SHIGELLA AND HEPATITIS A ARE CAUSE OF RECENT FOODBORNE ILLNESS

Foodborne illness is caused by eating foods contaminated by bacteria, viruses, parasites, or even chemicals. *Shigella* and hepatitis A are two illnesses that can be spread by food handled by an infected person. Recently, the Shigellosis bacteria and the hepatitis A virus have been found to be the cause of some cases of foodborne illness in Scott County.

According to the Iowa Department of Public Health, "Shigellosis is an infection of the gut caused by the bacterium, *Shigella*." Usually people become sick in the summer and early fall. The symptoms, if any, can include mild to severe diarrhea, fever, and painful bloody, mucous stools. It can take between 12 hours and 4 days after infection for the diarrhea to appear. *Shigella* is spread by close contact with an infected person or by eating contaminated food or

drinking contaminated water. It is easily spread from person to person.

Hepatitis A is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus. The symptoms can include fever, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pains. After a few days, the person may have dark urine and jaundice (yellowing of the skin and the whites of the eyes). It can take anywhere from 15 to 50 days after infection for symptoms to appear. Hepatitis A can happen to anyone, but those who travel to countries where it is common, men

who have sex with men, those who use illegal drugs, and those with intimate and household contacts of those infected are at risk. There is a vaccine to prevent hepatitis A.

Both *Shigella* and hepatitis A can be prevented by thoroughly washing hands with soap and warm water. This should always be done after using the toilet, changing diapers, and before eating or preparing food.

For more information, visit [www.scottcountyiowa.com/health](http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health).



## NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

NOTE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH SAFETY SERVICE AREA

September is National Preparedness Month, and the Scott County Health Department would like to help prepare you to take care of yourself and your family during an emergency.

One simple step you can take now is to stock supplies for an extended stay at home. During an emergency, if you cannot get to a store or if stores are out of supplies, it will be important for you to have extra supplies on hand.

Store a two-week supply of water and food. Examples include ready-to-eat canned

meats, fish, vegetables and soups; protein or fruit bars; and bottled water (1 gallon per person per day).

Also, it is important to remember other necessities that are often overlooked:

- Regular prescription drugs to ensure a continuous supply in your home
- Nonprescription drugs and other health supplies, including pain relievers, fever reducers, stomach remedies, cough and cold medicines, fluids with electrolytes, and vitamins

- Other essential supplies, such as soap or alcohol-based (60%-95%) hand wash, cleaning supplies, a flashlight, batteries, toilet paper, and tissues.

While no one can prevent an emergency from happening, all levels of government, communities, individuals and families need to work together to take steps to prepare for an emergency and minimize its impact.

Visit our Web site, [www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/preparedness.php](http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/preparedness.php), for more public health preparedness information.



*Make sure you have supplies in case of an emergency*

## GRANTS TO COUNTIES PROGRAM

NOTE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE AREA

The Scott County Health Department receives funds from the Iowa Department of Public Health for the Grants to Counties program. The goal of this program is to prevent further contamination of ground water and to provide free water testing to residents whose primary source of water comes from private wells.

Financial assistance is available for well plugging and well rehabilitation through a rebate type system. Scott County customers must complete the service and then apply for reimbursement from the Scott County Health Department. Water sampling services are provided free of charge and will be completed upon request by a Scott County Environmental Health

Specialist.

For more information on water well services or to request a service, please call the Scott County Health Department at 563.326.8618 or submit the online Water Well Services Request Form, which can be found at:

[www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/water\\_welltesting.php](http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/water_welltesting.php)

**Funds Available for Well Sampling, Plugging, & Rehabilitation**

## HEAD LICE

NOTE FROM CLINICAL HEALTH SERVICE AREA

Head lice is common during childhood, however it can affect people of all ages and social class.

According to the Iowa Department of Public Health, "there is no need for children to be sent home or to miss day care or school"

if they have head lice. Parents should check their child's hair at least weekly and notify the child care and schools when their child has head lice or nits (eggs). Parents should teach children to not share personal items. If a child does have head lice or nits, it

is important to follow the fourteen day treatment regimen recommended by the Iowa Department of Public Health. Parents are the key to finding and treating head lice!

For more information, visit [www.scottcountyiowa.com/health](http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health).



*Parents are the key to finding and treating head lice!*

## SCOTT COUNTY KIDS

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:  
SCOTT COUNTY KIDS

The vision of Scott County Kids is that “every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.”

Their mission is: “Coordination and expansion of resources and services in the community to build environments for young children that will enable them to be physically healthy, intellectually curious, emotionally sound and socially competent. Led by citizens, this system of public

and private entities provides a continuum of seamless services targeted at helping all children reach their full potential.”

Scott County Kids, with the help of many community members, has developed a plan to help accomplish their mission and benefit the children and families of Scott County.

Scott County Kids can assist families with parenting tips, child care help, and locating

other services.

For more information about Scott County Kids, visit [www.scottcountykids.org](http://www.scottcountykids.org) or call 563.326.8221.



“Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful”

## I-SMILE DENTAL HOME PROJECT

NOTE FROM COMMUNITY RELATIONS,  
INFORMATION AND PLANNING SERVICES

The *I-Smile Dental Home Project* is a collaborative effort that was created to fulfill the mandate that every child receiving Iowa Medicaid ages 0 to 12 years must have a dental home by 2010. There are three focuses of the *I-Smile* program.

1. Education: *I-Smile* will make oral health education available to children, parents, and others in our community.

2. Care Coordination: Coordinating care for families will better enable Medicaid recipients to schedule and keep dental appointments, receive transportation assistance, provide the guidance and follow-up care necessary to meet children’s needs.

3. Direct Care: *I-Smile* will equip and encourage the available health care

workforce to provide oral health prevention and screening within the locations at-risk children frequent. The *I-Smile* Coordinator will act as a central contact to link children to the dental community for comprehensive care.

For information, visit [www.scottcountyiowa.com/health](http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health) or call 563.326.8645.

**Goal: Every  
Medicaid  
Child Will  
Have a  
Dental  
Home**

## WHAT AGE SHOULD YOU START SEEING A DENTIST?

COMMON CONFUSIONS:  
SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

According to the Iowa Department of Public Health, it is recommended to have the first dental visit by the first birthday. Most babies begin getting teeth between six months and one year old. At the first dental visit, the dentist or hygienist will look at your child's teeth and

gums, show you how to care for your child's teeth, and recommend how much fluoride your child needs to keep their teeth strong. A dental exam when a child is one year old can protect a child's smile for years to come.

You may be thinking, why worry about baby teeth; they fall out anyway. Well, baby teeth are needed to chew food properly and to speak clearly. Also, baby teeth can stay in a child's mouth for many years. They also save space in the mouth for permanent teeth.



*Recommendation:  
First Visit By  
First Birthday*

## SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Scott County Administrative Center, 4th Floor  
600 West 4th Street  
Davenport, Iowa 52801-1030

Phone: 563-326-8618

Fax: 563-326-8774

E-mail: [health@scottcountyiowa.com](mailto:health@scottcountyiowa.com)

Web site: [www.scottcountyiowa.com/health](http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health)

### OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department is committed to promoting, protecting and preserving the health of the community by providing leadership and direction as advocates for the individual, the family, the community and the environment we serve.

### OUR VISION:

As recognized and respected leaders in serving and protecting our citizens, we at the Scott County Health Department are committed to a safer, healthier community and environment. In so doing, we provide a multitude of services with Professionalism, Responsiveness, Involvement, Dedication, and Excellence.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Wednesday, September 10, 2008; United Way 2008 Day of Caring  
*Community-Wide Day of Hands-On Volunteering in Which United Way Connects Volunteers With Local Non-Profit Organizations to Work on Projects That Would Not Otherwise Be Completed. Visit <http://www.unitedwayqc.org/html/DOC.html> for more information.*
- Friday, September 12, 2008; [Breastfeeding in the 21st Century: Hospital to Home Conference](#)  
*For Healthcare Professionals; Location: Genesis Heart Institute, Adler Education Center, Lower Level.*
- Thursday, September 18 2008; 12:00-1:00 p.m.; Scott County Board of Health Meeting  
*Open to the Public; Location: Scott County Administrative Center, Board Room-1st Floor*



If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please add your name to our e-mail list on our Web site, [www.scottcountyiowa.com/health](http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health). To remove your name from our mailing list, please e-mail [health@scottcountyiowa.com](mailto:health@scottcountyiowa.com) or call 563-326-8618.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.