

# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

DECEMBER 2008



SCOTT COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT



## 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

- U.S. Will Go Digital in Feb. '09 (2)
- Transient Non-Community Water Supplies (2)
- North Scott Students Received Tdap Vaccine (2)
- Community Vitality Scan Released (3)
- Odorless, Invisible, and Deadly (3)

## Winter Food Safety

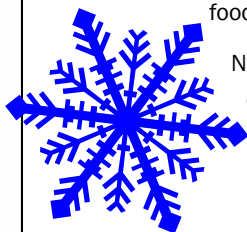
In the event of a storm that knocks out the power to your home, keep the doors to the refrigerator and freezer closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature. Every time the door opens, cold air escapes. When the power returns, you should discard any refrigerated food items that are warmer than 40° F.

Generally, refrigerated foods should be safe as long as power is out no more than four hours, but a thermometer should be used to be sure that the food is not warmer than 40° F. If frozen foods have begun to thaw but are at 40° F or below, be sure to cook or refreeze them as soon as possible. Always remember to throw food away based on temperature, not the way it looks or smells and never taste food that you think may be bad. It is important to clean the inside of the refrigerator and freezer with soap and water and then a bleach solution after spoiled or thawed foods is taken out.

Never store food outside even if the temperatures are cold. The

food can be exposed to the sun's rays which could cause frozen foods to melt and refrigerated foods to become too warm. Also, the temperature outside can change frequently and if the temperature is cold enough to keep frozen foods frozen, then it is too cold for refrigerated foods. Storing food outside can be dangerous due to unsanitary conditions and food being exposed to animals that pass by.

**Never Taste Food To Determine Its Safety.**



## U.S. WILL GO DIGITAL IN FEB'09

NOTE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH SAFETY SERVICE AREA

On February 17, 2009, all full-power broadcast television stations in the U.S. will stop broadcasting on analog airwaves and begin broadcasting only in digital.

The impact to local public health service areas could mean that residents may lose access to emergency broadcasts unless they

purchase a new TV or other equipment.

To help consumers with the transition to all-digital TV broadcasting, the federal government has established the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program. Every U.S. household is eligible to receive up to two coupons,

worth \$40 each, toward the purchase of digital-to-analog converter boxes. Visit [www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon/](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon/) for more information or call 1-888-DTV-2009.



## TRANSIENT NON-COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLIES

NOTE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE AREA

Did you know that the Department of Natural Resources contracts with the Scott County Health Department to inspect transient non-community water supplies?

A transient non-community water system serves the public, but not the same individuals for more than six months. An example of this would be a rest area,

campground, or park that has its own public water system.

There are currently thirty-two transient non-community water supplies in Scott County. The staff at the Scott County Health Department conduct a complete sanitary survey of the system the first year and conduct site visits the second and third year and then repeat the process in the following years.

The reports of our findings are sent to the Department of Natural Resources and to the permit holder. Enforcement is done by the Department of Natural Resources.

Currently,  
There are 32  
Transient Non-Community  
Water  
Supplies in  
Scott County.

## NORTH SCOTT STUDENTS RECEIVED TDAP VACCINE

NOTE FROM CLINICAL HEALTH SERVICE AREA

You may have heard on the news that there has been an increase in Pertussis (whooping cough) cases recently across the state of Iowa. The majority of the cases are adolescents.

On October 30, one hundred and seventeen North Scott Junior High and High School students lined up to receive their Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria and acellular Pertussis) vaccine. This vaccine is designed to

protect adolescents and adults from Pertussis, tetanus (lock jaw) and diphtheria (thick covering in the back of the throat that can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure, or death). It is recommended for people ages 11 through 64.

This clinic was piloted through the North Scott School District as part of a grant through the Iowa Department of Public Health

and Scott County Kids.

For more information on Tdap or Pertussis, visit the Scott County Health Department's Web site at [www.scottcountyiowa.com/health](http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health) or check with your doctor.



117 Students From North Scott School District Received the Tdap Vaccine

## COMMUNITY VITALITY SNAPSHOT RELEASED

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:  
COMMUNITY VITALITY SNAPSHOT

The second annual Community Vitality Snapshot has been released and highlights seven areas of our community: 1) economy and employment; 2) health and society; 3) environment and resources; 4) education and learning; 5) arts, culture and recreation; 6) neighborhoods, housing, and safety; and 8) belonging and leadership.

The Snapshot intends to:

- Provide an annual summary of selected key indicators

- Report the issues the public has identified as critical to the future of our community
- Develop a stronger sense of how issues in our community cross sectors and
- Create on-going dialogue between community leaders that is meaningful and valuable to our community

This report is an outcome of collaborative efforts by the United Way of the Quad Cities

Area, The Moline Foundation, Quad City Health Initiative and Community Foundation of the Great River Bend. The supporting organizations funded the first Community Vitality Scan and published the first Community Vitality Snapshot report in 2007 to help focus public and private efforts to make our community a better place to live, work and raise a family.

To view the Community Vitality Snapshot, visit any of the supporting organizations' Web sites.



*Interested in learning more about our community?*

## ODORLESS, INVISIBLE, AND DEADLY

NOTE FROM COMMUNITY RELATIONS, INFORMATION AND PLANNING SERVICES

During the winter, power outages may happen and people may use alternative means for heating. These alternative means of heating can be dangerous and cause carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death if inhaled. When power outages occur during emergencies such as winter storms, the use of alternative sources of fuel or electricity for heating, cooling, or cooking can cause carbon monoxide to build up in a home, garage, or camper and poison the people and animals.

Here are some tips:

- Generators, grills, camp stoves, or other gasoline, propane, natural gas, or charcoal-burning devices should never

be used inside a home, basement, garage, or camper – or even outside near an open window

- Never use a gas range or gas oven to heat a home
- Never use a charcoal grill, lantern, or portable camping stove inside a home
- Never run a generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine inside a basement, garage, or other enclosed structure
- Never run a motor vehicle, generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine right outside an open window, door, or vent where exhaust can vent into an enclosed area, such as a house
- Never leave the motor

running in a vehicle parked in an enclosed or partially enclosed space, such as a garage

- If conditions are too cold, seek shelter with friends or at a community shelter

Exposure to carbon monoxide can cause loss of consciousness and death. The most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain and confusion. People who are sleeping or who have been drinking alcohol can die from carbon monoxide poisoning before ever having symptoms. If you experience these symptoms, go outside immediately and [call your health care professional right away.](#)

**Follow  
These  
Tips to  
Avoid  
Carbon  
Monoxide  
Poisoning**

## 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!

- Thursday, December 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*
- Wednesday, December 24, 2008, Thursday, December 25, 2008, and Thursday, January 1, 2009; Scott County Health Department will be closed.



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.