## PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION



# **Making Public Health Accessible**

Effective communication of health information, during an emergency situation or every day life, is a primary responsibility of public health departments. This is true for those who speak English as a first language and those who have limited English proficiency, or speak a language other than English at home.

Consider this: there are at least 350 languages spoken in U.S. homes! In Scott County, 1,700 to 8,600 residents (1% - 5%) speak a language other than English at home and/or speak English less than "very well". That's a number larger than many of the towns in Scott County! Our differences are what make communities unique. At the same time, it requires us to work hard to make public health accessible to all.

#### **Accessibility in Action**

What does this mean for how Scott County Health Department makes sure messages can be understood by all residents? It means that we offer additional methods to share health information and communicate important messages. Here's what our staff do every day:

- Offer interpretation services through a phone service or bilingual staff
- Ensure health messages created use plain language and are written at a 6th grade reading level so they can be more easily understood

Before: Your child will need two doses of influenza vaccine....

After: Your child will need the flu shot two times...

 Use our Health Equity Action Plan to make sure that all parts of our department, from our programs and services to signage and materials, make accessing us easier for the community

Until next month! Hasta el próximo mes! Cho đến tháng tới!



#### **OUR MISSION:**

The Scott County
Health Department
promotes, protects,
and preserves health
through leadership,
services, education,
and partnerships.

#### **OUR VISION:**

Scott County—
A safe and healthy community.



### SPECIAL EVENTS

 Scott County Board of Health Meeting, Scott County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Boardroom, 12:00 PM, Thursday, March 15, 2018.

### Links

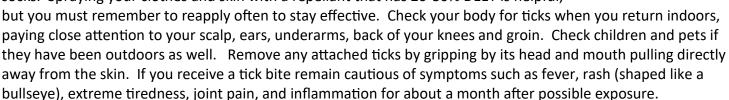
- Limited English Proficiency <u>www.lep.gov</u>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
   (CDC) https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html

### **Ticks and Lyme Disease**

Adult ticks are most active in the months of April through September. Of the three most common ticks found in Iowa, the deer tick or black-legged tick is notable as it is a carrier of Lyme disease. Ticks like to live in areas with

dense trees, bushes, and tall grasses. They can even live in the leaves and grass in your yard! To better protect yourself make sure to rake the leaves, mow your lawn regularly, and stick to the trails when hiking.

The best way to protect yourself is with your clothing. Wear long sleeves and pants in lighter colors to keep skin covered and make ticks more noticeable. Tuck socks into socks. Spraying your clothes and skin with a repellant that has 20-30% DEET is helpful,



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