

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 www.lep.gov
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>
- CDC Plain Language Materials & Resources <https://www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy/developmaterials/plainlanguage.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 repellent that has 20-30% DEET is helpful, but you must remember to reapply often to stay effective. Check your body for ticks when you return indoors, paying close attention to your scalp, ears, underarms, back of your knees and groin. Check children and pets if they have been outdoors as well. Remove any attached ticks by gripping by its head and mouth pulling directly away from the skin. If you receive a tick bite remain cautious of symptoms such as fever, rash (shaped like a bullseye), extreme tiredness, joint pain, and inflammation for about a month after possible exposure.



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
Email: health@scottcountyiowa.com
Website: www.scottcountyiowa.com/health



If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please subscribe to the Public Health Connection at www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/connection or email health@scottcountyiowa.com or call 563-326-8618.

