



SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

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National Public Health Week



Join us in Celebrating National Public Health Week April 6 - 12, 2026!

Each April, National Public Health Week shines a spotlight on the systems, people, and partnerships that keep our communities healthy. This year's theme — Ready. Set. Action! — was chosen by the American Public Health Association (APHA) and calls on each of us to look back at the progress made and look forward to the steps needed for an even healthier future.

Public health professionals protect communities by monitoring disease trends, planning for emergencies, conducting inspections, promoting healthy behaviors, and educating the public. Much of this work happens in the background. Public health has made significant strides since the start of National Public Health Week in 1994. These successes include decreased smoking rates and decreased deaths due to HIV/AIDS, as well as improved vaccination rates, mental health awareness, and pandemic preparedness.

This year, APHA is reminding everyone that good health does not just happen. It takes a combination of government partners, scientific advancement, and community leadership. Good health relies on a government that enacts safety laws, knowledge gained through science, and communities that support healthy initiatives.

The Scott County Health Department joins this effort by promoting, protecting, and preserving health through leadership, service, education and partnerships.

Learn more about the programs and services the Scott County Health Department offers by watching this video! <https://youtu.be/IuSOQ1p3RYg?si=iUtXQLDbxS6Zys9d>



National Playground Safety Week

Celebrate National Playground Safety Week by making outdoor playgrounds safe places for children to learn, explore, and connect with nature. How do you know if your playground is safe? Use the Playground Report Card from the National Program for Play Area Safety (NPPAS). This easy-to-use tool will help you identify risks and hazards with easy to grade “yes” or “no” statements. In addition, each item on the checklist includes an explanation of the risks and ways to make the area safer. Here is a sample of what to look for.

Does your playground:

- Have a barrier that protects children from street or parking lot traffic?
- Have guardrails and hand holds to prevent falls from elevated platforms?
- Have a protective surface under and around the equipment to cushion falls?
- Have shade to limit sun exposure?
- Have well-maintained pieces without cracks, sharp points, or missing parts?

Answering “no” to any of these statements, or to the others on the checklist, suggests a need to make a change. For example, if your playground is installed over asphalt, concrete, dirt, or grass, add a protective surface instead. Safe surfaces include loose-fill materials like mulch, or flat, continuous materials, like tiles or mats. Make sure that the surface is at the right depth to cushion a fall. Fun, safe, and healthy play is just a short checklist away. Score your playground today!

Find the Playground Report Card here: <https://playgroundsafety.org/report-card/>



Upcoming Events

- 4/16/2026, 12:00 PM: Scott County Board of Health Meeting, Scott County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Boardroom

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Our priority.