



SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2026

National Preparedness Month: Preparing Today for Tomorrow



Each September, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages Americans to prepare for emergencies during National Preparedness Month. Being prepared helps people to respond more confidently when emergencies happen. Getting prepared doesn't have to happen all at once. Start with these three simple steps:

1) Make a plan

Families should talk about where they would shelter and how they would evacuate, as well as where they would meet and reconnect if they become separated during an emergency. Plans can be tailored to meet everyone's needs (such as diet, health, language, and so on). FEMA offers a fillable form for recording plan information on their website, ready.gov/plan-form. Practice and update plans as needed.

2) Build a supply kit

A well-stocked disaster supply kit should have enough shelf stable food, water, and other supplies to last each person for at least three days. Some other items to consider adding to a kit include a weather radio, a flashlight, a first aid kit, extra batteries, hand sanitizer, baby items, pet items, and blankets. Keep the kit in a waterproof container in an easy-to-access spot. Check kits every six months to replace expired items and make other updates as family needs change. More tips on building a kit can be found at ready.gov/kit.

3) Stay informed

Watching a trusted news source, using weather apps, and having a weather radio are helpful ways to stay informed about potential emergencies. Alert Iowa also provides timely, official emergency information when you need it most. Alert Iowa delivers official, real-time alerts (by text, email, and/or phone call) and can help people know how to react in an emergency to stay safe. Visit scottcountyiowa.gov/ema/alert-iowa to sign up.

The best time to prepare is before an emergency happens. Making a plan, building a supply kit, and deciding how to receive emergency alerts now can have a lasting impact when it matters most.



Environmental Health: Myth vs. Fact

The Scott County Health Department (SCHD) plays a key role in protecting the health of the community every day. Yet many people are not familiar with what SCHD does or how its programs work. Let's separate myth from fact and highlight how SCHD works to keep the community safe.

Food Inspections

Myth: Restaurants fail inspections all the time.

Fact: Most inspections identify only minor issues, many of which are corrected during the inspection. SCHD educates food establishment operators and promotes safe handling practices.

Service: SCHD inspects food establishments to make sure they meet Iowa Food Code. Inspection reports are sent to the Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing and can be viewed on the state's online inspection database. <https://iowa.safefoodinspection.com/Inspection/PublicInspectionSearch.aspx>.

Pool Inspections

Myth: If the water looks clean, it's safe to swim.

Fact: Clear water doesn't always mean safe water. Proper disinfectant levels, pH balance, circulation, and filtration all work together to help prevent the spread of recreational water illnesses.

Service: SCHD inspects public swimming pools and spas throughout Scott County to make sure they meet state safety standards. To see how a pool did on their inspection, look at their posted inspection report.

Tattoo Establishments

Myth: Any tattoo shop is safe if the artist has experience.

Fact: Safe tattooing depends on much more than artistic skill. Proper sterilization, sanitation practices, and infection control protect clients from bloodborne diseases and other infections.

Service: SCHD inspects tattoo establishments to make sure they meet health and safety requirements, helping to ensure a safe experience for customers. To see how a tattoo shop did on their inspection, look at their posted inspection report.

Lead Hazard Prevention

Myth: Lead poisoning isn't a concern anymore because lead paint was banned years ago.

Fact: Many homes built before 1978 still contain lead-based paint. As paint deteriorates or is disturbed during remodeling, lead dust can become a serious health hazard, especially for young children.

Service: When a child tests positive for lead in their blood, SCHD conducts lead inspections, provides education on reducing lead exposure, and works with families and property owners to identify and address lead hazards.

Upcoming Events

- 9/7/2026: Scott County Health Department closed in recognition of Labor Day.
- 9/17/2026, 12:00 PM: Scott County Board of Health Meeting, Scott County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Boardroom

[Click here](#) to subscribe to this newsletter!

YOUR HEALTH.
Our priority.