



Quick Reads

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Zika virus

Zika virus continues to dominate world headlines. No cases of the virus, primarily transmitted through the bite of infected mosquitoes, have been reported in Iowa and there are no indications the type of mosquitoes which carry the virus (*Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus*) are established in Iowa. The main threat of Zika is to pregnant Iowa women traveling to countries where Zika transmission is ongoing. Public health guidance continues to evolve and expand. You may find the most up-to-date information on the IDPH [Zika website](#).

Healthy Iowans ideas

There is still time to submit recommendations for inclusion in the Healthy Iowans: Health Improvement Plan 2017-2021. All Iowans may contribute to an assessment of Iowa's critical health issues by submitting a maximum of three recommendations using the form found on the Healthy Iowans [website](#).

IDPH also plans to include input from local public health agencies' Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plans (CHNA&HIP), and recommendations from about 190 stakeholder groups and IDPH advisory committees. In addition, we will consider other data sources and Healthy People 2020.

I encourage you to review Iowa's most recent [Healthy Iowans](#) plan and participate in the formation of the next roadmap for Iowa's health.

2016 Legislative session underway

The IDPH legislative budget package for FY 2017 is focused on supporting strategic reallocations in the existing general fund budget for the department. Reallocations were considered based on historic reversions back to the general fund and additional needs identified in other department program areas. By reallocating funds, IDPH will be able to reduce reversions back to the general fund and instead, use the funding for Iowa Code-required, but unfunded or underfunded programming. To receive weekly updates on public health-related issues during the Legislative session, I encourage you to [subscribe](#) to the IDPH Legislative Update.

Reportable diseases summary

One of the most visible functions of public health is disease prevention. Each year, IDPH provides a snapshot of the types and trends of notifiable and other diseases that occur in Iowa. The 2014 [Iowa Surveillance of Notifiable and Other Diseases](#) report has been released and shows that in 2014, there were more than 86,000 laboratory results of infectious diseases and conditions submitted to IDPH disease surveillance programs. IDPH also investigates non-infectious conditions related to lead, occupational, and environmental hazards like carbon monoxide. In 2014, approximately 71,000 children and more than 7,000 adult blood test results were reported to IDPH.

IDPH organizational changes

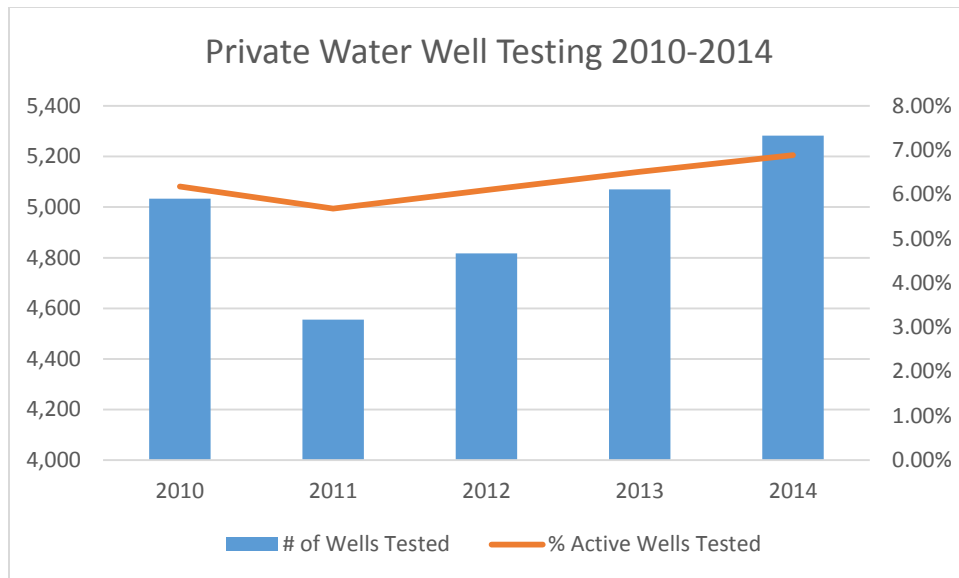
I have announced two departmental organizational changes, which are intended to improve support for our daily operations:

First, I am creating an Office of the Deputy Director within the Office of the Director to oversee communications, our policy adviser/legislative liaison, and the Bureau of Planning Services. While the recruitment and hiring process is conducted, Kathy Stone, Behavioral Health Division Director, has stepped into the role of Interim Deputy Director and Randy Mayer, HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Bureau Chief, has taken on additional duties overseeing the Division of Behavioral Health.

Second, our Office of Health Information Technology – EHealth – has been transferred to the Division of Administration and Professional Licensure, led by Division Director Marcia Spangler. Lon Laffey, Information Management Bureau Chief, has provided oversight for the Office over the past year, and will continue to do so going forward.

Monthly data snapshot

Data are essential to the practice of public health. Each month, Quick Reads highlights selected tidbits to help create awareness of IDPH data and epidemiology. To discover more of the important and useful data available from IDPH, please visit the [Public Health Data Tracking Portal](#).



Households that use water from a private well should test their water source at least once each year and anytime the well is serviced or the water changes in look, smell or taste. IDPH and DNR work together with local public health agencies to offer water quality testing for nitrates, coliform bacteria, and arsenic through the [Grants to Counties Program](#). As shown in the chart, only 6 percent of active private water wells are tested each year.

To explore more data on the [Public Health Data Tracking Portal](#), look for 'Private Well Water' under the heading 'Environment.'

Congrats and kudos

Congratulations to Dubuque public health specialist Mary Rose Corrigan, who was instrumental in securing a \$31.5 million grant through HUD's billion-dollar [National Resilience Competition](#). The grant will be used to flood-proof 320 houses and build a series of upgrades to the city's storm water infrastructure. This grant is an indication of the growing movement to link public health to urban planning in cities.

[Mary Greeley Medical Center](#) has been designated a baby-friendly hospital by the World Health Organization and UNICEF's [Baby Friendly Initiative](#). The initiative encourages breastfeeding and breast milk feeding. Mary Greeley is the second and largest hospital in the state to earn this recognition.

Mary Greene and Addie Rasmusson of the IDPH [Bureau of Family Health](#) have begun their appointment as co-Presidents of [the National Network of Adolescent Health Coordinators](#) (NNSAHC).

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To everyone in public health and all our partners, keep up the great work!

— Gerd