Medical cannabidiol expansion

Work continues at IDPH on the implementation of the expanded Cannabidiol Act. The 2017 law allows use of medical cannabidiol delivered in a form recommended by the Medical Cannabidiol Advisory Board, approved by the Iowa Board of Medicine and adopted by rule.

IDPH is required to select and license up to two medical cannabidiol manufacturers to manufacture, possess, cultivate, harvest, transport, package, process or supply medical cannabidiol in Iowa. These manufacturers must agree to begin supplying medical cannabidiol to up to five licensed dispensaries in Iowa no later than December 1, 2018.

Reviewed earlier this month by the State Board of Health, the proposed Administrative Rules to govern the manufacture and dispensing of medical cannabidiol are open for comments. A public hearing on the Rules is scheduled for December 8, 2017.
Thousands of Iowans, including dozens of IDPH staff participated in the annual Healthiest State Walk October 4.

Congrats and kudos
Congratulations to Doris Montgomery of the IDPH Bureau of Nutrition and Physical Activity. The Iowa Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics honored her with their Gem Award to recognize her significant contributions to dietetics and her innovative efforts to develop and implement Fresh Conversations.

Congrats to Peoples Community Health Clinic in Waterloo, which received the American Cancer Society’s first-ever national community health center award for colorectal cancer screening! IDPH works closely with the clinic as part of the Iowa Get Screened program.

A recent CDC Vital Signs report showed stroke death rate declines have stalled in three out of four states. Only 13 states, including Iowa, showed rates continued to decline steadily from 2000-2015. Iowa’s stroke death rate fell by 33 percent from 2005-2015.

The Bureau of Local Public Health Services won its division’s September Vegetable Challenge. Staff ate over 2,100 servings of vegetables – a daily average of 4.7 servings. Overall division staff averaged 4.1 veggie servings each day.

Quick Reads – October 16, 2017
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. Explore more data with the IDPH Public Health Tracking Portal.

Annual Flu Vaccination by Industry

Receiving an annual flu shot varies greatly depending on industry and occupation. An annual flu shot is the best protection against influenza, and not only protects an individual, but those they interact with as well.

These data come from the 2014 and 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a population-based survey about health-related behaviors and outcomes. The graphs show the top industries, and are not comprehensive of every type of work Iowans do. Industries and occupations based on coded self-reports. Error bars represent 95 percent confidence limits. Only these industries and occupations had sufficient numbers for reliable data from two years of data.

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To contribute a news item or smart practice, please write to Polly Carver-Kimm at Polly.Carver-Kimm@idph.iowa.gov.

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IDPH’s Doris Montgomery (above) receives the Gem Award from Becky Prostine, 2017/2018 President of the Iowa Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.