



Dedicated to YOUR Wellbeing

KENDALL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2

SPRING EDITION, 2024

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A Link Between Law Enforcement and Public Health

Jim Jensen currently sits as the Chief of Police at the Yorkville Police Department. After 10 years of serving on the Board of Health, he has stepped down. Jim has been an advocate for public health, provided guidance, and strengthened the partnership between public health and law enforcement through his time on the board. He has graciously shared a bit about his time spent on the Board of Health.

Mr. Jensen expressed how significant his time on the Board of Health affected how he viewed public health and our community, stating that he didn't realize the impact the Health Department has, all of the programs available to the public, and the different things the Health Department does for the residents of Kendall.



*Jim Jensen
Yorkville Police Chief*

While Jim studied social work in his undergraduate studies, his time on the Board of Health helped him view law enforcement from a different lens. Being able to bring a public health perspective to law enforcement and vice versa is a win-win for both agencies, as well as the residents. "You're able to see what the need is and provide the need, especially to those who need it the most—those are the people we run into all the time.." KCHD recently hired a police social worker who spends a majority of their time at local law enforcement agencies. "That's huge because we're now coming into contact and seeing them, providing additional assistance to them through the Health Department that they would never have gotten before." "It's a testament to both sides—the goal is to help people and while the Health Department does it a little differently than what we do, its now kind of coming together doing it all in one."

Jim has learned to look at things from a different perspective. While law enforcement may come across a person, sometimes they don't try to understand the why of their actions or behaviors. "Being on the Board of Health and understanding the programs and hearing and talking to clinicians, you really understand that its not just about doing right and wrong, there's some circumstances that people face in their life and you're able to put some context to that. So for me its about its not about right and wrong, its not black and white type issue, there's grey area."

"I've appreciated the time on the BOH and working with the professionals in the organization. I have a newfound respect for all that they do and for the people on the Board—and worked with many amazing people. It's just amazing being part of that." Kendall County Health Department thanks Jim for his time on the Board of Health and the support he has for public health. Thank you!

Street Feasts: Unleash the Eats!

Summer is just around the corner! This means festivals and at these events you may have eaten at a food truck. You may think it must be simple to start a food truck. All you need is a truck, right? Not quite...sure, you need a truck to start, but there are several requirements that need to be met before vendors can get their permits and start selling.

Our sanitarians are out looking to see that these trucks can keep the food safe from the elements and



insects. They make sure that trucks provide hot water and all the tools necessary (soap, paper towels, gloves) to ensure clean hands which is a requirement for handling food. Sanitarians check to see that refrigeration units can maintain food at 41 F degrees and that hot holding equipment is able to maintain food at 135 F degrees. All food contact surfaces must be constructed in a way so that it can be easily cleaned. Lastly, a certified food protection manager is required to run the show!

Our goal is to ensure that food trucks are providing safe food so foodborne illness doesn't ruin your time at the festival!

Travel Is “In the Air”

Summer season is almost here, and many families are preparing to travel in the United States and abroad. Traveling to foreign destinations can present health hazards.

Protect yourself and your family when traveling:

- Getting the shots required for all countries you and your family plan to visit during your trip.
- Making sure you and your family are up-to-date on all routine U.S. vaccines
- Staying informed about travel notices and alerts and how they can affect your family's travel plans.



- Vaccinate at least 4-6 weeks before you travel. If it is a spur of the moment situation- certain vaccines can still give you partial protection after just one dose. (Yellow fever is difficult to find and must be given at least 10 days before departure).



For more information on vaccines and travel, please visit our website at kendallhealth.org and check out our Travel Clinic Vaccine site. Pre-travel counseling and appropriate vaccine information are available by completing a short questionnaire to ensure you have a safe and relaxing trip!

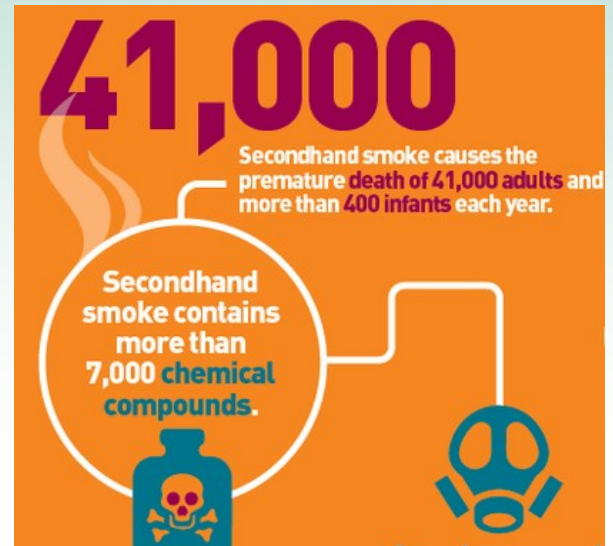
Smoke Free Illinois Act

There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. According to the CDC, about 58 million nonsmokers (1 in 4) are exposed to secondhand smoke. The American Lung Association estimates that secondhand smoke causes more than 41,000 deaths annually.

Since January 1, 2008, the Smoke-Free Illinois Act (SFIA) has been protecting Illinois residents and visitors from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Effective January 1, 2024, SFIA now includes e-cigarettes, vapes and other electronic smoking devices. E-cigarettes are devices that heat a liquid into an aerosol that the user inhales. Secondhand vape aerosol contains several known carcinogens that may increase the risk of certain cancers. Including e-cigarettes in SFIA aligns with the growing awareness of the health risks associated with these products.

SFIA prohibits smoking in public places and places of employment and within 15 ft. from any entrance, exit, window that opens or ventilation intake. There are some exemptions for tobacco retailers, hotels, and long-term care facilities.

For more information on SFIA or to report a violation, visit smoke-free.illinois.gov or contact the Kendall County Tobacco Coordinator at 630-553-9100.



Making Homes “Ready” for Weatherization

Under our Illinois Weatherization Assistance Program, we have been assisting families experiencing poverty in weatherizing their home to become more energy efficient. One of the barriers that has increasingly been occurring to prevent a home from receiving these energy saving installments is that the home presents health and safety issues. For example, if the home contains mold, or if the roof leaks, we would not be able to weatherize the home.



Over half the homes we assess have had these issues and the repairs tend to be far out of reach for the families to afford to mediate. Last year we received funding from the Department of Energy called Weatherization Readiness to address these health and safety issues so that the home can become more “ready” to be weatherized at no cost to the homeowner. We are now able to avoid deferring these homes which are in need of repair and actually help fix the issues as well as weatherize the families home which on average saves them \$372 or more a year.

For more information on the Weatherization Program and Weatherization Readiness, please visit our website at www.kendallhealth.org/community-action/weather-ihwap/ or call 630-553-9100.



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Have feedback or questions about the newsletter? Please call Arissa Hunt at (630)553-8056 or email her at awhunt@kendallcountyil.gov



BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

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Mission

The mission of the Kendall County Health Department is to promote physical health, mental health, environmental health, protect the community's health, prevent disease, and promote family economic self-sufficiency through both person-based services and population-based programs.

Vision

Partnering to build a thriving Kendall County where all people have equal opportunity for overall health and well-being.

Values

Integrity • Accountability • Commitment to Excellence • Inclusion • Compassion

A Culture of Equity

We firmly believe that our efforts to reduce population health disparities are more likely to succeed if rooted in an organizational culture of equity. Accordingly, fostering our own culture of equity through a variety of initiatives has provided us with significant benefits. Embedded within our hiring process, as a staple of our staff trainings, through the use of interpreters and language interpretation tools, we cultivate and share an understanding of equitable care and place high value on its delivery.



As a result, and with intentionality, we respond to the diversity of all those we serve by providing care with respect to one's age/agedness, ethnicity/race, gender/orientation, language/literacy, mental health, physical ability, socioeconomic status, and spiritual beliefs. Suffice it to say, a cultural of equity is more than a concept to us, it is foundational to our work and overall mission to keep Kendall healthy!