

Public Health Newsletter

MARION COUNTY



Back-to-School Reminder for Parents!

In Iowa, students are required to be up to date on their vaccinations before the first day of school. The following vaccines are required for all students attending licensed child care centers, elementary, secondary, and even home schools:

- Diphtheria
- Hepatitis B
- Measles
- Meningitis
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Polio
- Rubella
- Tetanus
- Varicella (chickenpox)



Documentation of a valid Certificate of Immunization Exemption (Religious or Medical) or Provisional Certificate of Immunization may be submitted in lieu of a Certificate of Immunization. Requirements for valid exemptions may be found in Iowa Code 139A.8 and Iowa Administrative Code 641-7.

Measles & Herd Immunity - Why it matters!

Measles is the most contagious infectious disease known—just one case can lead to a rapid outbreak in unvaccinated communities. To protect the population, herd immunity for measles must be at or above 95%. While the national average currently stands at 92.7%, Marion County is below that threshold at just 88% for individuals with the completed two-dose series.

The MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) vaccine is given in two doses—first at 12-15 months of age, and again between 4-6 years old. Iowa HHS recommends that an accelerated MMR vaccine schedule should be considered. An early extra dose of MMR may be given between 6 and 11 months of age. This dose will NOT count towards the routine series.

Marion County Public Health is currently offering the Measles vaccine for no cost to anyone, regardless of insurance status. The MMR vaccine is effective and safe.

Protect yourself, your family, and your community by getting vaccinated today!



Marion County Programs/Services

- Care for Yourself
- Communicable Disease Follow up
- Environmental Health
- Foot Care Clinics
- General Assistance
- Immunizations
- Preparedness (Emergency Response)
- Private Well Grants
- Senior Meals
- Tobacco Cessation

Community Education

- CPR/First Aid Classes
- Dementia Friends Sessions
- Narcan Training
- Stop the Bleed Course





Radon Kits Available

We now have radon test kits available for purchase.

Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas and is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers. Iowa households have especially high levels of radon.

Testing is the only way to know if radon is present. You can't see, taste, or smell radon. There are also no immediate symptoms, but long-term exposure can cause cellular damage leading to lung cancer.



Mental Health

Iowa is making it easier to access mental health and substance use care!

Mental health and substance use services are now unified under a single statewide Behavioral Health Service System, making it easier for providers to deliver high-quality care and for Iowans to access the support they need.

If you have questions or need support, contact YOUR LIFE IOWA at 855-581-8111.



Bean Bag Baseball League coming soon!

Marion County Public Health applied for funding through the Marion County Community Foundation and was awarded a grant in July.

Public Health Nurse Judi Van Hulzen participates in the monthly meetings of the Marion County Aging & Disabled Coalition. The coalition plans to launch a monthly social group designed to offer a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where adults with intellectual disabilities can participate in engaging social activities.

As part of this initiative, the group will be working to start a local bean bag baseball league. This fun, accessible game will encourage physical activity, teamwork, and community involvement, providing another opportunity for social connection and recreation.

Contact us if you would like to attend the group or if you are interested in volunteering to help coach a team.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Board of Health Meeting
Marion County Public Health Training Room
Tuesday, August 19, 2025 @ 5:00pm



Marion County Public Health Department
2003 North Lincoln Street - PO Box 152
Knoxville, Iowa 50138
Phone: (641) 828-2238 Fax: (641) 842-3442
Email: publichealth@marioncountyiowa.gov
Website: www.marionph.org
Follow us on: [Facebook](#)



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