

# Public Health Newsletter

MARION COUNTY



## Healthy Hometowns: Combat Cancer Update

Marion County Public Health Department (MCPHD) has officially been awarded funding through the State of Iowa’s Rural Health Transformation Program to lead a statewide effort focused on reducing cancer-related disparities in rural Iowa.

As the lead contractor for the grant, MCPHD is currently partnering with 67 local public health agencies across Iowa to implement a coordinated, evidence-based approach to cancer prevention, screening, early detection, and access to care. This initiative now provides coverage across all rural Iowa counties, ensuring communities statewide have access to resources and support aimed at improving cancer outcomes.

Through this initiative, MCPHD and its partners will deliver targeted cancer awareness messaging, expand access to screening and early detection services, reduce lung cancer risk through radon testing and mitigation, strengthen the rural radon mitigation workforce, and improve access to cancer-related health services through telehealth and financial assistance.

MCPHD is currently preparing a statewide social media campaign to increase awareness of cancer prevention resources, screening opportunities, and radon education. In addition, Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for dermatoscopes and radon test kits will be released soon as part of the program’s implementation efforts.

Iowa continues to have one of the highest cancer incidence rates in the nation. This coordinated effort will establish a sustainable network of trusted local partners working together to improve cancer outcomes and reduce health disparities for rural Iowans.

### 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



**Now is the perfect time to make sure you and your family are prepared for an emergency!**

Whether you are getting certified for the first time or just need a refresher- contact our office for training opportunities.



## Get Summer Ready!

Climate models predict that extreme heat will become more frequent and intense as climate change continues. #SummerReady aims to reach vulnerable populations and boost awareness of the impacts of extreme heat and the simple steps to prepare.

- Identify places in your community where you can go to get cool such as libraries and shopping malls or contact your local health department to find a cooling center in your area.
- Check the weather stripping on doors and windows to keep the cool air in.
- Have multiple ways to move air and reduce the temperature in your home. Fans create a sense of comfort but may not be enough to reduce body temperature or prevent heat-related illnesses.
- Drink fluids regularly to avoid getting dehydrated and overheated. Talk to your doctor about whether you need fluids with extra electrolytes in the heat.
- Be careful with the amount of time you spend outdoors. Take frequent breaks to come back inside, cool off, and drink fluids that don't have caffeine.

## Employee Spotlight



Teri Van Kooten

This month, we are featuring Teri Van Kooten, our PHEP/EMS Coordinator and Program Manager. Teri has been part of the Public Health team for nearly six and a half years.

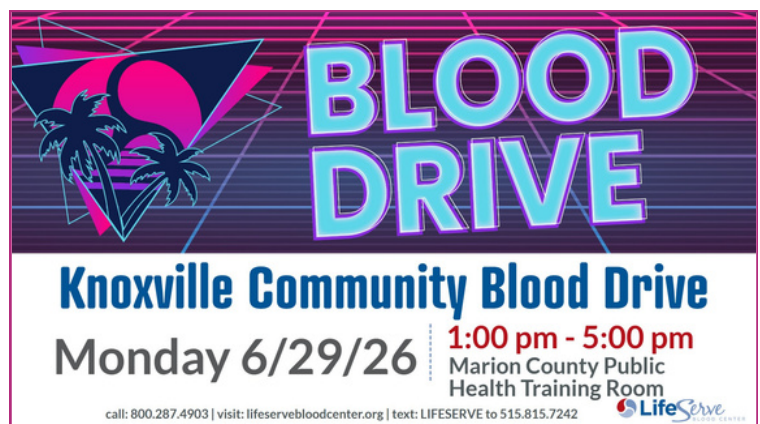
Teri enjoys providing training and education that help local emergency response partners become better prepared to serve their communities.

This year, she is especially excited about the Service Area 1C Regional Exercise, which will bring together all 11 counties in the region to strengthen emergency preparedness and collaboration.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 @ 5:00pm:  
Board of Health Meeting  
Marion County Public Health Training Room


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**BLOOD DRIVE**

**Knoxville Community Blood Drive**  
Monday 6/29/26 | 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Marion County Public Health Training Room

call: 800.287.4903 | visit: [lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://lifeservebloodcenter.org) | text: LIFESERVE to 515.815.7242



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