

Laurel County Health Department Spring Newsletter

April, 2017

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Kentucky Public Health Association Conference

April 11-13th was the 69th annual Kentucky Public Health Association Conference held in Owensboro, KY. This year the conference was coordinated by Laurel County Health Department's Public Health Director Mark Hensley. Mark is currently serving as President-elect of the Kentucky Public Health Association. This year's conference included a Keynote address by Dr. Karen DeSalvo, Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services.

The Kentucky Public Health Association, Inc. was organized in 1949 as a nonprofit, independent, voluntary organization. KPHA is in the capable position of confronting critical issues relating to legislation at the local, regional, and state level.

Below: LCHD staff members pose for a photo at the KPHA conference

Below: Mark Hensley presents awards during the KPHA Awards Ceremony



Above: LCHD Director of Nutrition Services, Brandi Gilley reconnected with her 2012-2013 Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute (KPHLI) teammates at the KPHA Conference.



Right: LCHD Director, Mark Hensley, is presented with the 2017 Southern Health Association President's Award.

Far Right: Austin Epperson, son of LCHD Nursing Administrator, Carolee Epperson, sings the national anthem during the opening session.



Laurel County WIC Farmers Program

The Laurel County WIC Farmers program will be implemented for the first time this summer, more information coming soon.



Spring Drug Take Back Event April 29th

The Spring **National DEA Drug Take Back Event** is scheduled for **April 29th**. Stop by the Laurel County Health Department from 10am-2pm to drop off any unused, unwanted, or expired medications. *No syringes please.



Give Me a Reason Distribution Site



LCHD is now a distribution site for the "Give Me A Reason" Drug Testing Program. The "Give Me A Reason" drug prevention initiative is a voluntary drug

testing program designed as a way for our youth to avoid peer pressure and give them a reason to say "no" to drug use. When confronted with drugs, this initiative will give youth an opportunity to say: *"I can't use drugs, my parents drug test me!"*

April 3rd-9th was National Public Health Week!



During the first full week of April each year, APHA brings together communities across the United States to observe National Public Health Week as a time to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation. For over 20 years, APHA has served as the organizer of NPHW.

Every year, the Association develops a national campaign to educate the public, policymakers and practitioners about issues related to each year's theme. APHA creates new NPHW materials each year that can be used during and after NPHW to raise awareness about public health and prevention.

In the six years since the Affordable Care Act became the law of the land, the U.S. uninsured rate has dropped to record lows. Today, millions more Americans have access to timely and affordable medical care, and that's a monumental step forward in creating the healthiest nation in one generation. But expanding access to health insurance is just one piece of the healthiest nation puzzle.

To ensure everyone has a chance at a long and healthy life, we must also tackle the underlying causes of poor health and disease risk. Those causes are rooted in how and where we live, learn, work and play.

Late Clinic Availability

The Laurel County Health Department provides a late clinic one evening per month during the months of April through October for limited services. The clinic remains open until 6pm during this time. For more information on when late clinics occur, contact the health department at:

606-878-7754.

Laurel County Health Department

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London, Kentucky 40741

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National Infant Immunization Week



National Infant Immunization Week or NIIW is celebrated April 22-29 this year! Since 1994, this annual observance highlights the critical role vaccination plays in protecting our children, communities, and public health. While vaccines are important throughout the lifespan, NIIW focuses specifically on the benefits of immunization for children under the age of two years old.



National Infant Immunization Week

**IMMUNIZATION.
POWER TO PROTECT.**



Cribs for Kids

Cribs for Kids is offered through the Maternal Child Health Program (MCH). Laurel County Health Department partners with local area churches and Laurel Life Center (LLC) to distribute Pack N Plays to families in need. After completing Safe to Sleep education participants are eligible to receive a free Pack N Play. For more information, contact Ronda Arnold at Laurel County Health Department or Jara Burkhart at Laurel County Life Center.



Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday
8:00am-4:30pm

Environmental Hours

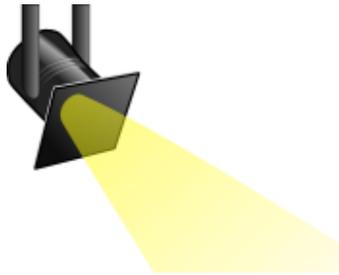
Monday-Friday
8:00am-9:30am

Plumbing Inspector Hours

Mon-Wed-Fri
8:00am-9:30am

(606) 878-0499
Environmental

(606) 862-1297
Plumbing Inspector
Available Mon, Wed,
Fri



Employee Spotlight-Brent Carroll



Brent Carroll has been with the Laurel County Health Department for 18 years. Brent is the Director of Administrative Services at LCHD, a title he has held for over 10 years. Brent started his career in public health at the Cumberland Valley District Health Department in Jackson County, Kentucky where he worked as an environmentalist.

When asked what he likes the most about his job at LCHD, he replied, "Being a part of something I feel like benefits the people of Laurel County, I feel like being a part of this agency gives me a part in helping the people of the county."

Outside of work, Brent enjoys spending time with his family. Brent is also very involved with church activities at North Corbin Missionary Baptist Church where he is the pastor. His favorite hobbies are hunting and fishing. We are very thankful to have you at LCHD, Brent! Thanks for all you do to help make our organization a great place to work.

Mission:

"The Laurel County Health Department is dedicated to serving Laurel County in efforts to prevent disease, while promoting and protecting the public health of its citizens, by providing quality health education, preventive health care and environmental services."

Vision:

Striving for a healthier future for Laurel County

Values:

We recognize and affirm the unique and intrinsic **worth** of each individual and **respect** their confidentiality

We treat all those we **serve** with **compassion** and **kindness**

We strive to act with absolute **honesty**, **integrity** and **fairness** in the way we conduct our business

We trust our co-workers as **valuable**, **competent** members of our healthcare team and pledge to treat one another with **loyalty**, **respect**, **dignity**



Zika Virus Update

While most of us had never heard of Zika virus before 2015, the virus was actually discovered in 1947. The disease is spread by *Aedes* species mosquitoes, and until 2007 it was only seen in Africa and parts of Asia. Even after it began to be seen in South and Central America, the virus was not a major concern—causing only a mild illness for most people—until the recent outbreak in Brazil in which Zika was linked to microcephaly in infants born to mothers infected with the virus during pregnancy.

Nationwide, the majority of Zika cases have been travel related; however, local transmission has occurred in the Miami, FL and Brownsville, TX areas. In Kentucky, there are currently 33 travel related cases of the Zika virus—including at least one newborn who contracted the virus in the womb from a pregnant mother who was infected while traveling outside of the United States.

Local transmission of Zika is prevalent in many popular vacation areas such as The Bahamas, Jamaica, Mexico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To prevent Zika when traveling to any area with local Zika transmission use an EPA registered insect repellent such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 (found in Skin So Soft products), or Oil of lemon eucalyptus. While traveling, also take measures to keep mosquitoes outside; stay somewhere with air conditioning and screened windows/doors. If an air conditioned and/or screened room is not available, use bed nets to avoid mosquitoes.

Travelers to Zika affected areas should also practice safe sex when returning to the U.S. in order to prevent sexual transmission of Zika. This is particularly important for partners of women who are pregnant or are planning to become pregnant. Partners of pregnant women who have recently traveled to areas with local Zika transmission should use condoms or abstain from sex for the duration of the pregnancy to prevent Zika transmission and the birth defects associated with it.

Zika infected travelers could potentially cause Zika to enter our local mosquito population allowing Zika to be spread locally. To prevent local transmission of the Zika Virus, continue the measures listed above. In addition, keep standing water out of your yard when possible. This includes emptying water that may collect in children's toys, old tires, pet food bowls, etc. The mosquitoes that transmit Zika don't travel far, so taking these measures in your own yard can make a big difference!

For more information on Zika prevention contact the Laurel County Health Department 606-878-7754 or visit www.cdc.gov/zika

Upcoming Events

April 29th- Drug Take Back 10am-2pm

May 11th – Laurel County ASAP Parent Academy 5:30-7:30pm
To Register Call 606-877-8618

Closings

May 29th – LCHD Closed in Observance of Memorial Day