DICKINSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH RECOGNIZED BY IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Spirit Lake, IA (June 23, 2017) Dickinson County Public Health was featured in the Iowa Department of Public Health’s monthly newsletter for the month of June. The newsletter was highlighting local public health success stories and recently Dickinson County had a major change in adolescent recommended vaccination rates.

In 2014 only 18% of 13-15 year olds in Dickinson County had their recommended vaccinations. Compared to the rest of the state, Dickinson County was not doing well at the time. Quality improvement plans were then developed and have been utilized the past 3 years resulting in massive improvements. As of March of 2017, the rates for Dickinson County were at 60% for recommended adolescent vaccinations!

“The increase in vaccination rates shows the dedication and quality of the staff at Dickinson County Public Health” stated Director of Population and Public Health Brandon Rohrig

Top performers in the state are up to 70% and for 2018 Dickinson County hopes to continue improving the recommended immunization rates.

Another quality improvement measure for Public Health was monitoring of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination. In 2015 the rate for recommended HPV vaccinations was at 18%. Along with quality improvement initiatives for recommended vaccines, an initiative was started for HPV as well. As of March 2017 the rates for HPV vaccination in Dickinson County have increased to 33%. Recently, the recommended dosage for HPV changed from 3 shots to 2 for 11-15 year olds.

“HPV vaccination is cancer prevention and vaccination is a safe, effective way to protect your child from getting HPV related cancers. As parents, making sure we get our children fully vaccinated is an easy way for us to provide them with protection from many potentially life-threatening vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccines save lives!” said Public Health Nurse Milly Tillotson.

If you think you might be missing some vaccinations or would like schedule your next vaccination appointment, please call the Public Health department at 712-336-2682

For more information on the new meningitis vaccine requirement and for other school vaccine information, visit http://www.idph.iowa.gov/immtb/immunization/laws. If you have questions about immunizations, contact Dickinson County Public Health at 712-336-2682.

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