



Message from the Secretary

The Department of Health kicked off the month of April with a day-long “Public Health 3.0” conference in Pittsburgh. I was honored to join Acting U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health Karen DeSalvo at the conference, which was aimed at building innovative partnerships to improve health care for all Pennsylvanians.

Public Health 3.0 maintains that society has a collective responsibility to create the

conditions that will allow all members of our communities to make healthy choices. This initiative aims to achieve this by expanding public health to address all aspects of life that promote health and well-being, including economic development, education, transportation, food, environment, housing and safe neighborhoods.

We need to draw on leadership from health care providers, local communities and all levels of government, and these leaders, in turn, must work together to improve health outcomes and advance health equity. We initiated this process in Pittsburgh, and I would like to congratulate everyone who participated. The partnerships that were created at the conference will ultimately help improve the health of all Pennsylvanians.

The Public Health 3.0 conference was a tremendous way to launch National Public Health Week, April 4-10. This national observance is a time to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation.

This year, **National Public Health Week** is highlighting “Generation Public Health” with the goal of creating the healthiest nation possible in one generation. This goal will be achieved by building safe, healthy communities and helping all Americans improve access to safe, healthy food – among other things.

National Public Health Week is another great opportunity for me to say “thank you” to all of my public health colleagues. Your hard work and dedication will help us achieve both of the initiatives I have outlined and improve the health of our fellow Pennsylvanians. Thank you.

-Secretary of Health, Dr. Karen Murphy

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DOH ACTIVITIES



“Don’t Wait. Vaccinate.” Campaign

The Department of Health is embarking on its second annual campaign to increase Pennsylvania’s childhood immunization rates.

The department is committed to building on the success of last year’s campaign by spreading the message about the importance of Pennsylvania children getting the vaccines they need before the start of fall classes. The department also provides assistance to complete that goal with free or low-cost immunizations for children who are uninsured or under insured.

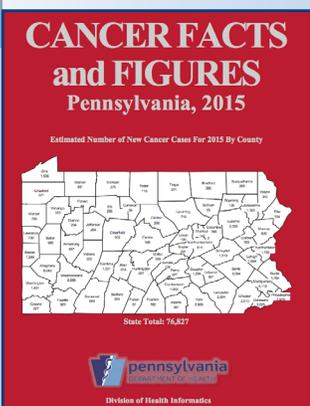
For more information about the childhood immunization campaign, visit www.dontwaitvaccinate.pa.gov.



Health Innovation in Pennsylvania (HIP) Plan Underway

The commonwealth’s Health Innovation in Pennsylvania plan represents a new strategy to improve the health of all Pennsylvanians. The goal of this sweeping, multi-year initiative is to transform the way we pay for, deliver and coordinate health care services.

Under the leadership of Governor Wolf, the HIP plan’s ultimate objective is better care, smarter spending, and a healthier Pennsylvania. The HIP plan will be completed in May and begin implementation in July. For more information about the HIP plan, please visit [Health Innovation](#).



2015 Cancer Facts and Figures Report Now Available

The department’s Health Statistics Division recently released the **2015 Cancer Facts and Figures report**. This annual report contains estimated projections for the number of cancer cases and deaths by county and by type of cancer. In addition, trend data for cancer cases and deaths are compared by sex and race. Risk factors, treatment, survival and symptoms for the top four sites (prostate, breast, lung and colon) are also reported. National, statewide and local contacts for more information on specific types of cancer are included.

By utilizing the data collected by the Pennsylvania Cancer Registry, the Department of Health can develop programs to better address Pennsylvania’s Cancer Program needs. Registry data are used to plan and evaluate cancer control measures in areas of risk assessment, prevention, early detection, patient care, public and professional education, and clinical research.



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DOH ACTIVITIES



WalkWorks Program

The Department of Health recommends that adults get 150 minutes or more of physical activity each week. To encourage more Pennsylvanians to get moving, the department is collaborating with the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health in a program called WalkWorks. The program enhances connectivity through community-based walking routes, walking groups for social support and by encouraging active transportation. Walking routes are marked with signage, and maps of each route are available online.

To learn more about WalkWorks or to find a walking route near you, visit www.pawalkworks.com.



Bike to Work Week Events

Get your wheels in gear! Bike to Work Week is May 16-20. To promote this important activity, the Department of Health will co-sponsor the 2016 Bike to Work Week Executive Ride on May 16 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Pennsylvania State Capitol. Participants will include department executives, state lawmakers, Harrisburg city officials and Capitol Police. Immediately following the ride, a press conference will be held on the steps of the Capitol.

On May 20, the 4th Annual Spoke 'n Gear Bicycle Expo will be held on the Capitol grounds. This expo will highlight the benefits of bicycling for transportation or sport.

For more information regarding Bike to Work events, visit bikeleague.org.



Pennsylvania Healthy Corner Store Initiative

Corner stores are a part of the urban landscape and many serve communities without supermarkets. The Department of Health is committed to increasing Pennsylvanians' access to healthy foods and beverages through the Pennsylvania Healthy Corner Store Initiative (HCSI), a program aimed at ensuring that underserved communities have access to healthy foods by encouraging corner store owners to incorporate healthy food options into their product selection.

The HCSI has been implemented in 11 cities throughout the commonwealth: Allentown, Bethlehem, Danville, Easton, Erie, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Pittsburgh, Reading, State College and Williamsport. To date, more than 120 stores are enrolled in the Pennsylvania HCSI. For more information, please visit [Pennsylvania Healthy Corner Store Initiative](#).



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Secretaries Urge Support for Gov. Wolf's Budget

On March 18, Department of Health Secretary Karen Murphy and Department of Aging Secretary Teresa Osborne discussed the importance of **Governor Wolf's proposed budget** to the work of their agencies with 30 health care providers and others at Allied Services in Scranton.

The governor's proposed budget aims to build a stronger Pennsylvania while supporting essential programs that will allow both departments to improve the health and quality of life for Pennsylvanians.

Physician General Rachel Levine Visits Harrisburg Pharmacy

As part of the department's effort to ensure all Pennsylvanians and prescribers are aware of the availability of naloxone, Physician General Dr. Rachel Levine visited a Harrisburg pharmacy recently to spread the word about preventing drug overdoses. Dr. Levine, joined by Harrisburg Mayor Eric Papenfuse, Dauphin County District Attorney Ed Marsico and Harrisburg Police Chief Thomas Carter, shared information about the efficacy and success of the opioid antidote naloxone in treating drug overdose. Dr. Levine signed a **standing order** last fall that ensures all Pennsylvanians now have access to naloxone. Increased statewide access to naloxone is a crucial step to combat the opioid overdose crisis in Pennsylvania.



2016 Get Smart Competition for Young Artists and Writers Now Open

Last month, the department kicked off its fourth annual Get Smart children's art competition, which is open to all kids 12 and under. The competition allows students to showcase their creativity and help spread the word about the importance of good hygiene habits, vaccinations and proper use of antibiotics.

Get Smart art competition submissions will be accepted through Oct. 31, 2016. Contest winners will be announced during National Get Smart Week, Nov. 14 through Nov. 20, 2016. For information about entry rules and submissions, please visit www.KnowWhenToSayNo.org.



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40 Under 40 Leaders in Health Awards

Dr. Loren Robinson, deputy secretary for health promotion and disease prevention, has been chosen as one of the health care professionals named in the first “40 Under 40 Leaders in Health Awards.”

The National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF) award honors influential young minority leaders, including physicians, pharmacists, dentists, nurses, policy experts, researchers and others, who are making a difference in health care around the country.

Dr. Robinson and the other recipients will be recognized at the 2016 NMQF Leadership Summit on Health Disparities and CDC Spring Health Braintrust in Washington, D.C., next month.

Read more about this prestigious award [here](#).



DOH Employee of the Month for April

Public Health Program Manager Tara Landis

For the past year, Tara has assumed a variety of additional crucial duties and responsibilities. She guided the Bureau of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention through the Title V Needs and Capacity Assessment, which led to the development of the State Action Plan and submission of the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant.

In addition, Tara is responsible for oversight of [the Lead Surveillance](#) and Lead and Healthy Homes Programs. She has worked during off hours and on scheduled leave days to respond to every request for information.

Tara oversees four federal grants and has been tasked with improving the data capability and capacity within Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

Please join us in congratulating Tara on receiving this much deserved recognition.



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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

STD Awareness Month

STD Awareness Month is dedicated to helping individuals get the facts about sexual health. The department hosts the Sexually Transmitted Diseases Program which helps individuals obtain information and resources on how to prevent and avoid spreading these communicable diseases.

The program's goals are to help the public understand the benefits of condoms, birth control and abstinence and to remind everyone that it is never too late to learn or practice safe sex.

Individuals may visit the department's [STD Program page](#) for more information.



Donate Life PA #UglyTruth Campaign

Donate Life Month aims to raise awareness of the critical need for organ and tissue donors in Pennsylvania. The Donate Life PA collaborative, including the departments of Health and Transportation and Pennsylvania's two organ procurement organizations, the Center for Organ Recovery & Education and Gift of Life Donor Program, has launched the Donate Life PA #UglyTruth Campaign.

While Pennsylvanians overwhelmingly support organ and tissue donation, fewer than half of all drivers and non-drivers have added the donor designation to their driver's license or PennDOT- issued state identification card. With more than 8,000 men, women and children in Pennsylvania waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant, the #UglyTruth Campaign is using social media to challenge people to register as donors.

To learn more about the campaign and how to participate, visit <http://donatelife.org/uglytruth>.



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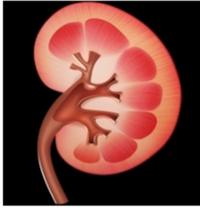


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DID YOU KNOW?

Come Celebrate with Us!



Kidney Awareness Day Event April 13, 2016

Join us for this FREE event at:
Strawberry Square
Main Lobby Area
11 N Third St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Event includes FREE:

- Blood pressure check
- Educational materials
- Kidney health risk assessment
- Review of your medications
- Nutritional materials

Kidney Awareness Day Event

The department is proud to help sponsor the Kidney Awareness Day event on April 13 at Strawberry Square in Harrisburg. This event includes free blood pressure checks, educational materials, kidney health risk assessment, medication reviews and more. This event will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If you would like to find out more about kidney health in your area, please visit www.health.pa.gov for news about kidney dialysis centers and resources available in your area.

Fun Fact

April 1 is celebrated by many as April Fools' Day. Those gentle pranks pulled on friends can generate lots of laughs, which science suggests may actually be a good thing! Laughing can have a positive effect on brain activity and relieve stress and anxiety. Laughing also may be **good for your heart**; it has a beneficial effect on blood pressure and heart rate and **relaxes your blood vessels**, which could reduce strain on the heart.



Department of Health News from March

Did you know that copies of all press releases can be found on the department's website? Visit www.health.pa.gov.



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