



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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Dickinson-Iron District Health Department Kicks-Off Public Health Week 2008

Kingsford and Iron River, Michigan, April 1, 2008 – State and local public health agencies will kick-off National Public Health Week April 14th in Lansing and will launch a statewide awareness campaign highlighting several core health issues related to preparedness and public health threats throughout the week.

“Public health is always working to protect families and communities,” said Linda Piper, Health Officer. “The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department is working every day to protect and promote the health of Dickinson and Iron County residents.”

10 Great Public Health Achievements (1900-1999)

- **Vaccination** has resulted in the eradication or control of diseases such as smallpox, polio, and diphtheria.
- **Motor Vehicle Safety** has reduced fatal injuries through improvements in engineering, highway and behavior.
- **Safer workplaces** have resulted in a 40% reduction in fatal occupational injuries through greater knowledge of risks and control of exposure.
- **Control of infectious diseases** has resulted from cleaner drinking water and improved sanitation the first half of the century, as well as the discovery of antibiotics.
- **Decline in deaths from heart disease and stroke** the second half of the century have resulted from risk factor reduction (e.g., smoking, high blood pressure) coupled with improved access to early detection and treatment.
- **Safer and healthier foods** have resulted from less microbial contamination and better nutritional content early in the century; food fortification programs have nearly eliminated major nutritional deficiency diseases in the U.S.
- **Healthier mothers and babies** have resulted from better hygiene and nutrition, access to healthcare and technologic advances. Since 1900, infant and maternal mortality has decreased by 90%.
- **Family planning and contraceptive services** have allowed for greater planning of childbirth and a reduction in sexually transmitted diseases.
- **Fluoridation of drinking water** benefits children and adults by preventing tooth decay and reducing tooth loss, regardless of access to care or socioeconomic status.

- **Recognition of tobacco as a health hazard** has resulted in changes in social norms to prevent onset of smoking and promote cessation. Since the U.S. Surgeon General's report in 1964 on the risks of smoking, the prevalence among adults has decreased.

In 1995, former President William Clinton proclaimed the first full week of April as National Public Health Week (NPHW). Now, in its 13th year, NPHW is celebrated in every state across the nation. The American Public Health Association serves as the organizer of NPHW and develops a national campaign to educate the public, policy makers and practitioners about issues related to the theme. For more information about National Public Health Week, visit: <http://www.apha.org/nphw>.

The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department is committed to promoting wellness, preventing disease, providing health care, and protecting the environment. For additional information visit our website at www.didhd.org.

Additional information about the "**Public Health – For Michigan. For You**" slogan and "2008: The Year of Public Health" can be found at www.malph.org.

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