



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

Dickinson County

818 Pyle Drive, Kingsford, MI 49802
Ph: (906) 774-1868 Fax: (906) 774-9910
BRANCH OFFICE

www.didhd.org

Iron County

601 Washington Avenue, Iron River, MI 49935
Ph: (906) 265-9913 Fax: (906) 265-2950
MAIN OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:

Kelly Rumpf, 779-7234

Dickinson-Iron District Health Department Recognizes World No Tobacco Day 2009



Kingsford and Iron River, Michigan, May 26, 2009 – May 31st marks World No Tobacco Day 2009. The Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) created World No Tobacco Day in 1987 to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and disease it causes. The annual celebration raises awareness about the dangers of using tobacco, the business practices of tobacco companies, what WHO is doing to fight the tobacco epidemic, and what people around the world can do to claim their right to health and healthy living and to protect future generations.

This year's theme is a call to action to show the truth about tobacco through picture warnings on tobacco products, which motivate users to quit and reduce the appeal of tobacco for those who are not yet addicted. In recognition of the week, the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department joins with other concerned organizations around the globe to increase awareness about the health harms associated with tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure.

According to Dr. Terry Frankovich, Medical Director, "tobacco use continues to be the leading cause of preventable death in Michigan. The good news is that there is so much more that we can do to prevent the death and disease caused by this deadly product. Funding tobacco prevention programming at the level recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and making all Michigan workplaces smoke-free would do wonders for the health and economy of our State."

"We're using World No Tobacco Day to help people understand the dangers of tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure and educate the public about how they can take action to impact the problems that tobacco use causes in our community and around the globe," stated Kelly Rumpf, Health Educator. "We'll be recognizing new restaurants that will be going smoke-free over the summer. To date we have 43 smoke-free restaurants in Dickinson and Iron Counties." For a complete listing of U.P. smoke-free restaurants visit www.smokefreeup.org.

"World No Tobacco Day reminds us that Michigan's Tobacco Prevention Program does so much with very little funding, helping people to quit using tobacco, protecting people from secondhand smoke, and preventing youth from starting to use tobacco," noted Susan Schechter, J.D., Director of Advocacy for the American Lung Association of Michigan. "Now is an excellent time for our legislature to step up and assist the Tobacco Program in its efforts by increasing funding for the Program and passing a comprehensive smoke-free state law to protect all workers. The evidence to support these decisions is overwhelming, and the legislature simply needs to take action."

For more information on World No Tobacco Day, visit <http://www.who.int/tobacco/wntd/2009/en/index.html> or contact Rumpf at (906) 779-7234 if your place of business or restaurant goes smoke-free.

###