



Jefferson County Health Department

Advancing the health and safety of Jefferson County



Public Health
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Summer 2022

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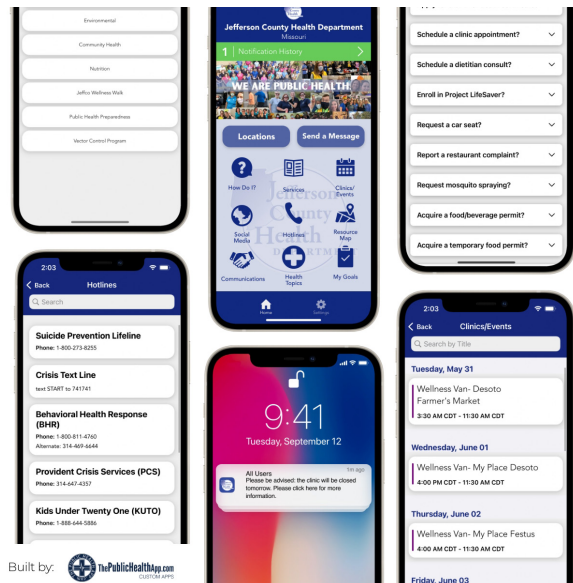
Breaking News: JCHD Launches Mobile App

We are excited to announce the release of our new smartphone mobile app. This app serves as a new way for our agency to connect with Jefferson County residents and visitors, providing information quickly and efficiently to anyone with a smartphone.

Implementing a mobile app enhances our agency communication methods and reaches more individuals providing information regarding services and programs, urgent health alerts and updates, as well as the ability to schedule some services and appointments directly through the app. Launching this app provides the public immediate access to information about our programs and services they are interested in at their fingertips.

The JCHD mobile app features include:

- Location Information
- Direct Messages
- How Do I? Section of FAQ's
- Services Provided List
- Calendar of Clinics and Events
- Social Media Integration
- Hotline Numbers
- Resource Map
- Alerts and Advisories



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“As the local county public health department, we serve all Jefferson County residents, regardless of whether they ever step foot into our offices or clinics,” states JCHD Public Communications Officer, Brianne Zwiener.

“By providing health information, a list of hotline numbers, and an extensive resource map, our app is one way we can positively impact everyone in the community, even if we never meet them.”
- Brianne Zwiener, JCHD Public Communications Officer

In February 2022, JCHD Board of Trustees voted in approval to acquire a mobile app to enhance communications and services offered to residents. OCV LLC, The Public Health App was chosen to develop the app for JCHD for a total of \$42,986 which includes initial production, 3 years of the application running, regular maintenance, and technical support.

Homebound Vaccinations: Making Public Health Accessible for All

During our COVID-19 vaccine response, we were contacted by dozens of residents who wanted to receive the COVID vaccine, however, they were unable to leave their homes due to various reasons. In addition to making public health services more accessible, we are focused on ensuring we are also serving our vulnerable populations, including those who are homebound.

We created a special team of our clinical staff that we tasked with coordinating any homebound COVID vaccines that were needed in the county including initial doses, second doses, and booster doses.

The team consists of a nurse vaccinator, medical assistant, and lab technician who utilize our COVID Van to travel throughout the county and provide vaccinations in the homes of those who request vaccination and are unable to leave their home.

Since January 2022, our team has provided 53 vaccines, 2 flu vaccines and 51 COVID-19 vaccines. They have been out 8 times, averaging 1-2 times each month depending on demand.

Our homebound team hopes to expand this service in the fall providing flu vaccines as well to these vulnerable residents seeking public health services.

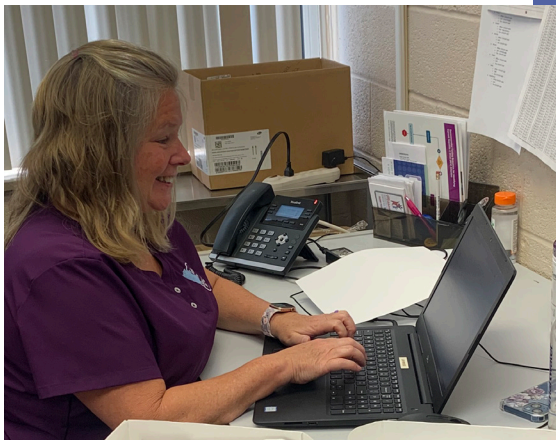


JCHD Homebound Immunization Team: Jacob Schwab- Lab Technician, Robin Summers- Medical Assistant, and Cathy Koeln- Nurse Vaccinator (PRN)

Agency Collaboration: Preventing Lead Poisoning in Jefferson County



From left: Julia Plaster, Environmental Public Health Specialist and Adam Peters, Community Engagement Team Lead attending the De Soto Farmer's Market providing lead education and promoting testing at another table



Penelope Wessels, Public Health Nurse and Blood Lead Coordinator working on blood lead case management

Missouri is the #1 lead producing state in the United States and a large portion of Jefferson County was previously part of “The Old Lead Belt”. There are areas throughout the county that are contaminated due to the process of lead production including air, soil, ground and surface water, and sediment.

Because of our county’s history with lead, lead poisoning prevention is a key public health issue that every team within our department is focused on. Lead poisoning is 100% preventable, but it takes education and resources to make that happen. Grant funding provided from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) supports community education and additional efforts to eliminate lead poisoning.

Our #kNOwLEAD campaign launched in late 2019 which focuses on increasing the number of children being tested for high blood lead levels and educating the public about lead poisoning. Prevention education has been shared with the community via our website, social media posts, billboards, community events, and radio interviews.

In addition to education, our clinical team provides blood lead testing utilizing a point of care machine providing blood lead levels within 5 minutes after a simple finger stick. Since the beginning of 2020, JCHD has provided 237 lead screenings, 70 of which have been provided in 2022 so far.

When a child has a high blood lead level, they begin case management with our clinical staff to determine the source of exposure and work with the family to eliminate the source.

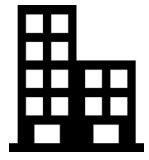
Public Health Nurse, Penny Wessels, is our Blood Lead Coordinator. Currently she is working with the families of 65 children in Jefferson County with high blood lead levels.

Through agency collaboration among teams, our department is working to reduce lead poisoning in Jefferson County.

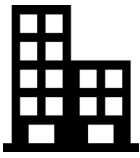
“It’s rewarding to work in collaboration with all the teams within our agency to tackle a public health issue like lead poisoning in our community.”
- Penny Wessels, Blood Lead Coordinator



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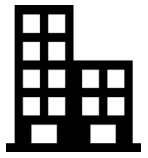


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