

Public Health IMPACT

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTING PUBLIC HEALTH TOPICS & EVENTS FOR THE MARION COUNTY COMMUNITY • SUMMER 2026 • ISSUE NO. 9



Jenna Ruppert, Community Nutrition Coordinator for MCPHD's Nutrition Services Department, gives a food-preparation demonstration in the health office's nutrition classroom

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broadens students' horizons
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Relocated Eastside clinic provides new and expanded services to the community

The Marion County Public Health Department's Northeast District Health Office has moved to a new home at 2505 N. Arlington Ave. that will provide more services for the eastside community in a larger facility.

The building, which was built in 1997, was originally used as the Eskenazi Health Center North Arlington Health Clinic. The building became available to the district health office after the clinical staff moved to Eskenazi Health Center Grande on 38th Street when it opened in early 2024.

Prior to that, the district office was located about a half-mile away, in a former bowling alley on East 21st Street that was renovated into a health office for MCPHD in the early 1980s.



Sydney Hake, Nutrition Fitness and Wellness Educator for MCPHD's Nutrition Services Department, discusses the raised-bed garden outside the offices, and how it will benefit the nutrition services programming.

> Continued on page 2

Global Health/TB programs remove treatment barriers

While Tuberculosis (TB) is not a common disease in the United States, it can be very serious or even fatal.

Most people infected with TB bacteria have latent TB infections, where they do not have symptoms and can't spread the disease to others. But, if left untreated, it can develop into active TB.

People with active TB often report having coughs, weight loss and night sweats. The coughs can produce bloody mucus and can spread the disease to others.

In 2025, there were 1,200 latent cases of TB in Marion County, and 85 people with active TB.

Sarah Koch, the Assistant Administrator of Clinical Operations for MCPHD's TB

> Continued on page 3

NEDHO Clinic move *Continued from page 1*

Jennyfer Voris, one of two Community-Based Care Coordinators at the district office, said the move has been a very positive one.

“We are definitely attracting attention in this facility,” Voris said. “Some people have stopped in to ask what services are offered here.”

Jane Kenyon, the other Community-Based Care Coordinator at the district office, agreed.

“We have a lot of clients in this area, and we are very happy to serve them in a larger, more welcoming setting,” Kenyon said.

The Northeast District Health Office currently has three dozen full-time employees, and offers routine and school-required immunizations, TB testing, blood pressure screenings, maternal and child health services, nutrition education, counselling, and home visits from nurses and social workers.

The Nutrition Services team now has

a full test kitchen in the basement of the health office, with classroom seating for demonstrations and cooking classes.

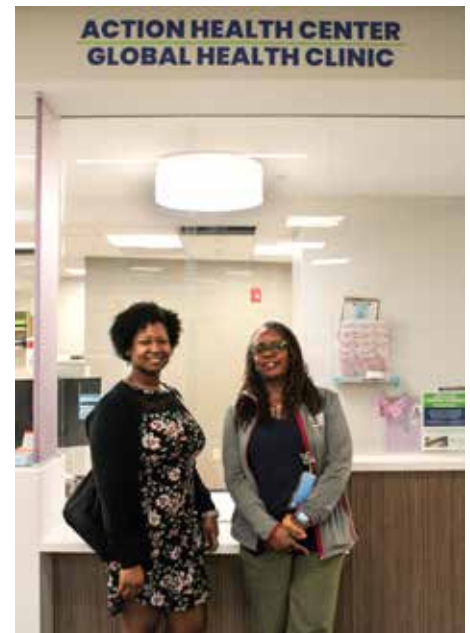
Nutrition Services also offers the Infant Feeding Safety Net program at the health office, which can provide lactation support to new mothers and help provide families with a short-term emergency supply of infant formula.

In an expansion of services for the eastside community, three additional MCPHD programs will be housed at the health office.

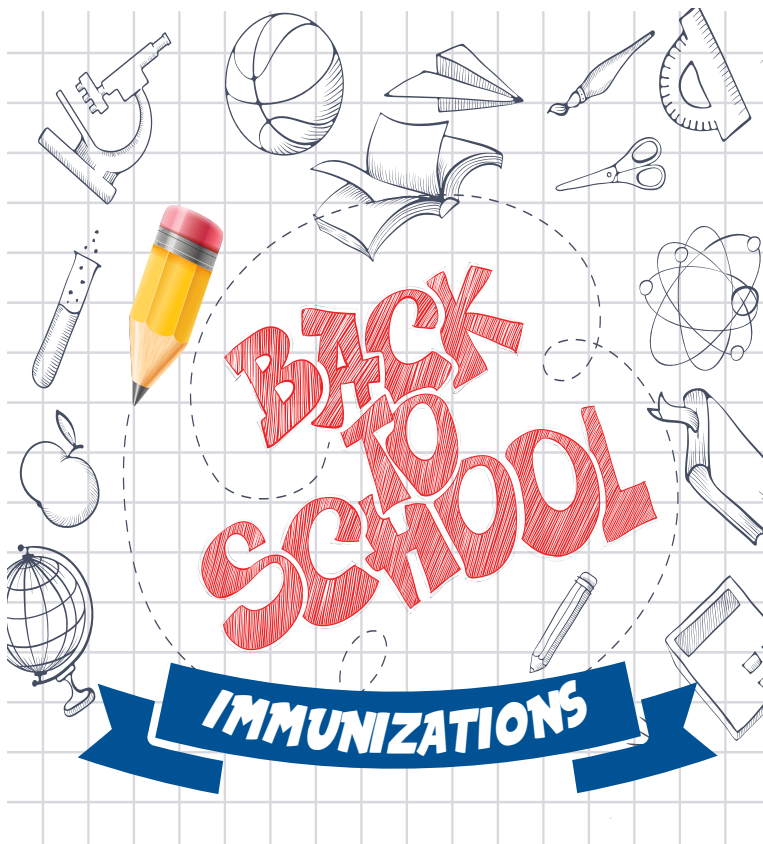
The Diaper Den program will provide free diapers to parents who register.

The Global Health and TB Control Program will provide health screenings and follow-up care to qualifying families on Tuesdays.

The ACTION Health Center staff will provide primary care and health education to clients aged 26 and younger on Thursdays.



(l to r) Olivia Younge, Assistant Administrator for Business Operations at MCPHD's Global Health and TB Control Program; Dr. Millicent Moye, Director of MCPHD's ACTION Health Center; at the reception window for their clinics in the health office.



**MARION COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT • 2505 N. Arlington Ave.

317-221-7300

Saturday, Sept. 22 • 2-7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 10 • 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

•

NORTHWEST DISTRICT • 6940 Michigan Rd.

317-221-7500

Wednesday, Sept. 30 • 2-6 p.m.

•

SOUTH DISTRICT • 7551 S. Shelby St.

317-221-5700

Saturday, Sept. 12 • 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 19 • 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

•

EAGLEDALE • 2802 Lafayette Rd.

317-221-7500

Saturday, Oct. 24 • 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

CALL CLINIC FOR AN APPOINTMENT

A limited number of walk-ins will be available at each clinic. Required immunizations will be available for kids in grades K-12.

EMPOWER program hosts exposure events

HHC's EMPOWER initiative closed out the school year with four big exposure events – trips to the Indianapolis Children's Museum, the NCAA Men's Final Four Fan Fest, the HBCU All-Star Game, and the Muhammad Ali Center and Malibu Jack's indoor amusement park in Louisville, Kentucky. The program also attended Indiana Pacer and Fever games at Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

Originally established by Gregory Porter, HHC's Senior Vice President of External Affairs, two decades ago to provide mentoring to teens, the program has changed over time to support the academic and socio-emotional needs of students from 3rd grade through high school. More than 200 students around Marion County currently participate.

The EMPOWER program provides students with important life skills, and the

exposure events can broaden their horizons in fun ways.

The exposure events embody EMPOWER's mission—blending education, cultural awareness, and enrichment with joyful, first-time experiences—leaving participants inspired, empowered, and more deeply connected to the world beyond their immediate surroundings.

During the recent visit to the Muhammad Ali Center, three full buses of participants were immersed in the legacy of a global icon whose life stood at the intersection of sports, courage, and the civil rights movement. The trip included a stop at Malibu Jack's, where families enjoyed mini roller coasters, video games, and virtual reality experiences.

"The exposure events get them outside of their comfort zones," said Dr. Rosiline Floyd, the program's Executive Director. "And they get to engage with students from other schools and



EMPOWER participants visit the NCAA Final Four Fan Fest.

neighborhoods, which helps their social development."

"The end of the school year is a really busy time for us," said Ron Jackson, EMPOWER's Program Coordinator. "But

we like to finish strong. These exposure events really make lasting impacts on the kids."

For more information, please email rfloyd@hhcorp.org.

TB CONTROL PROGRAM, *Continued from page 1*

Control Program, said the number of TB cases in the county is increasing.

"When I started with the program in 2015, a year where there were 50 active TB cases was considered a big deal," Koch said.

MCPHD's program provides in-office blood tests for TB, as well as testing at homeless shelters and other settings, and receives referrals from local doctors and emergency department staff.

"Dr. Caine, the health department's director, is an infectious disease doctor, and is a strong advocate for our work," Koch said. "Our healthcare partners know who to call when someone tests positive for TB."

Once a TB-positive person is referred to the program, they receive

a combination of healthcare and social support from the program's 10 nurses and five community health workers.

The program can provide antibiotics at no cost to help people treat their disease. MCPHD staff delivers medication to those with active TB and directly observes that people take it, which can involve going to people's homes seven days a week for months.

But even with the number of cases rising, she emphasized that most TB infections are treatable.

"We will try to remove barriers to treatment," Koch said. "We just want to help people."

For more information about MCPHD's Global Health / TB Control Program, please call (317) 221-2110.



Ashley Franks, a TB Nurse Case Manager with MCPHD, draws blood for a TB test

Housing department educates public about CO poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas caused by the incomplete burning of fuel. Fireplaces, cars, generators and gas appliances – such as stoves, furnaces and water heaters – can be sources of CO gas.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CO poisoning causes more than 100,000 emergency department visits each year, and around 400 deaths.

Julianna Kennedy, Administrator of MCPHD's Housing and Neighborhood Health Department, said that most people are aware that they need to have smoke detectors in their homes and that Marion County property owners are required to provide smoke detectors to their tenants.

But fewer are aware that MCPHD now requires CO monitors in homes with gas appliances.

In the fall of 2025, an Indianapolis student died from CO poisoning.

"Carbon-monoxide-related deaths are especially tragic because they are often preventable," Kennedy said. "The Housing Department performed more than 75,000 inspections last year. So, we are in a unique position to reach a lot of property owners and tenants."

The housing department staff made it their mission to ramp up education about the dangers of CO poisoning, to inform property owners on their responsibilities under the health code, and to gather resources.

The department's outreach team produced a CO brochure, which is now carried with Housing Environmental Health Specialists during site visits, and housing specialists continue to pay close attention to identifying potential sources of CO poisoning during home inspections.

The department's Community Education and Outreach Liaison,



Julianna Kennedy, Administrator of MCPHD's Housing and Neighborhood Health Department, talks about carbon monoxide safety with participants at a health fair

Thasneem Najum, has since added CO education to her apartment complex tenant presentations. "Some tenants are not aware that they have gas appliances in their home and often incorrectly assume that smoke detectors will also warn them about carbon monoxide gas," Najum said. "It's great when we can partner with property managers to provide education to their residents as we try to make their surroundings healthier."

Kennedy went on to say that the department is partnering with Indianapolis Public School administrators to educate parents about CO poisoning, and continues to seek funding to purchase carbon monoxide monitors for those in need.

To reach the Housing and Neighborhood Health Department, please call 317-221-2150.

HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH INFORMATION

The Department of Housing & Neighborhood Health seeks to protect the health and safety of Marion County residents and promote clean and healthy neighborhoods through enforcement of Chapters 10 & 19 of the Health & Hospital Code of Marion County, education, and outreach activities.

For additional information or to report a housing complaint, please call or visit us online.

GENERAL INFORMATION
317-221-2150

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE
BY SCANNING
THE QR CODE**



Emergency Occupied Housing violations that must be corrected within 24-hours include:

- No water, gas or electrical service
- Raw sewage inside or outside the structure
- Severe unsanitary living conditions inside the unit
- Improperly vented or unvented gas appliances
- No heat or broken A/C (seasonal)

Non-Emergency Occupied Housing violations that must be corrected within 10 to 30 days, depending on the severity of the violation(s) include:

- Mold and/or water damage, plumbing leaks and obstructions
- Holes in the walls/ceilings/flooring, broken windows or doors, or other structural issues
- Siding, roof, or foundation in poor repair
- Electrical problems
- Infestations

Trash or exterior sanitation violations that must be corrected within 14 days include:

- high weeds and grass (over 12")
- exposed garbage, large rubbish and junk
- wood/brush on the ground
- inoperable vehicles or vehicles with missing or expired plates
- animal manure
- usable items stored on the ground or not 18" off the ground.

Failure to comply with any violations could result in an ordinance violation penalty of up to \$250, a clean & lien, court action, and/or additional fines or injunctive action once in court.



PUBLIC HEALTH LAB NEARS COMPLETION

Construction of the new lab building, and preparation of the surrounding grounds, is nearing completion.

Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County (HHC) is constructing a new two-story public health laboratory at 38th and Rural streets to enhance community services, improve efficiency and expand capacity.

In addition to the laboratory, the new facility will house the Bell Flower Clinic, Vital Records, and Immunization Records, and will include a large multipurpose community space for trainings and meetings.

Outside the building, trees and other landscaping are being planted, and the parking lot's final asphalt work has begun.

Inside the building, furniture and equipment are being installed, with a planned full move-in and public opening this fall.

Another project, the construction of a new headquarters building for the Indianapolis Emergency Medical Services (IEMS), is also progressing.

IEMS will move from its current westside headquarters on Georgetown Road to the area close to the new Marion County Public Health Department laboratory in the Avondale Meadows neighborhood in early 2027. The new headquarters will support ambulance operations, vehicle maintenance, training, and emergency medical services.

The building's structure and interior slab are complete, and work has begun on the interior walls, roofing, exterior façade, and exterior stonefront.

The support beam which was signed last month has been installed in the building.

For the additional updates and project information, please visit <https://hhcorp.org/construction-updates/>.

New farm, homestead food safety law goes into effect

On July 1, Indiana's Farm and Homestead Food Sales law went into effect, which created new categories of operators who can – under certain conditions – sell an expanded variety of pre-packaged foods to the public with limited regulation.

Kelli Whiting, Coordinator of Temporary Food Events for MCPHD's Food and Consumer Safety Department, said the new rules will supplement, but not replace, the rules and categories already in effect.

"We already have rules for permanent food-service establishments and retail food stores, mobile food units, temporary food stands, and home-based vendors," she said. "This will create new categories of homestead vendors and small-farm operators."

Indiana laws already allowed home-based vendors to sell whole, intact produce, baked goods, honey, and frozen chicken and rabbit meat as long as the products were in sealed packages, properly labelled, and prepared by Certified Food Handlers.

The new law will allow certain types of prepared foods -- such as certain prepared sandwiches, salads, casseroles or meal kits -- eggs (except for chicken eggs, which are regulated by the Indiana State Egg Board), and meat from cattle, sheep, pigs, bison, chickens, goats and rabbits to be sold at farmers markets, roadside stands or from



Jesse Acevedo, a Food Education Specialist with MCPHD's Food and Consumer Safety Department, checks the labeling of foods offered for sale at a local farmers market.

vendors' own property with little additional regulation, as long as the foods are properly stored, packaged and labelled.

Janelle Kaufman, the Administrator of MCPHD's Food and Consumer Safety Department, recommended that those with questions check the MCPHD website at <https://marionhealth.org/>, call the department at 317-221-2222, or attend one of the informational sessions being prepared by department staff.

"We want to be a helpful resource to vendors, but caution that these exemptions include foods that are often implicated in foodborne illness outbreaks," Kaufman said. "Customers should be conscientious, and should make decisions that are in the best interests of their health."



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UPCOMING EVENTS

DIABETES MANAGEMENT

The ABCs of Diabetes Self-Management Education/Support program of the Marion County Public Health Department is committed to providing adults with ready access to educational services and information in the area of managing and preventing diabetes.

Participants should plan to attend all classes for the month. This program is **FREE**, but registration is required.

QUESTIONS

Email: diabetes@marionhealth.org
Call: 317-221-2094.

REGISTER

www.marionhealth.org/diabetes

SCAN
TO SIGN UP TODAY!



SEPT 2026 Online
Wednesdays 9, 16, 23, 30
1:30 - 3 p.m.

OCT 2026 Wayne Library
198 S. Girls School Rd.
Tuesdays 6, 13, 20, 27
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

SPORTS PHYSICALS



ACTION Health Center
2868 N Pennsylvania St
Indianapolis, IN 46205

Wednesdays

August 5 • August 12
August 19 • August 26

2:00-5:30pm

No appointments
First come, first served

Cost \$10 (cash only)

\$ 10 \$

For questions, call:
317-221-3400



TIRE RECYCLE DAY

SATURDAY • AUGUST 8, 2026 • 8 AM - 4 PM

DISPOSE OF YOUR OLD TIRES SAFELY AT NO COST TO YOU



Tires are a prime breeding ground for mosquitoes. Help reduce the spread of West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne diseases by disposing of tires properly.



DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

- MOSQUITO CONTROL - 4001 E. 21ST ST.
- SECO (SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY ORG) - 1925 FLETCHER AVE.

FOR MORE INFO, CALL MOSQUITO CONTROL AT 317-221-7440

Limit 6 tires per vehicle. Passenger car tires only. Marion County residents only. Tires must be without rims. Not for use by tire retailers or auto salvage yards.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

CARRY NALOXONE

Friday, August 7, 2026
11:00am-2:00pm

Garfield Park Neighborhood

Basecamp: Garfield Park Library.
2502 Shelby Street Indianapolis, IN 46203

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Free HIV &
Hepatitis C
Testing!

- Food Resources
- Engaging Neighbors
- Street Cleaning
- Preventing Overdoses
- Recovery Resources



2026 SPRING SNAPSHOTS

TIRE RECYCLING DAY event on June 27 was a success. Some waste tires were brought by residents to the two collection sites, but the majority of the tires were collected by MCPHD staff, who spent the day doing alley sweeps and collecting discarded tires. Also retrieved were a large number of tires through a partnership with the South East Community Organization. More than 800 tires were collected and have been sent to Liberty Tire Recycling. Joshua Jones, a Crew Chief with MCPHD's Mosquito Control Department, helped to organize the event. A second tire recycling event will be held on August 8.



MARION COUNTY MINORITY HEALTH COALITION -

Gregory Porter, HHC Senior VP of External Affairs, and Virginia A. Caine, MD, MCPHD Director and Chief Medical Officer, were recognized by the Minority Health Coalition of Marion County for their contributions to public health during a luncheon on April 16. Porter received the William "Bill" Crawford Founders Award, and Dr. Caine received the William G. Mays Supporter Award.

(above, l to r) Gregory Porter, Senior VP of External Affairs at HHC; Virginia A. Caine, MD, MCPHD's Director and Chief Medical Officer; Georges C. Benjamin, MD, Executive Director of the American Public Health Association, who delivered the keynote address.



ACTION HEALTH CENTER hosted nine "bigs" and nine "littles" from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana for a special event on May 18. The school-aged children and their adult mentors received a tour of the clinic and learned about careers in healthcare from Dr. Millicent Moye and Dr. Kevin Jones of the Health Center. The ACTION Health Center provides clinical care to residents from birth to age 26, and can be reached at 317-221-3400.



Representatives from MCPHD, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Department of Health, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Eskenazi Health, Managed Emergency Services for Healthcare, Red Cross, Marion County Emergency Management Agency, Marion County Coroner's Office, and other partners participated in a family assistance tabletop exercise on June 16. The exercise focused on strategies for reuniting families, managing a call center, and providing essential support services during an emergency. The scenario simulated strong winds in downtown Indianapolis that caused significant damage to buildings and impacted a school bus carrying students. Courtney Gordon, MCPHD's Emergency Preparedness Liaison, discusses action plans with participants during the exercise.



HEALTHY FAMILIES staff gathered to host 46 families at their annual Family Celebration on June 8. A total of 168 moms, dads, babies and other family members took part in the free event, where they enjoyed snacks, games and giveaways. Family photos were also taken at the event.

3838 North Rural Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES • GENERAL INFORMATION - 317-221-2000

ACTION Health Center Pediatric, Adolescent, Young Adult Services 317-221-3400 B.A.B.E. 317-221-3050 Bed Bug Education & Prevention 317-221-2155 Bell Flower Clinic Sexually Transmitted Disease Testing & Prevention 317-221-8300 Birth and Death Certificates 317-221-2400 Body Art Facility Regulation 317-221-2270 Cardiovascular Health 317-221-2322 Child Car-Seat Helpline 317-221-2045 Chronic Disease Programs 317-221-2094 Dental Health 317-221-2329	Diabetes Education 317-221-2104 Environmental Health Safety & Management 317-221-7596 Epidemiology 317-221-3355 Food and Consumer Safety 317-221-2222 Foreign-Born/Refugee Health 317-221-2133 Hazardous Materials 317-221-2266 Health Education, Promotion & Training 317-221-2092 Healthy Families 317-221-2349 Healthy Homes, Environmental Consumer Management & Senior Care 317-221-2155 Housing & Neighborhood Health 317-221-2150	Immunizations 317-221-2122 Indoor Air Quality 317-221-2266 Infectious Disease Control 317-221-2117 Injury Prevention 317-221-3145 Laboratory 317-221-4670 Maternal & Child Health 317-221-2312 Mosquito/Rodent Control 317-221-7440 Northeast District Health Office 317-221-7300 Northwest District Health Office 317-221-7500 Nutrition Services 317-221-7403 Older Adult Health 317-221-2092	Ryan White HIV Services Program 317-221-3000 School Health Services 317-221-2367 Wells & Drinking Water Quality/ Sewage & Septic System Regulation 317-221-2147 Social Work 317-221-2364 South District Health Office 317-221-5701 Substance Use Outreach Services 317-221-4618 Swimming Pool Regulation 317-221-2270 Tobacco Control 317-221-3007 Tuberculosis Control 317-221-2110 WIC 317-221-7401
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