MARION COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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Health Department To Host Be A Good Neighbor Day on Oct. 23

STI testing, recovery resources, a litter cleanup and free food available

INDIANAPOLIS – The Marion County Public Health Department and some community partners are hosting a Be A Good Neighbor event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 23 at the Brookside Campus of Northview Church at 1035 N. Olney Street on Indianapolis' near-northeast side

Representatives from MCPHD and several other organizations will set up tables at the event to provide information and to link people to resources. As part of the event, some workers will go door to door in the neighborhood to provide outreach, and will clean up litter in the area.

Concerning numbers of non-fatal overdoses has led the health department to hold events in highly impacted Indianapolis neighborhoods, as a way to bring information, services and resources to the community.

"It is great to have a well-respected, faith-based partner like Brookside," said Karly Van Slyke, a Nurse Epidemiologist with MCPHD's Infectious Disease Control Program. "We are able to use their parking lot for our resource fair, and engage with neighbors in a familiar location."

As part of the event, residents can receive free sharps disposal containers, sterile supplies, and doses of naloxone, which can help temporarily reverse opioid overdoses. Free HIV and hepatitis C testing will be offered, and free chili and drinks will be available.

A similar event at that location last fall reached dozens of people, and fed more than 100 people.

MCPHD and its partners hope that improving education and awareness, and connecting people with resources and services, can help to reduce the incidence of diseases and other harms.

"Preventing overdoses is an important goal," Van Slyke said. "But we really want people to know that we are there for their community."

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