

# Environmental Public Health and YOU!

Every day, you probably use more Environmental Public Health Services than you realize. The following show examples of what your local health department does on a typical day to protect your health and the health of the community.

(Adapted from a presentation developed by the Clark County Health Department, WA )



## Morning Shower



If your home is not connected to the public sewer, we evaluate the soil, approve the system design, and inspect the final installation of your septic system and give you information to keep your septic system functioning properly. This helps to ensure that harmful bacterial contamination won't threaten your household water, the community's water resources, and the yard your children play in.

## Family Breakfast



Your eggs came from a local grocery store, which we regularly inspect for safe food handling practices. Frozen juice concentrate is mixed with tap water. If you enjoy a glass of milk with breakfast then the dairy, milk haulers and plants are regularly inspected by the state health department. If you have a private well, we provide information on maintaining it properly and will obtain water quality testing.

## Catching up on the daily news



When you pick up the newspaper in the break room at work, the headline reads “Skunk that Bit Farmer Tested Positive for Rabies”. We coordinate efforts with local veterinarians, the county’s animal control officers, local emergency rooms, and the State Rabies Lab to control and prevent the spread of Rabies to humans. The health department sponsors low cost rabies vaccination clinics for pets, often times in conjunction with local veterinarians.

## Garbage pick-up



Before leaving for work or school, you take your garbage cans and recycling bins to the curb. They are picked up and delivered to a transfer station and then to a landfill. Our inspections help these businesses prevent groundwater contamination as well as infestations by disease-carrying pests such as rodents and mosquitoes.

## Children off to School



Schools work to comply with state board of health regulations for sanitation, playground safety, food safety, air quality, and building construction. We work with schools to keep your children safe by inspecting cafeterias, the facility and responding to concerns about disease outbreaks.

## Lunch with Friends



We inspect and permit the restaurant you dine in, working closely with management to help them meet rigorous sanitation and food handling standards. Some Health Departments post inspection results on their web site or in the news paper for you to review. Depending on the county you live in the food is prepared and served by staff who received food worker cards or manager certifications after completing Public Health training courses.

## Elderly parent suddenly becomes ill



Our team and the Public Health communicable disease staff inspect the senior living facility and conduct patient interviews to find the cause of illness. The outbreak is identified as a common virus that spreads easily in crowds. We work closely with facility employees to ensure the site is properly cleaned, teach hand washing practices to prevent further contamination, and provided health education to families.

## Neighbor reports a dead crow

Your neighbor finds the bird in his backyard. He's heard that dead crows may indicate the presence of the West Nile Virus in the community, so he calls Public Health. We collect the dead bird and ship it to a certified laboratory for testing. Our West Nile Virus brochure promotes the importance of reducing standing water where mosquitoes carrying this virus may breed.




# Environmental Public Health and YOU...3:30 p.m.



## Appointment with Doctor, Dentist or Vet

At your appointment you or your pet needs an x-ray. The Radiation Health Branch has inspected the x-ray machines.



You pass an semi-truck with a radiation placard  on the trailer the Material section of the Branch deals with licensing and control of any natural or man made materials that always emits ionizing radiation.



The monitoring section analyzes samples from different sites to verify that no harmful levels of radiation are present in the air, soil or water.



## Kids go to swim practice



We regularly inspect public swimming pools and spas for safety and cleanliness, and work with owners to make needed corrections. We also monitor natural bathing areas (lakes, rivers, and beaches) to identify unsafe conditions that create a potential for disease outbreaks.

## Billboard on the drive home



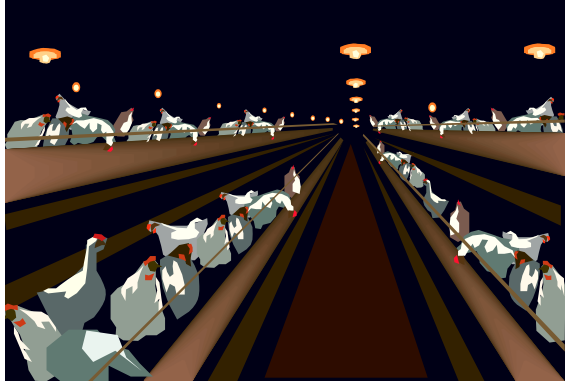
You notice a new billboard on your way home from work. The billboard reminds citizens to test their homes for Radon. Radon is a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring gas that comes from the ground, causes lung cancer and could be present in your home. Testing is easy, inexpensive and can help you live a healthier life. We offer free Radon test kits to all residents.

## Family Fun

Home just in time to take the kids to the county fair! If you visit the petting zoo, make sure you and your family properly wash your hands to prevent exposure to harmful bacteria after visiting the animals. Later, your family stops to eat at the food booths. Each has been inspected by our staff to ensure the food is safe for you to eat.



# Environmental Public Health and YOU...11:00 p.m.



## Late night news



Local news tells how Clark County Public Health is educating poultry farmers about the signs of bird flu infection. Another story talks about a meth lab bust by law enforcement and how we were called in to identify and arrange for proper disposal of toxic materials. Afterwards, we ensure the home is cleaned certified company before reoccupied or sold in order to protect the health of future residents.

**WARNING**

**Notice of Methamphetamine Contamination**


This property, address listed as:

has been found to contain evidence of an illegal methamphetamine laboratory. Chemical contamination and physical hazards from the production of methamphetamine are likely present. Hazardous chemicals, residual contamination and other materials may pose a serious health threat to those that enter. Furniture, clothes and other personal belongings inside may also be contaminated and pose a health threat if used or removed.

KY Revised Statute 224.01-410 requires that this property remain vacant until it and its contents are decontaminated and certified for re-occupancy. This property has been posted at 212.210 & 211.180 and all entrances to the property are closed until the property is properly decontaminated. This notice is posted by the Energy & Environment Cabinet Department. Removal of this posting is forbidden and punishable by law.

**For Additional Information Contact:**

Energy & Environment Cabinet  
Division of Waste Management  
14 Reilly Rd. Frankfort, KY 40601  
P-502-564-6716 F-502-564-4049



KENTUCKY CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH



## Bedtime



While you sleep, our on-duty staff is available 24/7 by cell phone and pager, ready to respond to sewage spills, industrial accidents, outbreaks of food-borne and water-borne illness, and other environmental public health emergencies.

# Environmental Public Health and YOU...the Weekend

## A night away from home with the family

The health department inspects recreational vehicle parks for sanitation purposes. They are checked for lot spacing, dump stations and water hook-ups, and, if present, sanitation in the shower houses.

Inspections of Hotels are also conducted to ensure the public clean and health lodging while visiting the Commonwealth.



## Kids spend the day at a Youth Camp



Our state offers a full array of camps for kids and adults. The health department is involved in building construction layouts, all swimming areas, and any sanitation concerns with food, sewage, and disease control.

# Overview of Programs

- Environmental Management Branch
  - Hotel/Motel Program
  - Mobile Home and Recreational Vehicle Communities
  - Public Building and Recreational Areas
  - School Facility Program
  - Septic Systems, Waste Water Treatment Program
  - Youth Camp Program
  - Consumer Product Safety
  - Rabies Control Program
  - Nuisance Complaint Program
  - Private Water Testing
  - Radon Gas
  - Swimming Pool Safety Program

# Overview of Programs

- Food Safety Branch
  - Bed and Breakfast Program
  - Boarding Home Program
  - Food Advisories and Recalls
  - Food Safety Program
    - Retail, Restaurants, Schools, Grocery Stores, etc.
    - Food Manufacturing Plants
  - Tattoo, Body and Ear Piercing Programs

# Overview of Programs

- Milk Safety Branch
  - Dairy Inspections
  - Milk Hauler Inspections
  - Milk Plant Inspections
  - Cheese Factory Inspections
- Public Safety Branch
  - Lead Certification, Accreditation and Compliance Program
  - Swimming Pool Plan Review Program

# Overview of Programs

- Radiation Health Branch
  - Radiation Producing Machines
  - Radioactive Materials
  - Radiation Operator Certification Program
  - Radiation/Environmental Monitoring Program

# Environmental Public Health and YOU... Everyday!

The Kentucky Department for Public Health along with your local health department offer many services that protect the health and well-being of you, your family, and your community. Always feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have about environmental health and your community.

