



Knox County Health Department

140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917

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Contact: Joint Information Center

jicmedia@knoxcounty.org

During National Public Health Week, KCHD commends all public health workers and urges COVID-19 Vaccination

Knoxville, Tenn. - The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is celebrating all public health workers during National Public Health Week, which kicked off Monday, April 5.

“While still in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic, we can see light at the end of the tunnel and the potential to rebuild, strengthen and lift up our communities thanks to the hard work of our public health team members,” said KCHD Senior Director and Public Health Officer Dr. Martha Buchanan.

This year’s theme for National Public Health Week is “Building Bridges to Better Health.”

“During the most challenging public health crisis of our generation, it’s more important than ever to celebrate our public health workers – especially those who have worked long hours to provide testing, contact tracing, research, education and vaccinations in Knox County,” added Buchanan. “This year public health is being tested as never before, and we are up to the challenge.”

KCHD has learned from the pandemic and adapted its services to not only protect patients and staff alike from COVID-19, but also to support the community throughout the pandemic, such as with virtual meetings and education with citizens who are enrolled in its community health programs.

This challenge has reinvigorated our work and allowed us to take a step back to ask important questions about how we are serving Knox County residents and take steps to improve our system to better serve the community.

In addition to KCHD’s COVID-19 response, the organization has also expanded work in substance misuse prevention and minority outreach while continuing important family- and child-focused programs such as Women, Infants and Children (WIC); Parents as Teachers (PAT); and Community Health Access and Navigation in Tennessee (CHANT). These programs have all modified their outreach to a phone-based and/or virtual format to ensure they are continuing to meet the community’s needs.

“The Knox County Health Department is dedicated to providing a healthier, safer and more resilient Knox County,” said Buchanan. “And you can help.””

Help KCHD build the bridge to better health. More than 230,700 COVID-19 vaccinations have been administered among Knox County residents so far, which equates nearly 32% of Knox County residents having at least some level of protection against COVID-19.



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About Knox County Health Department

The first health department in Tennessee to achieve national voluntary accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is dedicated to ensuring the conditions in which every resident can be healthy. As a chief health strategist for the community and with more than 240 team members, KCHD's broad scope of work includes convening partners to improve community health, identifying community health threats, investigating disease outbreaks, conducting extensive outreach and education, preparing for public health emergencies, providing and connecting the public with medical care, enforcing food safety and air quality laws, and more. For more information, visit www.knoxcounty.org/health.