

April 2009

Marion County
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Marion County Health Bulletin

The Mission of the Marion County Health Department is to improve the quality of life through preventing disease and preventative health maintenance.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The garden geranium (Pelargonium x hortorum; syn. Pelargonium zonale) is one of the most common ornamental potted-plants, with over 200 varieties.

Gearing Up for Gardening

Before starting any yard maintenance, the Illinois Poison Center (IPC) encourages homeowners to take extra precautions during the spring season. Last year, the IPC handled 1,626 exposure calls regarding plants and 230 calls regarding fertilizers. Using lawn chemicals safely and choosing non-toxic plants for landscaping and gardens are two important ways Illinois residents can avoid potential poisonings.

“Garden and lawn-related exposure to poisons increase dramatically in the spring, and continue throughout the summer,” said Michael Wahl, MD, Managing Medical Director of the Illinois Poison Center. “It is very important to know the types of plants and flowers growing in and around your house and garden and to be familiar with the types of chemicals you are using on your lawn and garden.”

Before making final selections for the garden, the IPC advises consulting with a local greenhouse, nursery or florist to help identify all the plants by both their common and botanical names. This information will be useful in case of a poisoning exposure. The IPC has a brochure that lists moderately and highly toxic plants, which also is available on the IPC website, www.illinoispoisoncenter.org. The Toxic Plant List is a useful resource when choosing plants and flowers for in, and around the home. If a plant is not included on any of the toxic plant lists, residents are encouraged to contact the IPC to find out if it is safe.

The IPC also reminds parents that all plants can be a choking hazard; all house plants should be kept out of children’s reach. When possible, the IPC recommends using non-toxic plants and shrubbery in gardens and landscaping. Lawn and garden chemicals can also be potential poisoning hazards and should be used with care.

“Fertilizers can be an irritant to the skin and stomach,” said Dr. Wahl. “Fertilizers, like all potential poisons, should be kept away from reach of children. After using fertilizer, make sure everyone, including pets, stays off the applied area for two days or until it rains.”

For a safe planting and gardening season, the IPC offers the following guidelines:

- Keep all houseplants out of children’s reach
- Teach children never to put mushrooms, flowers, berries or any part of a plant in their mouths
- Know the names of all your plants, both indoors and outdoors
- Read the label on each lawn or garden chemical and follow the specified instructions
- Do not allow anyone, including pets, to walk or play on newly fertilized grass

Pesticides are also a dangerous poisoning hazard during this time of year, and are likely to be more toxic than lawn fertilizers. Follow these safety tips to help prevent a pesticide poisoning:

- Wear protective clothing when applying pesticides (gloves, glasses, long sleeves and pants)
- Never apply pesticides outdoors on a windy day. Position yourself so that the wind will not blow pesticide spray or dust into your face
- Keep children and pets away during pesticide application and until the product dries, or as directed on the label
- Wash your hands with soap and water, and change your clothes after applying a pesticide

For more information and FREE copies of the IPC’s educational materials, contact the Illinois Poison Center at 1-800-222-2222, or log onto Illinoispoisoncenter.org.



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April is Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Marion County



The Marion County Board urges all Marion County Citizens to show their support for the Prevention of Child Abuse during the month of April by wearing a blue ribbon.

- The American Medical Association has stated that a woman is raped every 46 seconds in the United States; and, Sexual Assault is a "Silent Epidemic"
- Women, children and men are all victims of sexual assault ... it is estimated that 1 in 3 women, 1 in 4 girls, 1 in 6 boys, and 1 in 11 men will be victims at least once in their lifetimes
- The FBI estimates that only 1 in 9 women who are sexually assaulted reports the crime
- 90% of child victims under 13 know their abusers
- The majority of those that have turned to prostitution, alcohol, or drug abuse were victims of child abuse and neglect
- Our children are our most valuable resource
- Preventing child abuse and neglect is the responsibility of all citizens

Clinics & Gatherings

Blood Sugar/Pressure Clinics:
Salem Office: Mondays, 8-9am
Centralia Office: Wednesdays, 8-9am

Immunization Clinics:
Salem Office: Mondays, 9-5
Centralia Office: Wednesdays, 9-5

Cholesterol & Lab Clinic:
~Please call for an appointment.~

HIV & STD Testing:
~Please call for an appointment.~

Visit www.marioncountyhealthdept.org for a complete listing of events.

March 2009 Statistics

Clinics

Blood Pressure / Blood Sugar Clinics	11
Persons served: Blood Pressure	34
Persons served: Blood Sugar	22
Cholesterol Screening	
Number of persons served	2
Lead Screening	
Number of persons tested	68
Paternity Testing Clinics	0
Number tested	0
HIV Test.....	11

Immunizations

Number of Clinics.....	9
No. of persons immunized.....	156
Total vaccines administered.....	285
Children's Immunizations	
Pediatric Flu.....	0
Hepatitis A.....	17
Adult Immunizations	
Hepatitis A (number started)	8
Hepatitis B (number started)	3
Flu	4
Meningitis.....	2
MMR.....	1
Pneumonia	0
TD.....	11
Typhoid	13
Yellow Fever	4
Zostavax	2
Other Immunization	
Gardasil (number started)	1
Varicella.....	20

Nursing

Family Case Management	
Pregnancy Testing	2
Positive	2
Negative.....	0
Prenatal Clients	176
Infant & Child Clients.....	638
Number of Visits	275
Prenatal	92
Postpartum	32
Infant Visits.....	136
Child Visits	15
SIDS Investigations.....	1
APORS Investigations	5
Health Works Active Case Load	38
Active WIC.....	1,350
WIC Clients receiving education	284
Vision & Hearing	
Number Vision Tested	15
Number Hearing Tested.....	20
Number Vision Referrals.....	1
Number Hearing Referrals.....	1

Nursing (continued)

Communicable Disease Investigations	
Chickenpox.....	0
Cholera	0
Hepatitis B (carrier)	0
Hepatitis C (carrier)	5
Malaria	0
Salmonellosis	0
Strep Pneumoniae.....	0
Whooping Cough (Pertussis).....	0
Sexually Transmitted Disease	
Chlamydia.....	18
Gonorrhea	2
Syphilis	1
Tuberculosis	
Tests Administered	44
New Prophylactic Patients	1
New Investigations	2
New Active Cases	0

Environmental Health

Food	
Routine Inspections.....	30
Follow-up Inspections	2
Complaint Inspections	1
Temporary Inspections	0
Pre-Operational Inspections	0
Emergency Incident Inspections	2
Number of Permits Issued	21
Sewage	
Routine Inspections.....	9
Complaint Inspections	1
Realty Inspections	0
Sewage Systems Installed	8
Number of Permits Issued	11
Water	
New System Inspections.....	0
Existing Water Well Inspections.....	0
Realty Inspections	0
Complaint Inspections	0
Water Wells Sealed	0
Number of Permits Issued	0
Tanning	
Routine Inspections.....	1
Follow-up Inspections	1
Complaint.....	0
Miscellaneous	
Animal Bites	3

